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*Air Ministry, 1st August, 1944.*

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.*

Flying Officer Maxwell Samuel STRANGE (Can/J.24504), R.C.A.F., 427 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack a target in Northern France. When nearing the target the aircraft was attacked by a fighter. The starboard side of the fuselage was badly holed by the enemy's machine gun fire which also seriously damaged the starboard elevator. The dinghy was set on fire and petrol from one of the tanks which had been pierced caused the flames to burn fiercely. The rear gunner was wounded but remained in his damaged turret to give directions to his pilot, Flying Officer Strange, who out-manoeuvred the attacker and afterwards successfully bombed his objective. Soon afterwards another fighter was encountered but once again Flying Officer Strange proved his skill and evaded the attacker and finally reached an airfield in this country where he effected a masterly landing. This officer displayed the highest standard of skill, courage and devotion to duty in the face of extremely difficult and dangerous circumstances.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Flight Lieutenant George William Alfred AUSTEN, D.F.C. (134021), R.A.F.V.R., 640 Sqn.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross this officer has completed many sorties and has continued to display the highest standard of skill and gallantry. Recently, he was the rear gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack the railway sidings at Amiens. During the operation his aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Flight Lieutenant Austen promptly gave his pilot the necessary combat manoeuvre and then opened fire. His bullets struck the attacker which is believed to have been destroyed. On this as on other occasions, Flight Lieutenant Austen defended his aircraft with great skill and thus contributed materially to its safe return.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Brian George FROW, D.F.C. (100087), R.A.F.V.R., 7 Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Flight Lieutenant Ernest Wharton, D.F.M. (135017), R.A.F.V.R., 7 Sqn.

Acting Warrant Officer Owen Glyndwa ERASMUS (1314546), R.A.F.V.R., 7 Sqn.

One night in June, 1944, these officers and warrant officer were captain, rear gunner and mid-

upper gunner respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack an enemy target. When nearing the enemy coast on the return flight, Flight Lieutenant Frow saw a Junkers 88 about to attack another aircraft of the bomber force. He immediately ordered his gunners to open fire. Flight Lieutenant Wharton and Warrant Officer Erasmus promptly delivered bursts of fire which struck the enemy aircraft, causing it to dive to the ground where it exploded. A few minutes later Flight Lieutenant Wharton sighted another fighter coming in to attack. He quickly warned his captain who manoeuvred to a good position from which Flight Lieutenant Wharton delivered a long burst of fire. His bullets struck the attacker which caught fire and dived earthwards. In the meantime, Warrant Officer Erasmus had sighted yet a third fighter on the starboard quarter. Although the inter-communication system was defective he managed to warn his captain and co-gunner and the latter drove off the attacker which had closed in. These members of aircraft crew displayed great skill, coolness and co-operation throughout this notable action. They have completed many sorties against dangerous and difficult targets.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Ian Bishop BUTLER, A.F.C. (84700), R.A.F.V.R., 252 Sqn.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties and has displayed a high standard of skill and devotion to duty throughout. He is a most efficient flight commander whose fine fighting qualities have been well reflected in the operational efficiency of the formation he commands. In June, 1944, he commanded a small formation of aircraft in a successful attack on an enemy convoy and his fine leadership played a prominent part in the success achieved.

Acting Squadron Leader Harry Thomas PATTERSON (Can/J.15159), R.C.A.F., 433 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As captain and pilot of aircraft this officer has completed a very large number of attacks on targets important to the enemy's war effort. He has displayed a high degree of skill throughout and his example of courage and determination has been most inspiring. His record is worthy of high praise.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Wilfred Arthur CORY (134091), R.A.F.V.R., 427 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Cory is a skilful and resolute pilot. He has taken part in a large number of sorties and his determination to achieve success has won great praise. On more than one occasion his aircraft has been damaged by anti-aircraft fire but he has flown safely to base each time. This officer has displayed devotion to duty of a high order.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Murray Franklin FLEWELLING (Can/J18927), R.C.A.F., 434 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has participated in very many sorties most of them against heavily defended targets. He is a highly skilled member of aircraft crew whose fearlessness and determination have greatly inspired his crew. He has set an excellent example.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Arthur Sydney HADDON (132002), R.A.F.V.R., 252 Sqn.

In air operations this officer has displayed the highest standard of keenness and devotion to duty. He is a most valuable member of aircraft crew and his navigational ability has played a good part in the successes obtained. Flight Lieutenant Haddon has also rendered valuable service in the training of other members of the squadron. His record is worthy of great praise.

Acting Flight Lieutenant John Humphreys STEVENS (Aus.416802), R.A.A.F., 466 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

One night in June, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Trappes. Whilst over the target his aircraft sustained extensive damage in an encounter with a fighter. Despite this, Flight Lieutenant Stevens executed his bombing attack. On the return flight considerable height was lost, at times the aircraft was down to 100 feet. Nevertheless Flight Lieutenant Stevens succeeded in reaching an airfield. His skill and determination in the face of trying circumstances were most praiseworthy. This officer has completed very many sorties.

Flying Officer Joseph David CAZES (130263), R.A.F.V.R., 158 Sqn.

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties, involving attacks on a wide range of targets. He is a navigator of high merit whose ability in several dangerous and difficult situations has contributed in a large way to the successful return of the aircraft. Both in the air and on the ground his conduct has been exemplary.

Flying Officer John Thomas HALL (Can/J25802), R.C.A.F., 51 Sqn.

This officer has completed very many sorties and has displayed a high standard of skill throughout. He has invariably pressed home his attacks with courage and resolution and has achieved much success. In June, 1944, he piloted an aircraft detailed to attack a railway target in France. At one stage of the outward flight the port outer propeller stopped in the fully feathered position. Shortly after it had been re-started, excessive vibration was experienced, and finally the propeller and reduction gear flew off. Nevertheless, Flying Officer Hall continued to the target and executed his attack. His determination was typical of that he has shown throughout his tour.

Flying Officer Hugh Brian THOMAS (126708), R.A.F.V.R., 85 Sqn.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties and has set a very fine example of keenness, determination and devotion to duty. He has destroyed 4 enemy aircraft at night.

Flying Officer Douglas Rowe WILEY (Can/J.11131), R.C.A.F., 431 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed a notable tour of operations during which he has taken part in attacks on such targets as Berlin, Essen and Frankfurt. He is a highly efficient air gunner whose example of courage and resolution has been most commendable. He has rendered valuable service.

Pilot Officer George Forster CAIRNS (176723), R.A.F.V.R., 102 Sqn.

As air gunner, Pilot Officer Cairns has taken part in a large number of sorties and has displayed a high standard of skill and determination throughout. On one occasion he was a gunner in an aircraft detailed to attack Leverkusen. On the homeward flight the bomber was intercepted by 3 enemy aircraft. The first attacked from astern below but was struck by an accurate burst of fire from Pilot Officer Cairns's guns and fell to the ground, where it exploded. Almost immediately the second fighter closed in. Pilot Officer Cairns met it with a devastating burst, setting one of its engines on fire. The third enemy aircraft

then flew off without attempting to attack. In this spirited action this gallant gunner defended his aircraft with exceptional skill. He has invariably displayed a high standard of courage and devotion to duty.

Pilot Officer William DAVENPORT (173909), R.A.F.V.R., 252 Sqn.

This officer has completed very many sorties over the Aegean Sea. Throughout he has displayed high skill and great devotion to duty and his example has been most commendable. In June, 1944, he flew with great distinction in an attack on an enemy merchantman which was set on fire.

Pilot Officer John McCrae HOUSTON (174233), R.A.F.V.R., 432 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As rear gunner this officer has completed a large number of sorties, including 9 attacks on Berlin. He is a confident and determined member of aircraft crew whose skill and co-operation have contributed materially to the successes obtained. He has set a very fine example.

Pilot Officer Clifford Ernest SMITH (172948), R.A.F.V.R., 158 Sqn.

This officer has displayed great skill, courage and devotion to duty in air operations. He has completed a large number of sorties against well defended targets and his successes are a fine tribute to his ability and fine fighting qualities. He is a model captain whose example has greatly inspired his crew.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Pilot Officer William Robert HORNE (174626), R.A.F.V.R., 9 Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1204986 Flight Sergeant John Joseph SHIPLEY, R.A.F.V.R., 9 Sqn.

This officer and airman were pilot and navigator respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack a target in Western Germany. When approaching the target the aircraft was struck by shrapnel and went into a steep dive. Considerable height was lost before Pilot Officer Horne regained control. The starboard engine and the rear turret had caught fire, whilst the mid-upper turret was badly damaged. Both gunners were wounded. Nevertheless the fire in the turret was brought under control and, when Pilot Officer Horne feathered the defective engine, the flames died away. Course was set for home and finally Pilot Officer Horne flew the badly damaged and defenceless aircraft to an airfield. Throughout the homeward flight Flight Sergeant Shipley proved a tower of strength. Although deprived of the full use of his instruments he guided his pilot home with unerring skill. This officer and airman displayed skill, courage and devotion to duty of a high order.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1291119 Flight Sergeant Leslie Robert. HARMAN, R.A.F.V.R., 158 Sqn.

This air gunner has taken part in a large number of sorties, 5 of which have been against Berlin. He is a skilful, resolute and devoted member of aircraft crew whose example has been worthy of much praise. He has assisted in the destruction of one enemy aircraft.

1261769 Flight Sergeant Ernest SALMON, R.A.F.V.R., 158 Sqn.

This airman has completed a tour of operations, involving attacks on various well defended targets. He is an air gunner of great skill whose example of courage and devotion to duty in the face of enemy fire has been most commendable. He has taken part in 4 attacks on the German capital.

1029623 Sergeant Denis Fletcher WALKER, R.A.F.V.R., 427 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This airman has taken part in many attacks on targets in Germany and has displayed a high degree of efficiency and resolution throughout. On one occasion he was the mid-upper gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack Aachen. Whilst still a considerable distance from the target the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. Sergeant Walker was wounded in the leg, but, despite this, he insisted on remaining in his turret ready to defend his aircraft if necessary. He displayed great fortitude and devotion to duty.

*Government House, Canberra, 1st August, 1944.*

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy in the South-West Pacific area:—

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Wing Commander Charles Cuthbertson LEARMONTH, D.F.C. (Aus.385) (deceased), with effect from 5th Jan. 1944.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Wing Commander Clarrie Parsons GLASSCOCK (Aus.260092) (deceased) with effect from 18th Sept. 1943.

Flight Lieutenant Robin Henry Seaborn GRAY (Aus. 260717) (with effect from 7th July 1944).

*Office of the Minister of Defence,  
Wellington, New Zealand.*

1st August, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following award in recognition of gallantry

displayed in flying operations against the enemy in the South-West Pacific area:—

*Distinguished Service Order.*

Wing Commander Charles William Kelvin NICHOLLS (34224), R.A.F.O. (with effect from 29th June 1944).

*Office of the Minister of Defence,  
Wellington, New Zealand.*

29th July, 1944.

The KING has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned decoration, conferred upon the officer indicated, in recognition of valuable services rendered in connection with the war:—

CONFERRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Maurice Richard CLARKE, R.N.Z.A.F.

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