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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 Service Order.

Acting Squadron Leader John Alfred HEGMAN, D.F.C. (N.Z.411508), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 7 Squadron.

One night in January, 1944, this officer was pilot and captain of one of a force of bombers detailed to attack Berlin. Early on the outward flight some important gear became ineffective. Nevertheless, Squadron Leader Hegman decided to continue his mission and eventually reached the target some 10 minutes after the attack was scheduled to end. In spite of the strong defences, Squadron Leader Hegman made a successful bombing run and afterwards flew back to an airfield in this country where he effected a safe landing. His efforts on this occasion were typical of the determination and fearlessness he has invariably shown in pressing home his attacks on the enemy. He is a gallant and skilful leader whose sterling qualities have impressed all.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Douglas Edmund BIDEN (Can/J.24434), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 405 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer was the pilot of an aircraft which attacked Berlin one night in January, 1944. When nearing the enemy coast the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. One engine was put out of action, two petrol tanks were pierced, and the electrical system failed. Shortly afterwards a fighter was encountered. Before the enemy aircraft could be evaded the bomber was repeatedly hit by machine-gun fire. The hydraulic system was damaged causing the bomb doors to open and rendering the gun turrets unserviceable; other damage was also sustained. Nevertheless, Flying Officer Biden succeeded in reaching an airfield where he effected a masterly crash-landing. In harassing circumstances, this officer displayed skill, courage and determination of a high order.

Flying Officer Herbert Ruben FARB (Can/J.14222), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 405 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer was the navigator of an aircraft which attacked Berlin one night in January, 1944. On the return flight, the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and, a little later, was attacked by a fighter. In the action, Flying Officer Farb was wounded in the arm and the back. Although suffering from loss of blood and in much pain, this gallant navigator continued his duties until

the mission was ended. He displayed great fortitude, determination and devotion to duty in trying circumstances.

Flying Officer John MacPherson GRAY (Can/J.21518), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 433 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin one night in January, 1944. Soon after crossing the enemy coast the aircraft was hit by shrapnel. One of the tanks was damaged, causing a loss of petrol. Despite this, Flying Officer Gray flew on to the target and bombed it. During the return flight the wireless apparatus and some navigational equipment became unserviceable. The enemy coast was crossed but, some time later the petrol supply became exhausted. Coolly and skilfully, Flying Officer Gray brought the aircraft down on to the rough sea and not one of his crew was hurt; all got safely aboard the dinghy. This officer set a fine example of skill, determination and devotion to duty.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1292568 Flight Sergeant George MARSH, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 102 Squadron.

This airman has taken part in a large number of sorties and has displayed praiseworthy skill and devotion to duty. One night in January, 1944, he was the wireless operator of an aircraft which sustained damage in an encounter with a fighter when over Berlin. On the return flight, which was made at low altitude owing to loss of engine power, Flight Sergeant Marsh skilfully obtained fixes at long range thus greatly assisting the navigator in his efforts to guide the damaged aircraft home. His success at this stage was a valuable contribution towards the safe return of the aircraft.

988574 Flight Sergeant Clifford RAMSDEN, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 76 Squadron.

As air gunner, Flight Sergeant Ramsden has participated in a large number of sorties over Germany and has repeatedly proved his skill in encounters with enemy fighters, 2 of which he has assisted in destroying. He is a fearless and confident member of aircraft crew, whose example in the face of the enemy has been worthy of high praise.

1233038 Sergeant William George HOLT, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 463 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

As flight engineer, Sergeant Holt has participated in very many sorties and has proved himself to be a courageous and resourceful member of aircraft crew. On 1 occasion, during an attack on Frankfurt, Sergeant Holt was wounded. Although suffering severely he insisted on continuing his