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Air Ministry, 20th July, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:—

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader John Ramsey St. JOHN (39687), No. 101 Squadron.

One night in June, 1943, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Mulheim. During the flight the bomber was attacked by 2 hostile aircraft and repeatedly hit. Displaying superb airmanship Squadron Leader St. John succeeded in evading the attackers. Although one engine was unserviceable, a rudder missing, the starboard elevator damaged and the elevator controls jammed, course was set for this country. In the face of great odds, Squadron Leader St. John flew the aircraft to base and landed it safely. This officer displayed outstanding skill, courage and tenacity.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Can/R.117479 Sergeant Mack CHEPIL, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 428 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This airman captained an aircraft detailed to attack a target at Le Creusot one night in June, 1943. Soon after crossing the enemy coast the hydraulic system in the bomber became unserviceable but Sergeant Chepil continued his flight. Later, 1 engine caught fire and became unserviceable. In spite of this the target was bombed, after the bomb doors had been opened by an emergency method. Sergeant Chepil afterwards flew the damaged aircraft to base. This airman displayed outstanding determination and devotion to duty, setting an inspiring example.

1048381 Sergeant Leonard CLIFTON, No. 90 Squadron.

This airman was the flight engineer of an aircraft which attacked Gelsenkirchen one night in June, 1943. During the operation the aircraft was attacked by an enemy fighter and sustained damage. The controls to one of the petrol tanks was affected and a fire broke out near the ammunition boxes. Sergeant Clifton coolly re-adjusted the petrol controls to ensure an adequate supply to the engine and then tackled the fire which he put out with an extinguisher. Sergeant Clifton displayed great promptitude and efficiency in dealing with a difficult situation.

940746 Sergeant Bernard GOTTWALTZ, No. 49 Squadron.

One night in June, 1943, this airman was the flight engineer of an aircraft which attacked Cologne. Whilst over the target area, the bomber was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The starboard outer

engine caught alight but Sergeant Gottwaltz dealt with the situation promptly and effectively. Some time later, the port inner engine became faulty but Sergeant Gottwaltz was able to keep it functioning until his pilot reached an airfield in this country. Throughout the return journey, this airman displayed great skill and devotion to duty, contributing materially to the safe return of the aircraft.

1316716 Sergeant Wilfred TOWSE, No. 15 Squadron.

651401 Sergeant Norman Jack PAWLEY, No. 15 Squadron.

One night in June, 1943, these airmen were captain and wireless operator/air gunner respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Wuppertal. Shortly after crossing the enemy coast, on the outward flight, the bomber was engaged by a hostile aircraft which was shot down and Sergeant Towse flew on to the target and bombed it. Shortly afterwards, the bomber was hit by anti-aircraft fire and fragments of shrapnel pierced 4 of the petrol tanks. One of them caught fire and the situation became serious. Nevertheless, Sergeant Towse attempted to quell the flames by diving his aircraft violently and, in this way, succeeded in his purpose. Much petrol had leaked from the damaged tanks and course was set for this country. Shortly after crossing the enemy coast the petrol supply became exhausted and the aircraft came down on to the sea and quickly sank. Although he was trapped below the water, Sergeant Towse succeeded in freeing himself and escaped through the hatch and was hauled aboard the dinghy by Sergeant Pawley. The crew were eventually rescued. In the face of a perilous situation, Sergeant Towse displayed great courage, skill and resource, while Sergeant Pawley rendered valuable assistance, diligently working his wireless apparatus until the last moment.

Air Ministry, 20th July, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallant and distinguished service:—

Military Medal.

1057447 Sergeant Joseph BRADLEY, No. 10 Squadron.
568967 Sergeant John William MACFARLANE, No. 10 Squadron.

Air Ministry, 20th July, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned decorations conferred on the personnel indicated, in recognition of