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*Air Ministry, 8th 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.*

Acting Wing Commander George Robert Arthur McGarel Johnson, D.F.C. (72082), R.A.F.V.R.

Wing Commander Johnston is an outstanding leader, whose rare qualities of skill, bravery and devotion to duty have been well reflected in successes of the squadrons he commands which have, within a few months destroyed 57 enemy aircraft and damaged many more. Within a short period Wing Commander Johnston himself has shot down 4 enemy aircraft. His example has inspired all.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander Peter Duncan Felton (MITCHELL 37821), R.A.F.O., 236 Sqn.

Wing Commander Mitchell has completed much operational flying and has displayed the highest standard of efficiency and devotion to duty. In July, 1944, he participated in an attack on shipping. By his able and inspiring leadership, Wing Commander Mitchell contributed materially to the success achieved. This officer has rendered much valuable service.

Squadron Leader Paul Bingham ELWELL (74716), R.A.F.V.R., 264 Sqn.

This officer has displayed high qualities of leadership, bravery and skill, setting a fine example to the flight he commands. He has completed a large number of sorties and has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft at night. His keenness and devotion have been outstanding.

Flight Lieutenant Lewis Robert BACON (124695), R.A.F.V.R., 248 Sqn.

This officer has set a fine example of courage and determination in air operations. In June, 1944, he took part in an attack on enemy shipping. Although one engine of his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire, this did not deter Flight Lieutenant Bacon from pressing home his attack. Some days later he was again in action against an enemy convoy. In the fight, he was wounded in the arm which was rendered useless. Although suffering considerably, Flight Lieutenant Bacon, assisted by the navigator flew back to base. One engine was out of action and he could only control the aircraft with one hand. Nevertheless, he effected a masterly landing. This officer displayed a high degree of skill, fortitude and resolution.

Flight Lieutenant Robert Brown DAVIDSON (47295), R.A.F., 6 Sqn.

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties, including many attacks on shipping. One night in June, 1944, he took part in an attack on an enemy convoy. In the face of intense anti-aircraft fire, Flight Lieutenant Davidson pressed home his attacks with the greatest determination, causing the destruction of 4 vessels. The following night, Flight Lieutenant Davidson destroyed

another enemy vessel. Within a short period he has obtained hits on 11 surface craft and has successfully attacked other targets on land. His example of courage, keenness and determination has been of the highest order.

Flight Lieutenant James Douglas LINDSAY (Can/J.9081), R.C.A.F., 403 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

In July, 1944, this officer took part in an engagement against a large formation of enemy fighters, 3 of which he shot down. Flight Lieutenant Lindsay has invariably displayed praiseworthy courage and skill and his keenness to engage the enemy has always been apparent. He has destroyed 6 enemy aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant James Hugh McCaw (N.Z.414311), R.N.Z.A.F., 486 (N.Z.) Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of varied sorties, involving successful attacks on the enemy's railway communications, mechanical transport and other targets on the ground; he has also participated in several attacks on shipping during which 7 vessels have been destroyed. He is a most efficient flight commander whose ability and keenness have been reflected in the fine fighting qualities of his flight.

Flight Lieutenant Hugh Charles TRAINOR (Can/C.1697), R.C.A.F., 411 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Within a very short period, Flight Lieutenant Trainor has shot down 5 enemy aircraft. His successes are a fine tribute to his great skill and fighting qualities.

Flight Lieutenant Arnold Edgar WALKER (115919), R.A.F.V.R., 6 Sqn.

This officer has achieved much success in attacks on shipping, railway communications and mechanical transport. He has displayed the greatest determination throughout and his example in the face of the enemy has been most inspiring. One night in June, 1944, he attacked a small convoy and caused the destruction of a lighter. The following night, Flight Lieutenant Walker participated in a most successful attack on a small convoy consisting of 10 small craft, all of which were attacked with destructive effect. His keenness and devotion to duty have been outstanding.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Reuben (BERCOW 146629), R.A.F.V.R., 76 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Bercow has taken part in very many sorties against well-defended targets. He has invariably displayed a high standard of gallantry and devotion to duty and his successes are a good tribute to the accuracy of his bombing. His keenness has been exceptional.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Bernard Handley HOWARD (52715), R.A.F., 76 Sqn.

As flight engineer, this officer has completed very many sorties, involving attacks on a wide variety of targets. He is a most devoted member of aircraft crew, whose skill, co-operation and determination have contributed materially to the successes obtained. His example has been most praiseworthy.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Leonard Stanley HOXEY (125690), R.A.F.V.R., 76 Sqn.

As navigator, Flight Lieutenant Hoxey has participated in very many sorties, including attacks on such targets as Berlin, Stuttgart, Frankfurt and Munich. He is a highly skilled member of aircraft crew, whose example of courage and resolution has been most commendable.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Alexander HUMPHREYS (143889), R.A.F.V.R., 76 Sqn.

Throughout his tour of operations this officer has displayed the highest standard of keenness and devotion to duty. He is a most efficient pilot and captain, whose determination to complete his missions successfully has won great praise. On one occasion he took part in an attack on Stuttgart. In the bombing run, a fighter was sighted closing in to attack. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Humphreys maintained his run and released his bombs. The fighter attacked with much persistence but it was finally driven off with smoke pouring from its engines. In a difficult situation, Flight Lieutenant Humphreys displayed skill and leadership of a high order.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Paul Gilbert JOHNSON (Can/J.20050), R.C.A.F., 421 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Johnson has participated in many attacks on enemy airfields, communications and other targets on the ground and has proved himself to be a fearless and skilful pilot. He has displayed the greatest keenness to engage the enemy and has destroyed 5 hostile aircraft, 3 of them in one day.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Leslie Albert MOORE (Can/J.17857), R.C.A.F., 441 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties, involving attacks on a wide range of targets. In July, 1944, he took part in an engagement against 8 enemy aircraft, 5 of which were shot down, 2 of them by Flight Lieutenant Moore. In the fight, this officer led his small formation of aircraft with great skill, setting an inspiring example. He has destroyed 6 hostile aircraft.

Flying Officer Lloyd Wilbur FARR (Aus.420340), R.A.A.F., 455 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has participated in very many sorties, including several successful attacks on enemy shipping. In the last of these a convoy of 10 merchantmen, escorted by a number of armed ships, was attacked. Intense anti-aircraft fire was encountered but although his aircraft was hit, Flying Officer Farr pressed home his attack with the greatest resolution and completely silenced the guns of the vessels at which he directed his fire. His determination was characteristic of that which he has shown throughout his tour.

Flying Officer Alec McLellan (Aus.16168), R.A.A.F., 78 Sqn.

One night in June, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft in an attack on a target at Blainville. In an encounter with an enemy aircraft, Flying Officer McLellan was struck in the leg by a bullet. Although suffering great pain, he continued to the target which he successfully attacked. His determination and fortitude won much praise. This officer has completed very many missions and has invariably displayed noteworthy courage and skill.

Pilot Officer Ernest Bernard ELSEY (171872), R.A.F.V.R., 76 Sqn.

As wireless operator, Pilot Officer Elsey has participated in very many attacks on heavily defended enemy targets. He is a most determined member of aircraft crew, whose skill and co-operation have contributed materially to the successes obtained. Pilot Officer Elsey has been involved in several difficult and dangerous situations but his keenness remains unabated. His conduct at all times has been exemplary.

Pilot Officer Sydney Ernest Charles JUDD (173931), R.A.F.V.R., 77 Sqn.

One night in June, 1944, this officer was pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Sterkrade. On the return flight the aircraft was intercepted by a fighter which attacked with much

persistency. In the engagement, Pilot Officer Judd manoeuvred with great skill and finally the attacker was driven off and is believed to have been destroyed. The bomber had sustained extensive damage, however, and a wing was on fire. Nevertheless, Pilot Officer Judd set a course in an attempt to reach home. Before the English coast could be reached the fire had spread considerably and Pilot Officer Judd was forced to bring the crippled aircraft down on to the sea, a task he skilfully accomplished. All the crew got safely aboard the dinghy and were subsequently rescued. In the face of most harassing circumstances this gallant pilot set an example of the highest order.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Pilot Officer Sidney Edward LUCAS (171647), R.A.F.V.R., 149 Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1864418 Sergeant Ronald Vivian FRENCH, R.A.F.V.R., 149 Sqn.

This officer and airman were pilot- and flight engineer of an aircraft detailed for a mine-laying mission one night in June, 1944. When nearing the target the aircraft was illuminated in a cone of searchlights and subjected to heavy anti-aircraft fire. Undeterred, Pilot Officer Lucas flew on to the target and released his mines in the prescribed area. Almost immediately his aircraft was hit in many places. Sergeant French who had previously left his station in the course of his duties, was seriously injured. In order to escape the barrage, Pilot Officer Lucas dived almost to sea level. As course was set for home, Sergeant French asked permission to return to his instrument panel. He collapsed. It was not until then that any of his comrades became aware of his injuries. Eventually, Pilot Officer Lucas reached an airfield. On landing the brake pressure failed and the aircraft overshot the runway, crashed and caught fire. The petrol tanks exploded as Pilot Officer Lucas got clear and he was hurled backwards many yards by the force of the explosions. Nevertheless he quickly recovered and assisted in rescuing Sergeant French from the burning aircraft. This officer displayed courage, coolness and determination of a high order. Sergeant French also proved himself to be a brave member of aircraft crew and his example was worthy of great praise.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

612510 Flight Sergeant Hans BECK, R.A.F., 10 Sqn.

One night in June, 1944, this airman was mid-upper gunner in an aircraft detailed to attack a target in Northern France. Shortly after leaving the target the aircraft was attacked by a fighter. As the enemy aircraft closed in, Flight Sergeant Beck and his co-gunner opened fire. Their bullets struck the attacker which dived steeply out of control as one of its engines burst into flames. Some nights later, Flight Sergeant Beck was the rear gunner in an aircraft detailed to attack an enemy target. On two occasions during the operation the aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Both engagements ended with the destruction of the attacker, however, and in the success achieved, Flight Sergeant Beck played a prominent part by his vigilance, excellent combat manoeuvres and good shooting. He has invariably displayed a high degree of courage and resolution.

1736070 Flight Sergeant Eric James DAVIES, R.A.F.V.R., 76 Sqn.

This air gunner has taken part in many sorties and has set a fine example of devotion to duty throughout. On one occasion, whilst over Stuttgart, his aircraft was intercepted by a fighter which attacked with great persistence. Coolly and skilfully, however, Flight Sergeant Davies directed the necessary combat manoeuvres. As the enemy aircraft closed in for the fifth time, Flight Sergeant Davies delivered a most effective burst of fire obtaining many hits. The attacker was last seen falling towards the ground with smoke pouring from one of its engines. This airman has invariably displayed courage and coolness in the face of the enemy.

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