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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.

Squadron Leader Nigel BICKNELL, D.F.C. (73041), R.A.F.V.R.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Many of his assignments have necessitated flights far into enemy territory, often in adverse weather. He has at all times displayed the highest standard of skill and resolution and his example has been well reflected in the efficiency and success of his flight. This officer has rendered exceptional service.

Acting Squadron Leader Bransome Arthur BURBRIDGE, D.F.C. (100067), R.A.F.V.R., 85 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Frank Seymour SKELTON, D.F.C. (106675), R.A.F.V.R., 85 Sqn.

These officers are pilot and observer of aircraft respectively. They have completed a very large number of sorties and throughout have displayed keenness and devotion to duty of the highest standard. They have destroyed 14 enemy aircraft, 4 of them during a recent sortie at night. This feat well illustrates their superb skill and unbeatable determination.

Acting Squadron Leader Alfred William Gordon COCHRANE, D.F.C. (N.Z.403429), R.N.Z.A.F., 156 Sqn.

This officer has displayed the highest standard of skill and courage in operations against the enemy. He has completed a very large number of sorties, involving attacks on a wide range of enemy targets and throughout has displayed outstanding determination and devotion to duty. On a recent occasion, Squadron Leader Cochrane participated in an attack on the airfield at Eindhoven. His accurate and determined bombing in the face of concentrated anti-aircraft fire set a very fine example. His achievements have won great praise.

Acting Squadron Leader Gerald Ernest FAWKE, D.F.C. (111547), R.A.F.V.R., 617 Sqn.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties, many of them against dangerous and difficult targets. He has shown the greatest determination in pressing home his attacks, often in the face of bitter opposition, and the accuracy of his bombing has been proved by the excellent photographs taken. This officer has displayed exceptional leadership, great courage and zeal. His record is outstanding.

Acting Squadron Leader Charles Davie KEIR, D.F.C. (63792), R.A.F.V.R., 9 Sqn.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross this officer has completed many successful

sorties. He has continued to display the highest standard of courage and resolution and his sound leadership, good judgment and great skill have greatly impressed all. In addition to his work in the air, Squadron Leader Keir has rendered yeoman service in the training of other members of the squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader George McKEAND, D.F.C. (101511), R.A.F.V.R., 692 Sqn.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties, involving attacks on a wide range of heavily defended targets in Germany. He has displayed conspicuous gallantry and determination in pressing home his attacks and has set an example of a high order. His achievements have been worthy of the highest praise.

Acting Squadron Leader John Wycliffe PERRY, D.F.C. (Can/J.9192), R.C.A.F., 405 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer is a highly efficient pilot and captain of aircraft. He has completed two tours of operational duty, during which he has attacked a wide variety of enemy targets. His successes are a splendid tribute to his outstanding ability, great personal courage and iron determination. His example both in the air and on the ground has been most inspiring.

Acting Squadron Leader Graham Lloyd MANDENO, D.F.C. (64937), R.A.F.V.R., 139 Sqn.

This officer has set a fine example of skill and gallantry in operations against the enemy. He has completed a very large number of sorties, including 12 attacks on the German capital. He has displayed courage and determination of a high order.

Flight Lieutenant Harold Adrian BROWN, D.F.M. (126488), R.A.F.V.R., 578 Sqn.

This officer has completed a second tour of operational duty during which he has attacked many heavily defended targets in Germany. Throughout he has displayed the highest standard of skill and gallantry, qualities which have inspired all with whom he has flown. He is a most efficient flight commander whose fine leadership and unswerving devotion to duty have contributed in good measure to the success of the formation he commands.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Philip Louis Ulric Cross, D.F.C. (133060), R.A.F.V.R., 139 Sqn.

This officer has set a fine example of keenness and devotion to duty. He has participated in a very large number of sorties, most of which have been against such heavily defended targets as Berlin, Hamburg, Ludwigshaven and industrial centres in the Ruhr area. He is a brave and resolute member of aircraft crew, whose exceptional navigational ability has been an important factor in the successes obtained. His services have been of immense value.