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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 Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander James Michael BIRKIN, A.F.C. (81350), R.A.F.V.R., No. 571 Sqn.

Wing Commander Birkin has completed a large number of sorties during which he has attacked many dangerous and difficult targets. He has displayed a high degree of skill, gallantry and devotion to duty and has contributed in a large measure to the operational efficiency of the squadron he commands.

Flight Lieutenant John McKinnon McALLISTER (108841), R.A.F.V.R., 218 Sqn.

This officer has set a fine example of skill, determination and devotion to duty. He has completed a large number of sorties against a wide variety of targets and much of the success achieved can be attributed to this officer's efficiency and resolution. He is a gallant and inspiring captain.

Flight Lieutenant Denis WELFARE (119194), R.A.F.V.R., 239 Sqn.

Flying Officer David Benjamin BELLIS (142922), R.A.F.V.R., 239 Sqn.

These officers have completed many sorties as Pilot and Navigator respectively. One night in June, 1944, during an operation in the Paris area, their aircraft was attacked by a Messerschmitt 110. This was subsequently destroyed though the encounter resulted in serious damage to their own aircraft. By skilful airmanship and excellent navigation the aircraft was flown safely back to base. The determination and skill of these officers have earned them many successes. They have destroyed four enemy aircraft.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Joseph Yvon Alcide COTE (Can/J.85354), R.C.A.F., 425 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has an excellent operational record. He is a highly skilled and courageous pilot who has completed many successful sorties over enemy territory. On one occasion this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Leipzig. Shortly before reaching the target the aircraft was struck by anti-aircraft fire and sustained extensive damage. Despite this, Flight Lieutenant Cote went on to attack the target with his usual determination. Just after the bombs had been released an engine became unserviceable but Flight Lieutenant Cote flew his aircraft safely to base.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Lionel Palmer Joseph DUPUIS (Can/J.85013), R.C.A.F., 425 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer is a skilful and devoted pilot. He has completed many sorties including attacks on Berlin, Essen and Stuttgart. The determination

he has shown throughout his tour was well illustrated on his first sortie when detailed to attack Frankfurt. In the early stages of the outward flight some important navigational equipment became useless. Despite this, Flight Lieutenant Dupuis continued to the target and executed a successful attack. This officer is a most inspiring captain.

Flying Officer Leonard John GORNALL (52164), R.A.F., 138 Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties. He is an extremely keen and enthusiastic flight engineer and has at all times displayed the greatest determination. He has imparted much of his technical knowledge to other members of the squadron with good results.

Flying Officer Herbert Alfred HOOPER (142577), R.A.F.V.R., 571 Sqn.

One night in July, this officer was captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin, a target which he had operated against on 7 previous occasions. In the bombing run his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and one engine was put out of action. Much height was lost but course was set for home. On the return flight extremely adverse weather was encountered but Flying Officer Hooper succeeded in reaching base. He displayed skill, courage and resolution of a high standard.

Pilot Officer Frederick Roy EDMONDSON (Can/J.88254), R.C.A.F., 433 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Pilot Officer Edmondson has completed many sorties. On one occasion when attacking Berlin one engine of his aircraft became unserviceable. Undeterred by heavy enemy opposition and gradual loss of height, he pressed home his attack with great determination. The successful completion of these operations have been due largely to the skill, initiative and resourcefulness displayed by this officer.

Pilot Officer Ivan Douglas GREGORY (172248), R.A.F.V.R., 141 Sqn.

Pilot Officer Derek Henry STEPHENS (172350), R.A.F.V.R., 141 Sqn.

These officers have completed many sorties as pilot and navigator respectively. They have displayed great skill and co-operation, qualities which were well illustrated one night in July, 1944, when they destroyed a Junkers 88 from close range. Their devotion to duty has been unflinching.

Pilot Officer John Leslie JAMES (Can/J.85056), R.C.A.F., 433 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties against well defended targets; he has also completed several successful sea mining operations. On one occasion whilst over enemy territory his aircraft sustained serious damage. Although the starboard elevator and rudder were