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Air Ministry, 24th March, 1944.

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 Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Kenneth Royce SANDS, D.F.C. (Aus.406265), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 450 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has participated in many attacks on shipping and has played a prominent part in the successes achieved. In February, 1944, he led the squadron in an attack on a medium sized ship in harbour. The attack was pressed home with great vigour and the vessel was hit from low level. The starboard side of the ship was blown out. Before leaving the area, a target on the island was attacked. A large fire was started and shortly afterwards a terrific explosion occurred, debris being hurled in all directions over the harbour. By his brilliant leadership, great skill and determination, Squadron Leader Sands contributed in a large measure to the success obtained.

Flight Lieutenant Clive Edward KNOWLES, D.F.C. (43974), Royal Air Force, No. 605 Squadron.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties, including many successful attacks on airfields, locomotives and barges. In air fighting, Flight Lieutenant Knowles has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft, one of which he shot down after a long pursuit in bad weather. He is a most skilful and determined fighter whose example of devotion to duty has been beyond praise.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Robert Wallace DAVY (41382), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 62 Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties, including many very successful reconnaissances; he has also completed very many missions, involving the dropping of supplies in various areas. Throughout these operations, Squadron Leader Davy has displayed great skill and courage setting a fine example to all. He is an efficient and zealous flight commander.

Acting Squadron Leader Lewis Arthur John McLEOD (Aus.413409), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 50 Squadron.

This officer has completed numerous sorties against strongly defended targets and has invariably pressed home his attacks with great determination. He is a highly efficient flight commander, whose sterling qualities have been reflected in the success of the flight he commands. During his tour, Squadron Leader McLeod has attacked Berlin on 7 occasions.

Acting Squadron Leader Edward Henry MOSS (106228), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 61 Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties and on 5 occasions has attacked Berlin. On one of these sorties, when returning from the German capital, his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The front and mid-upper turrets were damaged, the flaps and the tail trim were rendered unserviceable and a tyre on one of the landing wheels was punctured but Squadron Leader Moss brought his aircraft safely back to an airfield and effected a safe landing. This officer has displayed great leadership, skill and courage, setting a fine example to all.

Acting Squadron Leader Richard WEBB (N.Z.391853), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 1435 Squadron.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties, many of them in support of the ground fighting in the forward areas in the Italian theatre. Throughout, he has displayed high powers of leadership, great skill and determination and much of the fine fighting spirit of the squadron he commands can be attributed to this officer's personal example. In air fighting, Squadron Leader Webb has shot down at least 3 enemy aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Derek Harry CROUCHEN (62310), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 62 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in a very large number of sorties. He has invariably displayed great skill and courage, qualities which were well evident in a recent sortie when detailed to drop supplies to our forces in daylight. Although fighting was in progress, Flight Lieutenant Crouchen released his supplies of fuel from a low level and thus tanks which had been immobilised through lack of petrol were enabled to join battle. He has set a fine example of devotion to duty.

Flight Lieutenant Leslie John HARRIES (45348), Royal Air Force, No. 62 Squadron.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties, including very many reconnaissances and supply-dropping missions. On one occasion he flew the leading aircraft of a small formation detailed to drop supplies to our forces who were surrounded by the enemy. On reaching the target area heavy anti-aircraft fire was encountered. Nevertheless, ten runs, during which all the aircraft were hit by shrapnel, were made over the area. The success obtained contributed materially to the good results of the fighting on the ground. In this, as on many other sorties, Flight Lieutenant Harries displayed skill and determination of a high order.

Flight Lieutenant Leslie Ernest SMITH (47123), Royal Air Force, No. 609 Squadron.

This officer has participated in a very large number of sorties, many of them in the Middle East. He has always displayed the greatest keenness to engage the enemy and his example of courage and resolution has been worthy of high praise. He has shot down four enemy aircraft and destroyed several others on the ground. In attacks on a variety of other targets, Flight Lieutenant Smith has damaged several ships, two locomotives and a number of vehicles. His successes are an excellent tribute to his great skill.

Acting Flight Lieutenant William Denis ERVINE (131084), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 9 Squadron.

One night in December, 1943, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin. It was his seventh sortie against this target. On the outward flight the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and shortly afterwards was attacked by a fighter. Much damage was sustained, making the bomber difficult to control. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Ervine went on to make a successful attack and afterwards flew safely to base. This officer has invariably displayed great skill and determination, qualities which have enabled him to complete a large number of missions successfully.

Flying Officer Samuel John Peter BLACKWELL (80453), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 266 Squadron.

In air operations this officer has displayed courage, skill and fortitude of the highest order.

Flying Officer Hector Frank COLEBROOK (129728), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 29 Squadron.

Flying Officer Robert Alexander CRONE (130416), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 29 Squadron.

As pilot and observer respectively, these officers have completed a very large number of sorties at night during which they have destroyed 3 enemy aircraft. Flying Officers Colebrook and Crone have displayed great skill and co-operation and their example of keenness and devotion to duty has been worthy of emulation.

Flying Officer Kenneth Albert RICHARDS (Aus.400104), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 3 Squadron.

In operations in Italy, Flying Officer Richards has completed a large number of sorties during which he has attacked shipping, road transport and targets in the battle zone with much success. In January, 1944, he attacked a medium sized ship with excellent results. Some time later he attacked another vessel of similar size, obtaining hits which caused its destruction. Flying Officer Richards has invariably displayed commendable courage and determination and his accurate bombing has been a noteworthy feature of his efforts throughout.

Flying Officer Walter Andrew RUSSELL (Can/J.12247), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 31 Squadron.

This officer has participated in many sorties, involving the dropping of supplies to our ground forces. On numerous occasions anti-aircraft fire and fighter opposition have been encountered but Flying Officer Russell has always completed his task successfully. He is a courageous and resolute pilot, whose example has been most commendable.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Arthur George WOODS (122252), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 605 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1322235 Flight Sergeant Wilfred Henry JOHNSON, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 605 Squadron.

As pilot and observer respectively, this officer and airman have completed very many sorties, including many attacks on airfields in Northern France, Belgium, Holland and Germany. They have displayed great skill and co-operation and have attacked numerous targets on the ground with success. In addition they have shot down 2 enemy aircraft. Flying Officer Woods and Flight Sergeant Johnson have displayed outstanding devotion to duty.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Pilot Officer Samuel Cunningham ATCHESON (161591), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 57 Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties, including 12 attacks on Berlin. He has at all times displayed exceptional devotion to duty and his example of courage and determination has won great praise. In February, 1944, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Leipzig. In the early stages of the outward flight, the air speed indicator became unserviceable. This did not deter him from continuing his mission and he reached the target at the scheduled time to execute a successful attack.

Pilot Officer James Morton HYDES (169554), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 514 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in a large number of attacks on targets in Germany and has proved himself to be a most dependable member of aircraft crew. His coolness and initiative were amply demonstrated during an attack on Schweinfurt one night in February, 1944. During the bombing run his aircraft was struck by a heavy object which fell into the forward part of the fuselage and burst into flames. Pilot Officer Hydes immediately seized the burning article and tried to jettison it but it slipped from his hands. He quickly obtained an extinguisher, however, by means of which he succeeded in putting out the flames. Pilot Officer Hydes acted with great promptitude and his action undoubtedly averted serious consequences.

Warrant Officer First Class James Talbert HOUSTON (Can/R.82755), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 428 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Warrant Officer Houston was the rear gunner of an aircraft detailed for a sortie one night in February, 1944. On the outward flight the aircraft was attacked by a fighter and some damage was sustained. Soon afterwards three more enemy aircraft were encountered but, each time, Warrant Officer Houston's clear and concise directions enabled his pilot to evade the enemy aircraft. When nearing the target the bomber was hit by shrapnel and Warrant Officer Houston was wounded in the shoulder. The oxygen point in his turret and the inter-communication system were rendered unserviceable. In spite of this, he remained at his post and, on the homeward flight, his vigilance and quick reports enabled his pilot to evade fighters on seven occasions. Warrant Officer Houston displayed great courage and devotion to duty and his efforts contributed materially to the success of the sortie.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Can/R.155760 Flight Sergeant Douglas George LIGHTFOOT, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 57 Squadron.

As rear gunner, this airman has participated in a large number of sorties and has displayed great keenness and devotion to duty throughout. His constant vigilance has enabled his pilot to avoid combat on many occasions. On two occasions, whilst over Berlin, his aircraft was attacked by fighters but his good shooting and sound knowledge of tactics were mainly responsible for frustrating the attackers. His coolness and confidence in the face of the enemy have set a fine example.

1380552 Flight Sergeant William Henry PERRY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 31 Squadron.

Flight Sergeant Perry has completed a large number of sorties involving the dropping of supplies to troops both by day and night. Throughout these operations he has displayed great keenness and determination. On one occasion his aircraft was hit in several places by anti-aircraft fire. Both air speed indicators were rendered useless but Flight Sergeant Perry completed the sortie successfully.

1432446 Sergeant Roy DIXON, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 101 Squadron.

One night in February, 1944, this airman piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Schweinfurt. It was his first operational sortie. During the operation his aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Displaying great skill, however, Sergeant Dixon manoeuvred to a position from which his gunners

were able to open fire with telling effect. The following night, Sergeant Dixon took part in an attack on Augsburg. Whilst over the target the aircraft was heavily hit by anti-aircraft fire. A large hole was torn in the fuselage and the hydraulic gear was rendered unserviceable. Almost immediately the bomber was struck by bullets from a fighter. One of the petrol tanks was pierced, the starboard elevator was shattered and a large hole was torn in the starboard main plane. Nevertheless Sergeant Dixon succeeded in evading the attacker and afterwards flew the damaged bomber to base where he effected a successful crash-landing. In trying circumstances, this airman displayed skill, courage and determination of a high order.

Can/R.123425 Sergeant William John WALTON, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 431 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This airman was the rear gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin one night in February, 1944. Before the target was reached the aircraft was attacked by a fighter and sustained damage. The inter-communication system was put out of action and the rear turret was rendered unserviceable. Although deprived of the use of oxygen and the means of heating, Sergeant Walton refused to vacate his turret. He suffered intensely on the homeward flight but maintained his vigilance and enabled his pilot to evade enemy aircraft on 3 occasions. This airman displayed great fortitude, determination and devotion to duty, setting a worthy example.

Air Ministry, 24th March, 1944.

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

Distinguished Service Cross.

Acting Flight Lieutenant David Alexander JONES (119651) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Flight Lieutenant Jones, as master in charge of a high speed launch, has displayed outstanding ability and keenness over a long period. On 6th June, 1942, after a very arduous and hazardous journey, Flight Lieutenant Jones rescued 5 airmen, the crew of a Stirling aircraft which had come down on the sea. On 27th July, 1942, Flight Lieutenant Jones rescued 7 members of the crew of a Halifax aircraft which had descended on the sea. His consistently high record of efficiency and courage has greatly inspired junior officers at his base and he has been particularly keen to carry out arduous and hazardous tasks.

Department of National Defence for Air, Ottawa.

24th March, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following award in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations:—

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Allan Percy Vivian NESSER (Can/J.9135), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 10 Squadron.

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