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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 Wing Commander Thomas Eric ISON, D.F.C. (40915), R.A.F., 156 Sqn.

This officer has completed many sorties against dangerous and difficult targets since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He has consistently displayed the highest qualities of skill and courage and his determination to make every sortie a success has won great praise. In September, 1944, he flew with great distinction in an attack on Gelsenkirchen. His aircraft was hit several times by anti-aircraft fire but he pressed home a successful attack. In November, 1944, Wing Commander Ison took part in an attack against Freiburg. The weather was bad. Nevertheless this officer displayed the greatest determination throughout the operation and his skilful work contributed materially to the success of the mission. Wing Commander Ison has set a fine example to all.

Pilot Officer Albert John COCKERILL (Aus.424372), R.A.A.F., 462 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

One night in October, 1944, this officer was pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Duisburg. When nearing the target the aircraft was illuminated in the searchlights and subjected to much anti-aircraft fire. A fragment of shrapnel, which tore through the windscreen, struck Pilot Officer Cockerill in the eye. The wound was severe. He momentarily lost consciousness. The aircraft went into a dive. Pilot Officer Cockerill recovered in time to level out and went on to complete the bombing run. The aircraft was still illuminated by the searchlights as he turned for home. Although weak from shock and loss of blood and in great physical distress, this brave pilot remained at the controls. He was unable to see his instruments but his air bomber stood by to give the necessary instructions. So assisted, Pilot Officer Cockerill flew the aircraft to an airfield in this country. Calling upon his last remaining strength he landed safely. By his skill, courage and fortitude this officer set an example of the highest order.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander Allan Chester HULL (Can/C.1256), R.C.A.F., 428 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

In air operations, Wing Commander Hull has displayed a high degree of skill, courage and

determination. He has led his squadron on many sorties involving attacks against such targets as Stuttgart, Duisburg, Emden and Dortmund and his fearless example and undoubted ability have contributed in good measure to the successes obtained. This officer is a highly efficient squadron Commander whose sterling qualities have impressed all.

Flight Lieutenant Clive DODSON (131563), R.A.F.V.R., 582 Sqn.

This officer has proved himself to be a most devoted member of aircraft crew. As air bomber he has participated in a very large number of sorties, one of which was against Cologne in October, 1944. On this occasion his aircraft was hit several times by anti-aircraft fire whilst over the target area. In spite of this he directed the bombing run most coolly and skilfully and a successful attack was executed. His devotion to duty has been unflinching.

Flight Lieutenant Frederick Theulis L'AMIE (133267), R.A.F.V.R., 515 Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties during which he has inflicted much loss on the enemy. On a recent occasion he piloted an aircraft on a sortie far into enemy territory during which he shot down 2 enemy aircraft and most effectively attacked 3 more on the ground. The success achieved reflects the greatest credit on the efforts of this officer whose skill was superb.

Flight Lieutenant Ronald Arthur PICKLER (128922), R.A.F.V.R., 514 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Pickler has displayed a high standard of skill and resolution in his many attacks against the enemy. In November, 1944, this officer was the pilot in an aircraft detailed to attack Cologne. During the operation the aircraft was badly hit. Extensive damage was sustained and the aircraft became exceedingly difficult to control. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Pickler succeeded in keeping it on an even keel until the bombs were released. It was then that he was informed that one of the gunners had been wounded. The aircraft was almost uncontrollable but Flight Lieutenant Pickler was determined to reach this country if possible. By lowering the undercarriage and attaching to the control column a rope on which three members of the crew exerted their pulling powers, a measure of control was regained. In the face of extreme difficulty, Flight Lieutenant Pickler succeeded in reaching an airfield where he brought the aircraft down safely, although almost to the point of collapse through physical strain. This officer displayed great skill, courage and fortitude in highly trying circumstances.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Leonard BURSSELL (N.Z.415209), R.N.Z.A.F., 101 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Bursell has set a fine example of gallantry and devotion to duty. He has participated in very many sorties and has invariably pressed home his attacks with exceptional determination. One night in October, 1944, this officer was pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Cologne. Early on the outward flight one engine failed but Flight Lieutenant Bursell flew on. When nearing the target the inter-communication system became unserviceable. Although the aircraft was now subjected to considerable anti-aircraft fire this pilot pressed home a good attack and afterwards flew the aircraft back to an airfield in this country. The brakes were defective but he effected a safe landing. Flight Lieutenant Bursell displayed outstanding skill and great resolution.

Flying Officer Harold Graham GRANT (Can/J.86001), R.C.A.F., 101 Sqn.

As pilot, this officer has completed many sorties the last of which was an attack against Cologne recently. His determination on this occasion was typical of that which he has shown throughout his tour. Soon after the bombs had been released his aircraft was hit by shrapnel. One engine was put out of action. Almost immediately the aircraft was again struck. A second engine was damaged and soon failed completely. Both turrets had also been rendered unserviceable and much navigational equipment was damaged. Height was gradually lost and it seemed as though Flying Officer Grant would be compelled to try to land his aircraft in France. He held on to his original course, however, and displaying superb skill and exceptional determination flew the severely damaged aircraft to an airfield in this country. His coolness and courage in harassing circumstances set an example of a very high standard.

Acting Flying Officer Cecil David MATTINGLEY (Aus.408458), R.A.A.F., 625 Sqn.

As pilot and captain of aircraft, Flying Officer Mattingley took part in an attack against Dortmund in November, 1944. Whilst over the target the aircraft was badly hit. Flying Officer Mattingley was wounded about the head and in the arm and thigh. In spite of this, he carried through with his attack and afterwards flew the damaged aircraft back to this country. His indomitable spirit, superb captaincy and outstanding devotion to duty set an example of a high order.

Acting Flying Officer Joseph Guy Rene Wilfrid SICCOTTE (Can/J.87150), R.C.A.F., 425 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

In October, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft in an attack against Duisburg. When nearing the target the starboard outer engine failed. Shortly afterwards the aircraft came under heavy anti-aircraft fire and was hit. The fuselage was pierced in innumerable places by pieces of shrapnel. One of the petrol tanks was punctured and much other damage sustained. Nevertheless, Flying Officer Siccotte executed a determined and successful attack. This officer has completed very many sorties against well defended targets and has displayed notable skill, courage and devotion to duty.

Acting Flying Officer John Henry TOLLEY (185434), R.A.F.V.R., 514 Sqn.

In November, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Homburg. Whilst over the target the aircraft sustained extensive damage. Two engines were rendered unserviceable. The cockpit cowling was shattered and the aircraft was riddled with holes from nose to tail. In spite of this the bombs were released on the target. Soon after leaving the area a third engine failed. The aircraft became very difficult to control and height was lost rapidly. Flying Officer Tolley displayed the greatest perseverance and determination in spite of this and succeeded in keeping airborne until over friendly territory where he executed a perfect landing in a field in the face of a blinding rainstorm. This officer, who has completed numerous sorties, proved himself to be a resolute and confident captain and was undoubtedly responsible for saving the aircraft and its crew.

Warrant Officer Leslie HOWELLS (1417802), R.A.F.V.R., 75 (N.Z.) Sqn.

As flight engineer this officer has executed his tasks with great skill and has set a fine example of devotion to duty. On one occasion, whilst over enemy territory, the aircraft in which he was a crew member was badly hit by anti-aircraft fire.

Warrant Officer Howells was wounded about the head. Although his injury was most painful he persisted in fulfilling his appointed duties and his good work contributed to the safe return of the aircraft. Since then, Warrant Officer Howells has completed numerous sorties and has displayed great ability and determination.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Ronald Lee COX (Can/J.26413), R.C.A.F., 419 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Flying Officer Lyle William SITTLINGTON (Can/J.37838), R.C.A.F., 419 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Can/R.222756 Flight Sergeant Raymond Austin TOANE, R.C.A.F., 419 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

These officers and this airman were pilot, wireless operator and rear gunner respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Oberhausen one night in November, 1944. The target was successfully bombed but, soon after leaving the area, the aircraft was hit by a hail of bullets from an enemy fighter. Both inner engines were put out of action. The intercommunication and hydraulic systems were rendered unserviceable. Flying Officer Sittlington was wounded in the face and arm and Flight Sergeant Toane was injured in the face, the arms and leg. The enemy aircraft again came in with guns blazing. The bomber sustained further damage and went into a spiral dive but Flying Officer Cox succeeded in levelling out after considerable height had been lost. Meanwhile Flying Officer Sittlington had shown the greatest coolness and determination in successfully extinguishing a fire which had broken out in his cabin. Flight Sergeant Toane had also proved his courage and resolution. Blood streamed down his face and, though almost blinded by it, he had remained in his turret to fire his guns at the attacker. Throughout the fight, Flying Officer Cox displayed great skill and coolness and he afterwards flew the severely damaged aircraft to the first available airfield. Here, he effected a successful crash landing. He displayed the finest qualities of courage and determination. Flying Officer Sittlington and Flight Sergeant Toane also proved themselves to be most worthy members of aircraft crew. Although injured and in much distress they showed the highest standard of devotion to duty.

Air Ministry, 26th January, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:—

Bar to Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander.

William Vernon CRAWFORD-COMPTON, D.S.O., D.F.C. (65500), R.A.F.V.R.

Distinguished Service Order.

Flight Lieutenant.

Alfred William KILPATRICK (125463), R.A.F.V.R., 197 Sqn.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leaders.

James Chilton Francis HAYTER, D.F.C. (36207), R.A.F.O., 74 Sqn.

Keith Temple LOFTS, D.F.C. (90483), A.A.F., 66 Sqn.

Acting Squadron Leaders.

Robert Arman BANCE, D.F.C. (68165), R.A.F.V.R., 88 Sqn.

George Black MURRAY, D.F.C. (41450), R.A.F.O., 21 Sqn.

Robert Lawrence SPURDLE, D.F.C. (44230), R.A.F., 80 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenants.

George Arthur HALL, D.F.C. (120955), R.A.F.V.R., 219 Sqn.

Leslie STEPHENSON, D.F.C. (118959), R.A.F.V.R., 219 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Group Captain.

Christopher Harold HARTLEY, A.F.C. (72439), R.A.F.V.R.

Acting Wing Commander.

James Henry IREMONGER (33342), R.A.F., 486 Sqn.

*Acting Squadron Leaders.*Leonard GARSTON (104763), R.A.F.V.R., 88 Sqn.
Eric Holden Marshall PATTERSON (119231), R.A.F.V.R., 229 Sqn.*Flight Lieutenants.*Gerald Hugh BASTOW (124697), R.A.F.V.R., 16 Sqn.
Harold William BATHURST (130340), R.A.F.V.R., 245 Sqn.
William John DAWSON (127161), R.A.F.V.R., 620 Sqn.
Donald Alfred James DRAPER (112008), R.A.F.V.R., 4 Sqn.
Albert Thomas LAMB (128643), R.A.F.V.R., 245 Sqn.
Ronald Alfred MARSH (116682), R.A.F.V.R., 487 (R.N.Z.A.F.) Sqn.
George Edward Teasdale NICHOLS, D.F.M. (135148), R.A.F.V.R., 226 Sqn.
John NIVEN (120512), R.A.F.V.R., 88 Sqn.*Acting Flight Lieutenants.*John Patrick COOPER (145904), R.A.F.V.R., 644 Sqn.
Ronald Galt McQUAKER (148820), R.A.F.V.R., 644 Sqn.*Flying Officers.*Eric GILL (54796), R.A.F., 88 Sqn.
Ernest Garth Fidler LYDER (138123), R.A.F.V.R., 180 Sqn.
Leslie MILLER (155154), R.A.F.V.R.
Garry PHILIPSON (135915), R.A.F.V.R., 226 Sqn.
Alistair PIRNIE (162983), R.A.F.V.R., 88 Sqn.
William Alec ROE (131829), R.A.F.V.R., 21 Sqn.
Henry Newlands SIMSON (141564), R.A.F.V.R., 88 Sqn.
Gerald Arthur WINTER (135691), R.A.F.V.R., 16 Sqn.*Pilot Officer.*

Francis MORGAN (185085), R.A.F.V.R., 180 Sqn.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.**Flight Sergeants.*1451972 William Cowell KAY, R.A.F.V.R., 620 Sqn.
1080342 Jack SMITH, R.A.F.V.R., 180 Sqn.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.**Flight Lieutenants.*Gordon ANDREWS (Aus. 409489), 69 Sqn.
Patrick Vincent McDADE (Aus. 403000) 453 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.*Flying Officer.*

Colin Russell LEITH (Aus. 411790) 453 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

*Pilot Officers.*Oswald MOUNTFORD (Aus. 422628), No. 464 (R.A.A.F.), Sqn.
Edward George WICKY (Aus. 422783), 464 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.**Acting Flight Lieutenants.*Courtenay O'Brien Robertson CLACKEN (Can/J.39101), 440 Sqn.
Douglas Franklin HUSBAND (Can/J.17192), 401 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.
Andrew Lloyd SINCLAIR (Can/J.17656), 401 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.*Flying Officers.*Thomas Swindale Wilson HARVEY (Can/J.35172), 226 Sqn.
John Robert MacDonald (Can/J.16282), 98 Sqn.
Edward Arnold WELLS (Can/J.86459), 226 Sqn.

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.**Flying Officers.*James LOVETT (N.Z.415539), 88 Sqn.
John Clement STUART, (N.Z.421402), 69 Sqn.

The above awards are in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations.

LONDON

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