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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 John Randall Daniel BRAHAM, D.S.O., D.F.C. (40667), Royal Air Force, No. 141 Squadron.

Since being awarded a second bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross, Wing Commander Braham has undertaken many sorties at night during which he has destroyed a further 5 enemy aircraft. He is a brilliant leader, whose exceptional skill, gallantry and unswerving devotion to duty have been reflected in the fine fighting qualities of the squadron which has obtained notable successes.

Acting Wing Commander James Edgar JOHNSON, D.S.O., D.F.C. (83267), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Service Order this officer has destroyed a further 7 enemy aircraft and shared in the destruction of another. He is a relentless fighter whose brilliant leadership and outstanding skill have inspired all with whom he has flown. Within a period of 2 months, Wing Commander Johnson led large formations of aircraft on very many sorties during which 27 hostile aircraft were shot down and a large number were damaged.

Distinguished Service Order.

Wing Commander James McLAUGHLIN, D.F.C. (36068), Royal Air Force, No. 144 Squadron.

Wing Commander McLaughlin has completed many sorties. He is a first class leader, whose great skill and tenacity have been reflected in the meritorious work accomplished by the squadron he commands. His example of zeal and devotion to duty has been highly commendable.

Acting Wing Commander Reginald Edward BAILEY, D.F.C. (42093), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 466 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties, many of them since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Wing Commander Bailey has displayed outstanding tenacity and has consistently pressed home his attacks with great vigour. He is an inspiring leader, whose great skill, boundless energy and courageous example have contributed in a large measure to the high standard of operational efficiency of the squadron he commands. Wing Commander Bailey has rendered impressive service.

Acting Wing Commander Kenneth Holstead BURNS, D.F.C. (40340), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 97 Squadron.

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties, involving attacks on dock installations and industrial centres in Germany and important

targets in Italy. His efforts throughout have been characterised by an inflexible determination to achieve success. On more than one occasion his aircraft has been damaged by enemy action but each time his persistence and skill have enabled him to reach and bomb his target. Wing Commander Burns has displayed high qualities of leadership, courage and devotion to duty.

Acting Wing Commander William Vernon CRAWFORD-COMPTON, D.F.C. (65500) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Since being awarded a Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross, this officer has participated in a large number of sorties over enemy territory. By his masterly leadership, exceptional skill and gallant example, he has imbued the squadrons he commands with rare zest for battle, combined with a high standard of operational efficiency. Wing Commander Crawford-Compton, who has destroyed at least 13 hostile aircraft and damaged several others, has rendered most valuable service.

Acting Wing Commander Richard Sydney Clements WOOD, D.F.C. (39192) Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 12 Squadron.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, this officer has completed many sorties, including attacks on well defended targets in the Ruhr area. His work has been of a high order throughout and has set a standard worthy of emulation. By his skilful leadership, sound judgment and initiative, Wing Commander Wood has contributed materially to the many successes obtained by his squadron.

Squadron Leader Thomas Other PRICKETT, D.F.C., (40427) Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 103 Squadron.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, this officer has completed many sorties involving attacks on targets in the Ruhr area and objectives at Spezia, Milan and Turin in Italy. Squadron Leader Prickett has executed his missions with outstanding determination and his fine record of achievement is a worthy tribute to his superb skill and fine fighting qualities. He is a first class leader whose example has proved inspiring.

Acting Squadron Leader Fraser Burstock SLADE (43416) Royal Air Force, No. 12 Squadron.

This officer has displayed outstanding ability and unswerving devotion in the execution of operational tasks. He completed very many sorties in the Middle East theatre, achieving much success. Since his return to this country, Squadron Leader Slade has undertaken numerous sorties against various targets in Germany and Italy. His ideal leadership and unconquerable spirit have set an example worthy of the highest praise.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Phillip Robert COLDWELL, D.F.M. (137578) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 7 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Coldwell has completed a large number of sorties, many of them to far distant