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Air Ministry, 7th March, 1944.

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.

Flying Officer John Robert AFFLECK, D.F.C., A.F.M. (141865), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 161 Squadron.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross this officer has successfully completed many sorties, several of which have demanded a high degree of skill, courage and determination. He is an outstanding captain, whose gallant example has inspired all.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Cyril Henry BAIGENT, D.F.C. (N.Z.411973), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 115 Squadron.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties, including 8 attacks on Berlin. In an attack on the German capital one night in January, 1944, Squadron Leader Baigent's aircraft was repeatedly hit by cannon fire when attacked by fighters on approaching the target area. One engine was set on fire, the turrets were rendered unserviceable and other damage was sustained. In spite of this, Squadron Leader Baigent pressed home his bombing attack and afterwards flew the damaged bomber to base. He displayed great skill and determination to make the sortie a success.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Keith ROSS HOLLAND (Aus.410234), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 540 Squadron.

This officer has completed numerous sorties and has displayed courage and determination of a high order.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Richard David LUCAS (Aus.420692), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 461 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

963699 Flight Sergeant George Henry SIMMONDS, Royal Air Force, No. 461 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer and airman were captain and front gunner respectively of an aircraft which recently engaged a U-boat. In the face of considerable anti-aircraft fire, Flight Sergeant Simmonds raked the vessel with accurate machine-gun fire, causing many casualties amongst the U-boat's crew in the conning tower. Flight Lieutenant Lucas then made a second run over the submarine and re-

leased his depth charges. Such was the accuracy of the attack that the U-boat blew up a minute afterwards. This officer and airman displayed skill and resolution worthy of high praise.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Philip Edward HUCKIN (151056), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 157 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1392616 Flight Sergeant Robert Harry GRAHAM, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 157 Squadron.

This officer and airman were pilot and observer respectively of one of a formation of aircraft which intercepted a number of Junkers 88s. In the ensuing fight, Flying Officer Huckin shot down one of the enemy aircraft from close range. His own aircraft was badly damaged, however, and, owing to loss of engine power, Flying Officer Huckin was forced to come down on to the sea. He and Flight Sergeant Graham got safely aboard their dinghies and, for the next 20 hours, they drifted in the heavy seas whipped by high winds until an airborne life-boat was dropped to them. They got safely aboard the boat and with no other means of guidance except a compass, Flight Sergeant Graham set to work to plot a course for England. Five days later they were picked up. During this period they suffered much privation, being buffeted by heavy seas and fierce winds which at times reached gale force. In spite of this, their determination never wavered and their courage and fortitude in the face of such an ordeal set an example of the highest order.

Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).

Aus.424847 Flight Sergeant Geoffrey Charles Chapman SMITH, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 156 Squadron.

This airman was the rear gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin one night in February, 1944. When nearing the target, Flight Sergeant Smith reported a fighter coming in to attack. As evading action was being taken the bomber was hit by cannon and machine gun fire from the enemy aircraft. Flight Sergeant Smith was hit by a bullet which shattered the lower part of his right leg and foot. The hydraulic gear had been damaged and his turret was rendered unserviceable. Although suffering intensely and in a dazed condition, Flight Sergeant Smith refused assistance and insisted on remaining at his post to manipulate his turret manually until the enemy coast was crossed. In most distressing circumstances, this gallant airman, whose leg has since

been amputated, displayed courage and fortitude of a high order. His determination to defend his aircraft until the enemy coast was crossed set a magnificent example.

Air Ministry, 7th March, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:—

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Hugh John Sherard BEAZLEY (73023), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 89 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Richard Jack FURSMAN (40689), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 413 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

955736 Flight Sergeant (now Pilot Officer) Joseph DALTON, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 205 Squadron.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Robert BONNAR (Can/J.16264), No. 205 Squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Ralph Viril MANNING (Can/J.15633), No. 217 Squadron.

The above awards are in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations.

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