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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 Derek Harold HAMMOND, D.F.C. (N.Z.401493), R.N.Z.A.F., 489 (N.Z.) Sqn.

Since being awarded a Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross, this officer has participated in several attacks on enemy shipping. In August, 1944, Squadron Leader Hammond led formations of aircraft on 3 such missions. On each occasion loss was inflicted on the enemy. In September, 1944, he led a large formation of aircraft in an attack against enemy shipping in the harbour at Den Helder. In this well executed and successful operation, Squadron Leader Hammond displayed brilliant leadership, great skill and determination. He has rendered magnificent service.

Acting Squadron Leader Charles Blundell OWEN, D.F.C. (109489), R.A.F.V.R.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties, including 11 attacks on the German capital. Within recent months, Squadron Leader Owen has taken part in numerous attacks on dangerous and difficult targets. By his appreciation of the responsibilities entrusted to him, his great skill and cool courage, he has contributed in a large way to the successes obtained.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander Reginald Wilfred REYNOLDS, D.S.O., D.F.C. (40259), R.A.F.O.

Acting Squadron Leader Edward Barnes SISMORE, D.S.O., D.F.C. (130208), R.A.F.V.R.

As pilot and navigator respectively these officers have taken part in numerous sorties against a wide variety of targets. In October, 1944, they took part in a most successful attack on a vital German target. In this well executed operation, these officers displayed skill and resolution of the highest standard.

Flight Lieutenant. Robert John CLARK, D.F.C. (Can/J.10883), R.C.A.F., 571 Sqn.

This officer has participated in a very large number of operational missions and he has invariably displayed a high degree of courage and resolution. One night in October, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Clark was the navigator of an aircraft detailed for a mine-laying mission. The operation necessitated a high standard of skill and precise timing. That success was achieved reflects the greatest credit on the ability of this officer, whose work was of a high order.

Flying Officer Stanley DEACON, D.F.C. (168631), R.A.F.V.R., 571 Sqn.

One night in October, 1944, this officer was the navigator in an aircraft, detailed for a mine-laying mission. The operation demanded the highest standard of skill and resolution and the success achieved is a fine tribute to Flying Officer Deacon's faultless work.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Malcolm Stanley McCLARTY (Can/J.14006), R.C.A.F., 442 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has displayed exceptional keenness for operational flying. He has taken part in a large number of varied sorties and has set a fine example of skill and tenacity. He has effectively attacked very many mechanical vehicles and several locomotives. In air fighting he has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Ben Erwin PLUMER (Can/J.10802), R.C.A.F., 410 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant William Warren HARGROVE (Can/J.9132), R.C.A.F., 410 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As pilot and observer respectively, Flight Lieutenants Plumer and Hargrove have participated in many sorties. They have displayed a high degree of skill and courage, qualities which were well illustrated one night in October, 1944, when they engaged an enemy fighter near Venlo. In the fight, the starboard engine was hit and caught fire. Flight Lieutenant Hargrove quickly put out the fire by means of the extinguishers, as Flight Lieutenant Plumer continued to press home his attack. The engagement ended with the destruction of the enemy aircraft. Flight Lieutenant Plumer afterwards flew his damaged aircraft to an airfield and landed it safely.

Flight Lieutenant Maxwell Alexander Dick RIDDELL, D.F.M. (49731), R.A.F., 138 Sqn.

This officer was the wireless operator (air) of an aircraft detailed for an operational mission one night early in September, 1944. Shortly after leaving the target the aircraft was involved in a fight with an enemy aircraft. Much damage was sustained. Flight Lieutenant Riddell was wounded in the back and legs. Nevertheless, he would not leave his post. Throughout the return flight he worked diligently at his wireless apparatus sending messages which enabled accurate plots to be made of the course and position of the badly damaged bomber all the way. He set a fine example of courage, fortitude and devotion to duty.

Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey SLOCOMBE (Can/J.9360), R.C.A.F., 427 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties and throughout has displayed a high standard of determination and devotion to duty.