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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:—

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader John MARTIN (37864), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 622 Squadron.

Squadron Leader Martin has displayed great skill and devotion to duty throughout his tour of operations. He has participated in many sorties and has pressed home his attacks with vigour. Squadron Leader Martin is a highly efficient flight commander, whose leadership has been of a high order.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Richard Thomas FITZGERALD (Aus.16516), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 77 Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties during which he has bombed such targets as Berlin, Cologne, Mannheim and Hanover. He has displayed great skill and enterprise, setting an example which has won the confidence of his crew. On one occasion, when attacking Cologne, his aircraft was badly damaged by anti-aircraft fire. Coolly and skilfully, Flight Lieutenant Fitzgerald flew clear of the defences, went on to execute his attack and afterwards flew safely to base. His superb effort was worthy of high praise.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Reginald Frank LOWN (130946), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 15 Squadron.

This officer is a most capable and determined captain who has attacked a large number of important enemy targets with success. His excellent qualities were well illustrated on one occasion when attacking Berlin in August, 1943. During the bombing run, his aircraft was struck and part of its structure caught fire. Despite this, Flight Lieutenant Lown pressed home his attack and successfully bombed the target. Under his able direction, the fire was afterwards extinguished after a part of the fuselage had been cut away with an axe. His coolness and resource in the face of difficulties have set an inspiring example.

Flying Officer Brendan Denham BAKER (106033), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 92 Squadron.

In August, 1943, this officer flew the leading aircraft of a section of fighters which escorted a bomber force attacking targets near Messina. As the formation turned for home it was intercepted by 5 enemy aircraft. One of them attempted to attack a bomber but Flying Officer Baker quickly drove off the enemy aircraft and, after a short pursuit, shot it down. This drew the remainder of the enemy aircraft away from the bombers and Flying Officer Baker was attacked from all

quarters. Although his aircraft was repeatedly hit, and he was wounded in the leg, he fought with rare skill and tenacity. He destroyed another of his adversaries before he was forced to abandon his own aircraft which was extensively damaged. In this spirited action, Flying Officer Baker displayed superb skill and courage, setting an example of the highest order.

Flying Officer Arthur Clifford RICHARDS (137223), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 622 Squadron.

As navigator, Flying Officer Richards has taken part in numerous sorties, covering a wide variety of targets. His work throughout has been of a high order, contributing in a good measure to the successes obtained. On 1 occasion, during an operation against Berlin in August, 1943, Flying Officer Richards displayed commendable skill and resource by flying the bomber a considerable distance on the homeward flight after its pilot had been seriously wounded during a fight with an enemy aircraft. His efforts played a large part in the safe return of the bomber.

Pilot Officer Brian Anthony CONNOR (Aus.416092), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 149 Squadron.

As pilot, this officer has completed a large number of sorties, involving attacks on a wide range of targets. His efforts throughout have been characterised by great skill and tenacity, qualities which have won him many successes. On several occasions his aircraft has been damaged by enemy action but, each time, he has succeeded in reaching base. Pilot Officer Connor has rendered excellent service.

Pilot Officer Wilfred HUMPHRIES (156091), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 199 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Humphries has taken part in very many sorties including attacks on such targets as industrial centres in the Ruhr, Berlin and Wilhelmshaven. He has displayed exceptional skill and determination and pressed home his attacks often in the face of fierce opposition. Pilot Officer Humphries is an ideal captain, whose example has proved inspiring.

Pilot Officer Bernard Alexander NORTH (149220), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 149 Squadron

This officer is an extremely skilful and determined pilot. During his tour of operational duties he has attacked a wide range of well defended targets and, not once, has he failed in his mission. His exemplary conduct and devotion to duty have set a most commendable example.

Warrant Officer James MONTGOMERY (522563), Royal Air Force, No. 149 Squadron.

As air gunner, Warrant Officer Montgomery has participated in a very large number of sorties.