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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