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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 Maurice MILBURN (42516), Royal Air Force, No 38 Squadron

This officer has completed two tours of operations. He has taken part in many attacks on shipping and in numerous bombing missions. Throughout, he set a high standard of gallantry and devotion to duty. On one occasion, Squadron Leader Milburn piloted an aircraft which attacked a medium sized merchant vessel escorted by 2 armed ships. In spite of intense anti-aircraft fire, he pressed home his attack and obtained a hit which badly disabled the merchantman. A further hit was then obtained by another aircraft of the squadron and the vessel was set on fire. On his last sortie, an attack on shipping, Squadron Leader Milburn's aircraft was severely damaged by anti-aircraft fire. Despite this, he pressed home his attack from an extremely low level. On the homeward flight, Squadron Leader Milburn was forced to bring his aircraft down on to the sea. He accomplished the task successfully and without injury to any of the crew who were able to board the dinghy which they paddled safely to the shore. Squadron Leader Milburn has displayed inspiring leadership, great skill and fine fighting qualities.

Acting Squadron Leader Dennis MILLER, DFC (NZ 402207), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No 49 Squadron

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, this officer has completed very many sorties, including five attacks on Berlin and three against Hanover. Throughout he has displayed a high degree of skill, courage and resolution, qualities which have earned him much success. In April, 1944, he piloted an aircraft detailed for a mine-laying mission. In spite of opposing fire from armed ships and from the shore batteries, Squadron Leader Miller executed his task with great precision and afterwards completed the long flight home safely. His example has been worthy of emulation.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross

Acting Flight Lieutenant Charles Curnow SCHERF, DFC (Aus 413671), Royal Australian Air Force, No 418 (RCAF) Squadron

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, this officer has taken part in numerous sorties and has continued to display the highest qualities of gallantry and skill. Towards the end of February, 1944, he flew the leading aircraft of

two detailed for a sortie far in enemy occupied territory. During the operation three enemy aircraft were shot down, and three others damaged on the ground. During another sortie over Northern France in April, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Scherf destroyed two enemy aircraft in the air and damaged three others on the ground at an airfield. These 2 sorties were a fitting climax to an outstanding tour. This officer has destroyed at least 9 enemy aircraft, successes which pay an excellent tribute to his great fighting qualities and resolution.

Distinguished Flying Cross

Wing Commander Keith Macdermott HAMPSHIRE, DSO (Aus 147), Royal Australian Air Force, No 456 (RCAF) Squadron

This officer has commanded the squadron since December, 1943, and has displayed inspiring leadership, great skill and gallantry. Since operating in this country, Wing Commander Hampshire has shot down three enemy aircraft at night, two of them in one sortie. In the latter of his 2 fights, his aircraft was damaged by flying portions of the disintegrating enemy aircraft. Nevertheless, Wing Commander Hampshire flew safely to base, although at times his aircraft was almost uncontrollable. His achievement was worthy of the greatest praise and was typical of the determination he has shown throughout his operational career.

Acting Squadron Leader John Terence Joseph DAVIS (Can/J 2936), Royal Canadian Air Force, No 415 (RCAF) Squadron

Flying Officer Harry James THOMPSON (Can/J 22515), Royal Canadian Air Force, No 415 (RCAF) Squadron

As pilot and observer respectively these officers have completed many sorties involving attacks on enemy shipping. They have at all times displayed praiseworthy skill and have invariably pressed home their attacks with great determination, often in the face of heavy opposing fire. They have set an excellent example to all.

Flight Lieutenant Donald Atkins MACFADYEN (Can/J 3103), Royal Canadian Air Force, No 418 (RCAF) Squadron

This officer has participated in many sorties and has destroyed 4 enemy aircraft and damaged several more. He has displayed great skill and courage throughout his tour and his example of keenness and determination has been most commendable.

Acting Flight Lieutenant John Sidney LUDFORD (53221), Royal Air Force, No 57 Squadron

In February, 1944, this officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Leipzig. When some 100 miles from the target the aircraft was attacked

by a fighter. The hydraulic gear and the star-board inner propeller were damaged; the electrical circuits were also damaged, causing a failure of the lighting and heating systems. In no way deterred, Flight Lieutenant Ludford flew on to the target and made a successful attack, afterwards flying safely to base with bomb doors open. This officer displayed praiseworthy courage and determination. He has completed many sorties, including 8 attacks on Berlin.

Flying Officer Kenneth Thornby ASHFIELD (157397), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 415 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Flying Officer George Norman BROWN (161239), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 415 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

As pilot and observer respectively, Flying Officers Ashfield and Brown have completed very many sorties, including a number of anti-submarine patrols and attacks on enemy shipping. Their successes include destructive attacks on 2 merchantmen, one of large and the other of medium tonnage. In each fight, Flying Officers Ashfield and Brown pressed home their attacks with great determination and the results obtained were a tribute to their accurate bombing. They have proved themselves to be skilful and courageous members of aircraft crew.

Flying Officer Bernard Charles ROBERTS (156708), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 248 Squadron.

This officer has completed numerous sorties and has displayed a high standard of gallantry and resolution. In April, 1944, he flew the leading aircraft of a formation which attacked a U-boat, escorted by a sperrbrecher, 2 more armed ships, 2 minesweepers and 12 Junkers 88s. In spite of the heavy opposition, Flying Officer Roberts obtained many hits on the stern of the submarine in a well timed co-ordinated attack. He afterwards made another attack, single-handed, and in the face of the combined fire of all the escorting vessels, pressing home his attack and obtaining more hits on the U-boat on and below the water line. Throughout this spirited action this officer displayed great skill, courage and determination.

Flying Officer Frank Albert THOMAS (134130), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 57 Squadron.

Flying Officer Thomas has taken part in very many attacks on heavily defended targets in Germany and has displayed commendable skill, courage and devotion to duty. One night in March, he was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin. Although one engine failed on the outward flight, Flying Officer Thomas flew on to the target which he attacked with his usual determination. On two other occasions recently, this pilot has proved his skill by successfully attacking his targets despite technical difficulties.

Flying Officer Gerald Norman Edgar YEATES (128485), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 248 Squadron.

In April, 1944, this officer piloted one of a formation of aircraft which attacked a U-boat, strongly escorted by 3 armed ships, 2 minesweepers and 12 Junkers 88s. In the fight, Flying

Officer Yeates attacked the most powerfully armed of the escorting vessels and completely silenced its guns at the critical moment. He then engaged one of the enemy aircraft which he shot down. His determined and gallant efforts contributed materially to the success of the operation. This officer has completed many sorties and has invariably displayed unflinching devotion to duty.

Pilot Officer Earl William BOAL (Can/J.85009), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 418 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

As observer, Pilot Officer Boal has taken part in numerous sorties and has assisted in the destruction of six enemy aircraft. He is a highly skilled and gallant member of aircraft crew and his example both in the air and on the ground has been worthy of emulation.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1321801 Flight Sergeant Sidney Ronald GILLEY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 211 Squadron.

As navigator this airman has participated in very many sorties and throughout has displayed commendable keenness and efficiency. On one occasion the aircraft in which he was a member of the crew was badly damaged when hit by enemy fire. Height could not be maintained but the pilot brought the aircraft down on to the sea very close to the shore. Within a few days, Flight Sergeant Gilley had resumed flying and had taken part in 2 successful attacks on airfields and 1 on shipping. His accurate navigation over difficult terrain contributed materially to the success of these sorties.

*Department of National Defence for Air.
Ottawa, 12th May, 1944.*

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the publication of the names of the following personnel who have been Mentioned in Despatches:—

Flying Officer L. H. SHEBESKI (Can/J.10314).
Flying Officer W. E. THOMAS (Can/J.14456).

Government House, Canberra, 12th May, 1944.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following award *with effect from 27th April, 1944*, in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy in the South-West Pacific area:—

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Alexander MILLER-RANDLE (Aus. 416170).

AMENDMENT.

In notification of 14th December, 1943, concerning award conferred by the Belgian Government (p. 5438, col. 1) for Croix de Guerre, First Class, read Croix Militaire, First Class.

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