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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 Wing Commander John Frank SUTTON, D.F.C., A.F.C. (37835), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 10 Squadron.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, this officer has participated in numerous successful sorties. He has at all times displayed the greatest determination to inflict loss on the enemy and his achievements have been impressive. He is a splendid leader, whose sterling qualities have contributed greatly to the fine fighting qualities of the squadron he commands.

Acting Squadron Leader Charles Robertson MACDONALD, D.F.C. (101516), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 78 Squadron.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties and has successfully bombed some of the most heavily defended targets in Germany. He has set the highest example of bravery and devotion to duty which, together with his great skill, have inspired all. His record is worthy of the greatest praise.

Flight Lieutenant Malcolm Robert HEAD (N.Z.413414), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 9 Squadron.

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

Distinguished Service Order.

Flight Lieutenant Harold Brentnall HUNT, D.F.C. (68721), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 117 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Leonard Arthur CLARK (112712), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 117 Squadron.

These officers were pilot and navigator respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack an enemy airfield far distant from base. The objective was successfully located and, despite fierce fire from the ground defences, a determined attack was pressed home. In the operation, the aircraft

was hit by shrapnel. A fragment pierced the oil system of the port engine which caught fire. The flames subsided but the engine became useless. The aircraft lost considerable height and, for more than 100 miles on the homeward flight, Flight Lieutenant Hunt was forced to fly over valleys and through ravines, owing to the surrounding mountainous ranges. Ably directed by Flight Lieutenant Clark, however, Flight Lieutenant Hunt reached open country and eventually landed at an airfield after a flight of several hundred miles with one engine useless. These officers displayed great skill, courage and fortitude.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Richard Agnew WILLS (Aus.400666), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 236 Squadron.

In March, 1944, this officer participated in an attack on a large enemy convoy in the Heligoland Bight. The attack was well executed and pressed home with vigour and the success achieved reflects the greatest credit on the resolute leadership and great skill of Squadron Leader Wills. This officer has completed very many sorties and has rendered much valuable service.

Flight Lieutenant Hedley Joseph EVERARD (Can./J.6222), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 417 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties, most of them during the fighting in Sicily and, more recently in the Italian theatre. He has at all times displayed outstanding keenness, great skill and resolution and has destroyed at least 3 enemy aircraft, two of which he shot down over the Anzio beaches. He has set a fine example to all.

Acting Flight Lieutenant William George BARNES (135727), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 10 Squadron.

This officer has participated in many sorties and has successfully attacked such targets as Berlin, Schweinfurt and many centres in the Ruhr area. One night in March, 1944, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Frankfurt. When some 150 miles from the target one of the aircraft's engines became useless. The aircraft gradually lost height but Flight Lieutenant Barnes continued to the target which he attacked with his usual determination and afterwards flew safely to base. This

officer has invariably displayed a high degree of skill, courage and determination, setting a fine example to all.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Harold Rowland ROWLANDS (Aus.402404), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 213 Squadron.

This officer has completed a noteworthy tour of operations during which he has displayed a high degree of skill, great keenness and determination. Since joining his present squadron, Flight Lieutenant Rowlands has led formations of aircraft on many sorties over the Castelrosso-Rhodes area. On one occasion, 12 Junker 88s were intercepted. In the ensuing fight, 3 enemy aircraft were shot down, one of them by Flight Lieutenant Rowlands. This officer is a most efficient flight commander, whose fine leadership and personal example have been worthy of great praise.

Flying Officer Clifford Frank BULL (Can/J.20632), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 38 Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties, including a number of anti-submarine patrols and mine-laying missions. One night in February, 1944, Flying Officer Bull captained one of a formation of aircraft which attacked a medium-sized ship in Aegean waters. Although his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire, Flying Officer Bull pressed home his attack from mast height and obtained two hits on the vessel. He displayed great courage and determination.

Flying Officer Lawrence Francis Marshall CRONIN (Aus.400913), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 81 Squadron.

In air operations this officer has proved himself to be a determined and resourceful fighter. He has destroyed at least 5 enemy aircraft, successes which are an excellent tribute to his skill and gallantry in combat.

Flying Officer Christopher Bennett URWIN (126027), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 38 Squadron

One night in February, 1944, this officer captained one of a formation of aircraft which successfully attacked a medium-sized ship in the Aegean Sea. In spite of intense anti-aircraft fire from the vessel and its four escorting ships, Flying Officer Urwin pressed home a successful attack from mast height. In this action Flying Officer Urwin displayed great skill, courage and resolution, qualities which have been well in evidence throughout the many sorties in which he has participated.

Pilot Officer John CHATTERTON (159568), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 44 Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties and has displayed commendable skill, courage and devotion to duty. His determination and fine fighting qualities were well illustrated in a recent sortie against Leipzig. On the outward flight the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. A fragment of shrapnel shattered the windscreen above Pilot Officer Chatterton's head and he was hit and stunned but soon recovered. Undeterred by the intense cold caused by the wind blowing through the broken windscreen, Pilot Officer Chatterton continued his mission. When nearing the target the bomber was again hit by fire from the ground defences. Damage was sustained which resulted in a complete failure of the oxygen supply. Nevertheless, Pilot Officer Chatterton pressed home his attack and afterwards flew the aircraft to base. His example of courage, determination and devotion to duty was highly commendable.

Pilot Officer John Alfred SANDERS (168674), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 49 Squadron.

In February, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Augsburg. When approaching the target the aircraft was attacked by a fighter and sustained severe damage. Large holes were torn in the fuselage, while the starboard rudder and elevator were almost shot away. The aircraft dived steeply out of control. At this stage, the rear gunner reported that the bomber was on fire near his turret. Nevertheless, Pilot Officer Sanders, with the assistance of the flight engineer, managed to regain control. Meanwhile, other members of the crew fought the fire and, although bullets were exploding in the fuselage they succeeded in putting out the flames. The

inter-communication system was now out of action as the wiring had been burned through. The rear gunner lay unconscious through lack of oxygen. In spite of these trying circumstances perfect discipline prevailed. Course was set for home and, displaying great skill, Pilot Officer Sanders, succeeded in flying the badly damaged aircraft to base. He displayed courage, coolness and determination of a high order.

Warrant Officer Jeremiah Michael O'LEARY (1386554), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 114 Squadron.

Warrant Officer O'Leary was an air gunner in an aircraft detailed to attack a railway station where a very big force of enemy troops and vehicles was being concentrated. When nearing the objective a continuous movement of mechanical transport towards the railway was seen. In the face of considerable light anti-aircraft fire from the ground defences, Warrant Officer O'Leary raked the position with machine gun fire, hitting many vehicles with his bullets. His deadly and unflinching fire was an important factor in enabling his pilot to complete a successful bombing run. This air gunner has completed a very large number of sorties and has invariably displayed a fine fighting spirit, great keenness and devotion to duty.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer William Noel Thomsett RUSSELL (Aus.410122), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 466 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Aus.410869 Flight Sergeant William Michael CASHMAN, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 466 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer and airman were pilot and mid-upper gunner respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Stuttgart one night in March, 1944. When nearing the target the aircraft was engaged by a fighter and sustained much damage. The rear gunner was wounded, whilst his turret was rendered unserviceable. Nevertheless, Flying Officer Russell continued his mission. Soon afterwards, another fighter attacked. Flight Sergeant Cashman used his guns with deadly effect, however, and drove off the attacker which is believed to have been destroyed. A third fighter was also driven off and Flying Officer Russell afterwards pressed home a successful bombing attack. In trying circumstances this officer and airman displayed courage, skill and resolution of a high order.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

NZ.416582 Flight Sergeant Bernard William WINDSOR, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 514 Squadron.

527589 Sergeant Frank Leonard DOLAMORE, Royal Air Force, No. 514 Squadron.

These airmen were pilot and flight engineer respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Frankfurt one night in March, 1944. Just as Flight Sergeant Windsor commenced his bombing run the aircraft was attacked by a fighter and was struck by a burst of machine gun fire which caused much damage and killed the rear and mid-upper gunners. Flight Sergeant Windsor took prompt evading action but his aircraft was again hit and some stores caught fire. The aircraft was in a steep dive and it took the combined efforts of the pilot and flight engineer to level out. Afterwards, the bombs were released. The aircraft became extremely difficult to control but Flight Sergeant Windsor succeeded in gaining some height and eventually reached base. Throughout the return flight, Sergeant Dolamore displayed much skill and resource and did everything possible to assist his pilot in his endeavours to reach this country. In very trying circumstances these airmen displayed courage, determination and devotion to duty beyond praise.

Can/R.191057 Sergeant Charles McRAE, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 115 Squadron.

This airman was the rear gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack Frankfurt on a recent occasion. Whilst over the target the aircraft was attacked by 3 fighters. The rear turret was rendered unservice-

able and Sergeant McRae was wounded. Although in great pain, this brave gunner refused to leave his post and, operating his turret manually, continued to use his guns most effectively, causing the attackers to terminate the engagement. Some time later he fainted through loss of blood and had to be assisted from his turret. This airman set a splendid example of determination and devotion to duty.

2205880 Sergeant Albert George MANUEL, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 166 Squadron.

As rear gunner, this airman has taken part in many sorties and has invariably displayed great determination and devotion to duty. One night in March, 1944, he took part in an attack on Nuremburg. When nearing the target the aircraft was engaged by a fighter. Sergeant Manuel used

his guns with deadly effect, however, and his bullets caused the enemy aircraft to burst into flames and afterwards to disintegrate. The bomber had not escaped unscathed and the rear portion of the fuselage commenced to burn furiously. Displaying great promptitude and resource Sergeant McRae left his turret and fought the fire. By using his parachute and some parts of his clothing he succeeded in beating out the flames. In so doing he sustained severe burns to his face and collapsed as his task was completed. He revived when given assistance but such was the pain he was suffering that he could only wear his oxygen mask for a short time. Even so, this gallant airman refused to leave his post until the aircraft was clear of the enemy defences. His conduct was in keeping with the best traditions of the Royal Air Force.

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