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Air Ministry, 13th February, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations:—

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Squadron Leader Ernest Ryan BENSON, D.F.C. (87650), R.A.F.V.R., 107 Sqn.

Squadron Leader Benson has completed a third tour of operational duty during which he has participated in a large number of attacks on dangerous and difficult targets. Throughout he has displayed a high standard of navigational ability and his excellent work has proved an important factor in the success obtained. He is an ideal crew member whose great keenness and exemplary conduct in the face of the enemy have set an example of a high order.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader John Milton PILCHER, D.F.C. (Aus.402880), R.A.A.F., 455 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Within recent months, Squadron Leader Pilcher has participated in a number of attacks on enemy shipping and has displayed the greatest skill and daring in pressing home his attacks. On two occasions in December, 1944, he led the squadron in attacks on shipping in enemy waters with good results. He is an outstanding pilot whose great courage and devotion to duty have impressed all.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Kenneth Paton JONES (88708), R.A.F.V.R., 357 Sqn.

This officer has completed numerous operational missions, involving flights over difficult terrain and often in bad weather. The successes obtained are a splendid tribute to his outstanding skill, great courage and unbeatable determination. In December, 1944, Squadron Leader Jones executed a most difficult sortie, involving a flight far into enemy territory, with great distinction.

Flight Lieutenant Basil Robert RODGERS (137566), R.A.F.V.R., 7 Sqn.

As wireless operator, Flight Lieutenant Rodgers has participated in a large number of sorties during which targets important to the enemy's war effort, have been successfully attacked. He has displayed the highest standard of efficiency and has proved himself to be a most competent and vigilant member of aircraft crew. On more than one occasion his technical skill has enabled him to effect repairs whilst in the air and has thus greatly assisted his captain to complete the mission successfully.

Flying Officer Douglas Royd BRITTON (N.Z.426907), R.N.Z.A.F., 90 Sqn.

As pilot and captain of aircraft Flying Officer Britton was detailed to attack Duisberg in December, 1944. En route, anti-aircraft fire caused severe damage to his aircraft. Smoke and flames filled the pilot's cabin and the port outer engine was badly damaged. The fire died out and the pilot regained control of the aircraft. In spite of the damage sustained, Flying Officer Britton continued to the target and pressed home his attack. Shortly after leaving the target the port outer propeller commenced to overspeed and could not be rectified. The engine caught fire but this soon subsided. The propeller continued to overspeed and with the rudder trimmer control cable severed, the aircraft became exceedingly difficult to control. Flying Officer Britton by skilful airmanship flew the badly damaged aircraft to base where he made a successful landing. This officer has displayed courage and resolution of the highest order.

Flying Officer John James MCKEE (Aus.424304), R.A.A.F., 149 Sqn.

Flying Officer McKee, as pilot and captain of aircraft, has completed numerous sorties against the enemy, including attacks on such targets as Essen, Hamm and Leverkusen. On one occasion his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire on the run in to the target. The elevator trimming controls were severed. Nevertheless, Flying Officer McKee continued with his bombing run and executed a successful attack. He afterwards flew the damaged aircraft to base and effected a safe landing. This officer is a most determined and resourceful captain, whose example has been most praiseworthy.

Flying Officer Perceval John Povey TROTMAN (143229), R.A.F.V.R., 692 Sqn.

One night in December, 1944, Flying Officer Trotman was captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Ludwigshaven. Shortly after leaving the target area, the starboard engine failed and soon after the port engine became defective and lost power. Considerable height was lost and it seemed as though the aircraft would have to be abandoned. The defective port engine suddenly resumed full power, however, and Flying Officer Trotman flew the aircraft to an airfield in France where he executed a safe landing with the undercarriage retracted. This officer has displayed commendable gallantry and outstanding skill and has at all times proved himself a cool and resolute captain.

Flying Officer William Harry Thomas UNDERWOOD (145864), R.A.F.V.R., 166 Sqn.

Flying Officer Underwood as captain of aircraft was detailed to attack Ulm one night in December,

1944. On the outward journey the starboard inner engine began to lose power and the propeller had to be feathered. Despite this, Flying Officer Underwood continued his flight to the target which he attacked successfully. Soon afterwards a second engine became unserviceable. Even so, this pilot flew the aircraft safely to base. This officer has completed numerous sorties and has set a fine example of keenness and determination throughout.

Acting Flying Officer Aubrey Norman CLARK (Aus.426864), R.A.A.F., 622 Sqn.

As captain of an aircraft Flying Officer Clark was detailed in December, 1944, to attack Oberhausen. Just before reaching the target his aircraft was hit by heavy anti-aircraft fire and badly damaged. In spite of this, Flying Officer Clark went on to execute a successful attack. When leaving the target area, great difficulty was experienced in turning the aircraft as the control surfaces were damaged. A little later the starboard inner engine caught fire and became unserviceable. Some airspeed was lost and Flying Officer Clark was unable to maintain his position with the main bomber force. The electrical and hydraulic systems had failed and now the petrol supply was running short. Despite this, Flying Officer Clark flew the aircraft to an airfield occupied by allied forces and effected a safe landing. This officer displayed great determination and devotion to duty throughout.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1897544 Sergeant Ronald Hubert PAYNE, R.A.F.V.R., 227 Sqn.

This airman has displayed great fortitude, courage and devotion to duty in air operations.

1593093 Sergeant Arthur WILKINSON, R.A.F.V.R., 90 Sqn.

Sergeant Wilkinson has displayed outstanding qualities of resourcefulness and has proved a valuable asset. During an attack on Cologne in November, 1944, the aircraft in which he was the flight engineer was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The hydraulic pressure pipe line in the cabin was severed and much other damage was sustained. Displaying great coolness in the face of considerable difficulty, Sergeant Wilkinson temporarily sealed the damaged pipe line. Soon afterwards the elevator control rod became jammed. This he succeeded in freeing thus restoring full control. Finally, to prevent the possibility of a fire commencing, Sergeant Wilkinson isolated the broken electrical lines. This airman proved himself to be a resourceful and efficient member of aircraft crew and his efforts greatly assisted his pilot who flew the damaged aircraft safely to base.

Air Ministry, 13th February, 1945.

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

Bar to Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Squadron Leader.

Harold Brentnall HUNT, D.S.O., D.F.C. (68721), R.A.F.V.R., 177 Sqn.

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander.

Michael Thomas JUDD, D.F.C., A.F.C. (72025), R.A.F.V.R.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander.

Richard Irvin Knight EDWARDS, D.F.C., A.F.C. (37039), R.A.F.

Acting Squadron Leaders.

Cyril Aubery Hudson BELK, D.F.C. (80204), R.A.F.V.R., 98 Sqn.

Arthur Ernest Seal VINCENT, D.F.C. (134494), R.A.F.V.R., 181 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Wing Commander.

John Stewart HAMILTON, A.F.C. (73752), R.A.F.V.R., 613 Sqn.

Squadron Leader.

George TURNER (41498), R.A.F., 107 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenants.

Rae Daly ARMSTRONG (124565), R.A.F.V.R., 16 Sqn.
Peter Leonard BATEMAN-JONES (122340), R.A.F.V.R., 164 Sqn.

Richard Christopher Challoner CURWEN (47265), R.A.F., 197 Sqn.

Ernest Eugene Owen IRISH (126541), R.A.F.V.R., 80 Sqn.

Edward Michael SPARROW (124661), R.A.F.V.R., 3 Sqn.

Acting Flight Lieutenant.

Robert William HORNALL (156113), R.A.F.V.R., 245 Sqn.

Flying Officers.

George Brownrigg COLBOURN (142458), R.A.F.V.R., 98 Sqn.

Charles Edward DAVIDSON (153217), R.A.F.V.R., 464 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Aubrey Belcher LUND (53638), R.A.F., 107 Sqn.

John Wright MORTON (162963), R.A.F.V.R., 98 Sqn.

Frank PARKIN (158141), R.A.F.V.R., 180 Sqn.

Pilot Officer.

Peter William PHILLIPS (145507), R.A.F.V.R., 172 Sqn. with effect from 6th Aug. 1943 (since deceased).

Warrant Officer.

John William WILLIAMS (1380904), R.A.F.V.R., 98 Sqn.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant.

Harold James PANITZKI (Aus.408211), 168 Sqn.

Flying Officers.

Maurice Leslie DOUBE (Aus.400217), 464 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

William Dudley HEMMING (Aus.420562), 613 Sqn.

James Myles MOON (Aus.400059), 464 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenants.

Leo Elton FOWNES (Can/J.22528), 409 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Benton Thomas GILMOUR (Can/J.6189), 421 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Lawrence Victor KIRSCH (Can/J.11048), 198 Sqn.

John Malcolm ROBB (Can/J.10229), 414 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Acting Flight Lieutenant.

Andrew LAMBROS (Can/J.16020), 438 Sqn.

Flying Officers.

Ralph Isaac BRITTEN (Can/J.24431), 409 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Norman Ewart DAWBER (Can/J.26435), 438 Sqn.

Leo Joseph DEROSIER (Can/J.21005), 107 Sqn.

David Edward NESS (Can/J.85008), 56 Sqn.

Richard Heath ROHMER (Can/J.24120), 430 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

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

Air Ministry, 13th February, 1945.

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

Distinguished Service Order.

Squadron Leader Robert Granger Ker THOMPSON, M.C. (70672), R.A.F.O., attached 77th Indian Infantry Brigade.

Squadron Leader Thompson is the senior R.A.F. officer of the 77th Indian Infantry Brigade and R.A.F. Adviser to the Brigade Commander on all matters of Air Support. In the performance of these duties he has always shown the utmost ingenuity and resourcefulness. During the battles round Henu Block his work played a decisive part in the fighting. On one occasion he joined in a charge and himself killed two Japanese. In the

planning of the Airborne Landing and in its execution Squadron Leader Thompson's sound judgment was of the greatest assistance. In the battle of Mogaung, between 31st May and 27th July, 1944, he organised the construction of forward airbases, including the laying of light aircraft landing strips, by the ingenious use of local material. The evacuation of a large number of casualties was greatly facilitated by the use of these landing strips and the effect on the morale of the fighting troops was important. To ensure the success of direct air support in the Mogaung area Squadron Leader Thompson organised a system of communication with bomber pilots, thus enabling our troops to take immediate advantage of close bomber support. Although he was sick during the operations which were conducted to reduce a series of strong points at Natyegon and other places by direct air support, his energy, resource and knowledge contributed largely to the success of the operations. By his example and leadership throughout he has set a fine example to other officers of his formation.

Military Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Reginald Joseph JENNINGS (67110), R.A.F.V.R., attached Indian Infantry Brigade.

As senior R.A.F. Liaison Officer of the Brigade, Squadron Leader Jennings has shown unflinching courage, skill and energy. He has carried out repeated reconnaissance in the face of the enemy. On 8th April, 1944, he was wounded in three places by grenades but continued to show an example by his disregard of danger. He personally killed four Japanese.

Flight Lieutenant James GILLIES, D.F.M. (47317), R.A.F., 79 Squadron.

On the night of 27th March, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Gillies, with a small patrol, penetrated into an enemy ammunition dump at Indaw, Burma. After he had rejoined the main force he was ordered to proceed to the R.A.F. working in support and explain the lay-out of the dump area. He also arranged to indicate the target for the bombers. On the 4th April, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Gillies flew as passenger in a light aircraft, and placed smoke bombs around the target area from a height of fifty feet, enabling the bombers to attack the target with great precision. The raid was highly successful. Throughout the whole campaign Flight Lieutenant Gillies' enthusiastic devotion to duty, and his ingenious ideas were of the utmost value.

Flight Lieutenant George ALLAN (N.Z.413324), R.N.Z.A.F., attached The Lancashire Fusiliers.

On 27th May, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Allan, with a small detachment, was ordered to remain in an observation post near Lamai for the purpose of directing Air Support and to report, by wireless, enemy movements and dispositions. As his party was very small he was told he might leave if his position was threatened but he remained isolated for six weeks during which he directed ten bombing attacks and gave most valuable information of enemy movements. Later, when ordered, he led his detachment forty miles through hills and jungle to join the Brigade. On 19th June, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Allan requested Air Support to deal with an enemy troop train which he had observed. As a result, our aircraft destroyed the train, probably causing heavy casualties to the passengers. On 17th April, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Allan, with a small escort, encountered a Japanese patrol in the Tonlon area and, with his escort, blocked the track and awaited the arrival of the column which was moving up behind them. This officer himself killed one of the enemy. Flight Lieutenant Allan has proved himself an outstanding officer and a source of confidence to the men.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Brian John Villiers YOUNG (144384), R.A.F.V.R., attached The South Staffordshire Regiment.

Flight Lieutenant Young was attached to the battalion headquarters throughout the whole campaign and rendered valuable assistance in Supply Dropping and, especially, Direct Air Support. On the nights of 15th, 16th and 17th March, 1944, when Henu Block was attacked, everything depended on the success of the Supply Dropping. This officer supervised the lay-out of fire markers to guide the support aircraft. These fires were situated in positions exposed to enemy mortar and small arms fire. Despite this the fires were maintained.

On the night of 13th April, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Young was in an observation post at Henu Block ready to direct the Air Support at dawn. The observation post was knocked out during the night by enemy shell and mortar fire but this officer, although only 200 yards from the Bomber target, took up his position in the open and coolly directed the bombers to their objective. The enemy was wiped out and the position stabilised. Again, at Mogaung on 8th June, 1944, this officer's observation post was heavily shelled, causing a number of casualties, but he continued to direct the aircraft to enemy positions although he was in the open. The coolness and accuracy with which he directed Air Support, on occasions within seventy yards of our men, greatly contributed to the morale of our troops, to the successful holding of the Henu Block and to the complete demoralization of the enemy. Throughout the whole campaign Flight Lieutenant Young showed a complete disregard for his own safety.

Pilot Officer Ian McGREGOR (179849), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Pilot Officer McGregor has been operating in Yugoslavia. In May, 1944, in conjunction with some partisan soldiers, he succeeded in saving nine loads of food and ammunition which had been dropped, and which were in danger of capture by the Germans, who were searching for his party, both by air and with armoured cars. While returning from such missions, Pilot Officer McGregor has frequently had to pass through difficult and dangerous country. On one occasion, he displayed outstanding courage and resource, when he conducted 64 American airmen through enemy held territory to safety. In September, 1944, he flew on the first sortie to a new landing ground. On arrival, it was found to be uncertain whether the enemy or the partisans were in occupation of the area. Pilot Officer McGregor landed by parachute and found friendly troops on the landing ground; thus a serious delay in evacuating wounded and escaped prisoners was avoided. Pilot Officer McGregor has always shown commendable courage and ability.

Military Medal.

1274171 Acting Sergeant Andrew Neville FRAZER, R.A.F.V.R., attached 77th Indian Infantry Brigade.

Sergeant Frazer was a wireless operator in a party occupying an observation post at Henu Block on the night of 13th April, 1944. The object was to direct Air Support at dawn. During the night the observation post was heavily shelled and mortared and a number of casualties was sustained. The wireless set was destroyed but Sergeant Frazer immediately went back for another set, returning to the post under enemy fire. A similar incident occurred during the attack on Mogaung on 8th June, 1944, but this non-commissioned officer kept his wireless set working. On both these occasions his skill and courage were largely responsible for the success of the Air Support.

949081 Corporal Walter Henry WROUGHTON, R.A.F., British Military Mission, Yugoslavia.

This airman, a W/T operator, served with the British Mission in Yugoslavia for over a year and worked under hard and difficult circumstances. On many occasions he has been under fire but has always displayed courage and disregard of his personal safety, which impressed the partisans and did much to raise British prestige. Corporal Wroughton was in Drvar when the enemy made an air borne attack. He displayed great coolness and succeeded in carrying away valuable signals stores which greatly helped in the re-establishment of wireless contact with Bari. During the following fortnight he displayed tireless courage and energy.

772025 Aircraftman 2nd Class Harold HOKE, R.A.F.V.R.

Aircraftman Hoke is an airman of outstanding courage and fortitude. During January and February, 1944, at very grave personal risk, he penetrated deep into enemy territory and remained there for a month. As a result of this mission, information of the highest possible value was obtained from an area which was at that time beyond the range of photographic reconnaissance. Aircraftman Hoke has, at all times, displayed the greatest determination to fulfil his allotted tasks.

Air Ministry, 13th February, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of distinguished service:—

Military Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Keith Bruce CHISHOLM, D.F.M. (Aus.402150), R.A.A.F.

Flight Lieutenant Eric GARRAD-COLE (39871), R.A.F.O.

Military Medal.

Warrant Officer William Alfred WEAVER (1258218), R.A.F.V.R.

Air Ministry, 13th February, 1945.

The KING has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned decorations, conferred upon the personnel indicated, in re-

cognition of valuable services rendered in connection with the war:—

CONFERRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

Cloud and Banner Decoration (Special Rosette).

Group Captain Eric Scott BURNS, R.A.F.

Group Captain Eric Alfred DOUGLAS-JONES, R.A.F.

Wing Commander Robert Swinton ALLEN, D.S.O., D.F.C. (37522), R.A.F.O.

CONFERRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND.

Cross of Valour.

Captain K. St. G. HAYWARD (103213V.), S.A.A.F.

Lieutenant Anne Frans CLOETE, D.F.C. (103935V.), S.A.A.F.

Flying Officer Ernest Jack FLETCHER (Aus.409138), R.A.A.F.

Flying Officer Peter Frank RAW (Aus.409445), R.A.A.F.

1585485 Flight Sergeant Edward William PAYTON, S.A.A.F.

1671969 Sergeant Frederick Henry WILLIAMS, R.A.F.

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