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*Air Ministry, 23rd 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 Service Order.*

Acting Squadron Leader Peter John CUNDY, D.F.C. (43098), No. 224 Squadron.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross this officer has been almost continuously engaged on operations. In February, 1943, during an anti-submarine patrol, he executed 2 attacks on U-boats. During a flight in July, 1943, Squadron Leader Cundy sighted a U-boat. In spite of heavy opposing fire from the vessel, which damaged his aircraft and disabled 1 engine, he pressed home 2 vigorous attacks, straddling the U-boat with his depth charges. Afterwards a large patch of oil appeared on the surface of the water. Squadron Leader Cundy is a skilful pilot whose leadership, courage and determination have been outstanding.

Flight Lieutenant Arthur John HODGKINSON, D.F.C. (45353), No. 23 Squadron (since missing).

This officer has completed much operational flying. Latterly, in the Middle East, he has bombed targets in Tunisia, Italy and Sicily and, during these operations, he has attacked numerous locomotives to good effect, while fires have been started in railway installations and sidings as a result of his determined work. In addition, Flight Lieutenant Hodgkinson has executed many sorties over enemy airfields during which he has destroyed 3 hostile aircraft and caused much disorganisation. His sterling work has contributed in a large measure to the successes of his squadron.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander William James ALINGTON, D.F.C., A.F.C. (70006), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 264 Squadron.

This officer has displayed exceptional keenness and determination to inflict loss on the enemy. On 1 sortie, he damaged 7 locomotives. More recently, in June, 1943, he led a formation of light bombers on an operation which resulted in the destruction of 4 enemy aircraft on the ground, while much damage was caused to a hangar. In addition, a minesweeper was attacked and damaged. By his fearless and skilful leadership, Wing Commander Alington played a large part in the success of the sortie.

Flight Lieutenant John Alexander SPENCE, D.F.C. (Can/J.3995), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 277 Squadron.

In June, 1943, this officer undertook a flight to search for a pilot who was adrift in his dinghy

in the English Channel. He succeeded in locating the dinghy some 2½ miles from the French coast. The sea was exceedingly rough but Flight Lieutenant Spence brought his aircraft down safely on to the water, then taxied to the airman who, after a strenuous effort, was hauled aboard. Owing to the heavy seas, it was not possible for the aircraft to take off again, so, disregarding enemy minefields in the vicinity and the possibility of attack from the air, Flight Lieutenant Spence resourcefully taxied his aircraft across the Channel to a home base. His gallant achievement was worthy of high praise.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Wing Commander Rupert Francis Henry CLERKE (36108), No. 125 Squadron.

This officer is a skilful and determined fighter. He has personally destroyed 4 enemy aircraft, 2 of them at night, and shared in the destruction of 3 others. His keenness has been noteworthy.

Acting Squadron Leader Hugh Selmes JACKSON (63098), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 125 Squadron.

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties, including many fighter/bomber attacks on targets in Pantellaria, Sicily and Lampedusa. He has on several occasions led fighter formations detailed to act as escort to bomber forces and his skilful work has contributed materially to the success of the operation. In May, 1943, Squadron Leader Jackson took part in a highly successful reconnaissance of Pantellaria, the island being fully reconnoitred at a low level. Anti-aircraft fire was encountered throughout the whole operation. On 2 occasions in June, 1943, in engagements against hostile aircraft, Squadron Leader Jackson displayed great skill and tenacity. His keenness and devotion to duty have been outstanding.

Acting Squadron Leader Raymond Arthur Vernon SALMON (67675), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 40 Squadron.

This officer, who has completed very many sorties, has displayed leadership and skill of a high degree. One night in April, 1943, he participated in an attack on an airfield in Tunis. Although his aircraft was repeatedly hit by fire from the ground defences, Squadron Leader Salmon made several runs over the target to complete his task successfully. His determination was typical of the manner in which he invariably undertakes his tasks.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Leslie William WATTS (117728), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 616 Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties, many of which were undertaken during the intensive air operations over Malta where he