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*Air Ministry, 26th January, 1945.*

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 Theunis 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.