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*Air Ministry, 23rd November, 1943.*

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 Christopher Ronald Alastair FORSYTH (42983), Royal Air Force, No. 216 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1164455 Flight Sergeant John McPherson WHITELAW, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 216 Squadron.

Squadron Leader Forsyth and Flight Sergeant Whitelaw were pilot and navigator respectively of the leading aircraft of a formation detailed to drop parachute troops on the island of Cos in September, 1943. The operation demanded a high degree of skill, precise timing being essential to success. Nevertheless, Squadron Leader Forsyth, brilliantly supported by Flight Sergeant Whitelaw, whose navigation over a difficult route was faultless, unerringly led his formation to the target where, with amazing precision, the troops were dropped in the selected zones. The success achieved reflects the greatest credit on the efforts of this officer and airman.

*Distinguished Service Order.*

Flying Officer Richard Leslie William CHEEK (131080), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 40 Squadron.

One night in October, 1943, this officer executed a most determined and highly successful attack on an enemy airfield near Rome. Flying Officer Cheek made several runs over the target, releasing his bombs to good effect. Several of them burst in front of the hangars and a large aircraft was set on fire. He afterwards came down to almost ground level to sweep the objective with a hail of bullets. As a result, 6 aircraft were set on fire, 3 of which exploded. The following night, Flying Officer Cheek attacked another airfield in the same area. In spite of opposition from the ground defences, he executed resolute bombing attacks and afterwards machine-gunned the airfield from a low level. On other occasions, Flying Officer Cheek has attacked various targets with equal vigour. By his outstanding courage, skill and resolution, he has set an example which has inspired all.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Roy BROADBENT (109356), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 267 Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties and has displayed skill, courage and devotion to duty of a high order. In operations against the

island of Cos, Flight Lieutenant Broadbent undertook many sorties and his excellent work was highly commendable.

Flight Lieutenant Irvine Francis McDERMOTT (41719), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 104 Squadron.

One night in October, 1943, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack an objective near Formia. Soon after taking off the main electrical generator failed. Flight Lieutenant McDermott continued to the target, however, the navigator plotting his course by the light from a torch. Whilst over the target, at a low level, the aircraft was heavily hit by fire from the ground defences. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant McDermott maintained his run and made a successful attack. Although his aircraft was badly crippled, this pilot made strenuous and gallant efforts to keep it airborne but eventually was compelled to bring it down on to the sea. The crew were able to clamber aboard the dinghy and, after 2 hours paddling, reached the shore. On this operation, Flight Lieutenant McDermott displayed courage, tenacity and devotion to duty worthy of the greatest praise.

Flight Lieutenant Bernard SMITH (42365), Royal Air Force, No. 216 Squadron.

This officer, who has completed very many sorties, has displayed great skill and resolution. In September, 1943, Flight Lieutenant Smith participated in air operations over the island of Cos and rendered valuable service. He is an able and fearless leader, whose record is worthy of high praise.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Anthony Francis GOBBIE (127235), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 57 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Gobbie has participated in very many sorties, including attacks on Berlin, Hamburg, Peenemunde and targets in the Ruhr. He has displayed skill, courage and determination, qualities which have earned him many successes. On two recent occasions, against Leipzig and Kassel respectively, his efforts in the face of extremely adverse weather were worthy of the highest praise.

Flying Officer John Thomson BOUNDY (124789), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 225 Squadron.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties and has displayed great skill, courage and resolution. One morning in September, 1943, he undertook a reconnaissance in the Salerno area. In spite of anti-aircraft fire, which damaged his aircraft, Flying Officer Boundy reconnoitred the area from a low level. In the afternoon he undertook a similar sortie with good results. Although his aircraft was badly damaged by anti-aircraft fire, Flying Officer Boundy flew it to base. His determined efforts set a splendid example.