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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:—

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.