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*Air Ministry, 27th August, 1943.*

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

*Bar to Distinguished Service Order.*

Acting Wing Commander Joseph Roy George RALSTON, D.S.O., D.F.M. (47650), Royal Air Force, No. 101 Squadron.

In April, 1943, Wing Commander Ralston undertook his 83rd sortie when he led a formation of bomber aircraft in an operation against rail targets at Trien and Ehrang, Germany. The operation demanded a high degree of skill and involved a flight far into enemy territory, in bad weather and at low altitude. On crossing the enemy coast line the bombers were hotly engaged. Despite this, formation was maintained and the aircraft flew on through heavy rainstorms and poor visibility, frequently at a height of only 50 feet, to reach the target, bomb it and obtain photographs. By his brilliant leadership, exceptional skill and determination, Wing Commander Ralston contributed in a large measure to the success of the operation. Throughout his operational career this officer has set an example of the highest order. Undeterred by the fiercest opposition he has invariably pressed home his attacks with great vigour. His unswerving devotion to duty and heroic endeavours have set a standard beyond praise.

*Distinguished Service Order.*

Acting Flight Lieutenant Reader Dennison HANBURY (77686), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 228 Squadron.

In July, 1943, whilst this officer was captain of an aircraft engaged on an anti-submarine patrol, a pack of three U. boats were observed on the surface of the water. Flight Lieutenant Hanbury quickly reported the position and, whilst shadowing the pack, which were taking violent evasive action, he attacked one of the vessels. In spite of intense opposing fire he straddled the U. boat with depth charges which caused the vessel to sink almost immediately. Two weeks later, Flight Lieutenant Hanbury completed the destruction of a U. boat which had been damaged in a previous attack by another aircraft. This officer has displayed skill, courage and determination of a high order.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant John SHEPHERD, D.F.C. (104447), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 118 Squadron.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, this officer has undertaken a large number of sorties and has displayed inspiring leadership

and great keenness throughout. He has participated in several successful attacks on enemy shipping and, in addition, has destroyed two enemy aircraft, bringing his victories to four. He has set a worthy example.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Squadron Leader Geoffrey Wilson NORTHCOTT (Can/J.15088), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 416 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer, who has completed 55 operations over enemy territory, has displayed outstanding ability. He has destroyed three enemy aircraft and damaged several more. In addition he has participated in several effective attacks on shipping. By his personal example he has won the confidence of all with whom he has flown.

Acting Squadron Leader George Reginald COATES (N.Z.403428) Royal New Zealand Air Force.

This officer has completed many sorties, a number of them against important industrial targets in the Ruhr. Latterly, he has undertaken many anti-submarine patrols and air/sea rescue sorties during which he has set an admirable example. On one occasion, when forced to bring his aircraft down on to the sea owing to engine trouble, Squadron Leader Coates displayed great fortitude and set an example which greatly encouraged his comrades during the following 31 hours they were afloat in their dinghy. This officer has invariably displayed outstanding zeal and devotion to duty.

Acting Squadron Leader Clive Baldwin SINTON (Can/C.1491), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 432 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in July, 1943, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed for an operation against Essen. Whilst over the target area, the bomber was hit by anti-aircraft fire. One of its engines was put out of action, while the port petrol tank was damaged. Despite this, Squadron Leader Sinton flew the damaged bomber home to an airfield near the coast. Whilst circling the airfield it became apparent that a safe landing could not be effected. The aircraft was rapidly losing height but Squadron Leader Sinton coolly headed the bomber towards the sea where it came down on to the water about a mile from the shore. After ensuring that all his comrades were safely out of the aircraft, Squadron Leader Sinton supported one of them until they were rescued half-a-mile from the shore. This officer displayed great skill and determination throughout and was mainly responsible for the ultimate safety of his crew.

Flight Lieutenant Richard Lawrence Leach McCULLOUGH (44052), Royal Air Force, No. 101 Squadron.

This officer has completed many sorties and has invariably pressed home his attacks with great