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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 Wing Commander Frank Ronald BIRD, D.F.C. (33526), R.A.F., 105 Sqn.

This officer has completed a very large number of operational missions, including many attacks on targets in the Ruhr area. He has set the finest example of courage and resolution in pressing home his attacks, often in the face of fierce enemy fire, making his bombing runs with great steadiness and accuracy. This officer has rendered much valuable and devoted service.

Acting Wing Commander Douglas Aubrey CRACKNELL, D.F.C. (72985), R.A.F.V.R., 35 Sqn.

This officer was pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Dusseldorf one night in November, 1944. Before reaching the target the aircraft came under fire from the ground defences and was hit several times. Despite this, Wing Commander Cracknell went on to execute a long and steady bombing run. The accuracy of the attack was well proved by the photograph obtained. This officer has completed many sorties on his third tour of operational duty and has displayed great personal gallantry and devotion to duty.

Acting Wing Commander Dennis Theodore WIRT, D.F.C., D.F.M. (44867), R.A.F., 635 Sqn.

As pilot of aircraft this officer has participated in 100 sorties, many of them against the most heavily defended targets. His last 3 missions were against Essen, Cologne and Dusseldorf respectively. On each of these occasions he pressed home his attacks with the greatest determination in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire to obtain good results. He has displayed the highest standard of skill and bravery, setting an example of a high order.

Acting Wing Commander John WOODROFFE, D.F.C. (40777), R.A.F.O..

Since being awarded a Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross this officer has completed a number of dangerous and difficult sorties. On several occasions his aircraft has been hit and damaged by anti-aircraft fire but Wing Commander Woodroffe has completed his successfully. Throughout an outstanding operational career this officer has displayed the highest qualities of leadership and great bravery. His example both in the air and on the ground has been most inspiring.

Acting Squadron Leader James Richard DOW, D.F.C. (Can/J.5691), R.C.A.F., 635 Sqn.

Since being awarded a bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross this officer has participated in many sorties against dangerous targets. The success achieved reflects the greatest credit on the efforts of Squadron Leader Dow, whose skill and determination have been outstanding. On one occasion, in September, 1944, he was air bomber in an aircraft detailed to attack a target near Calais. Owing to the proximity of our ground forces, precise bombing was essential. Considerable anti-aircraft fire was directed at his aircraft whilst over the target. Nevertheless, Squadron Leader Dow executed a successful attack from a low level. This officer has displayed the finest qualities of gallantry and devotion to duty.

Acting Squadron Leader Norman Alexander John MACKIE, D.F.C. (88410), R.A.F.V.R., 571 Sqn.

This officer has completed a third tour of operational duty during which he has attacked a wide variety of targets in Germany. He is a fearless and devoted captain whose splendid example has been well reflected in the fine fighting spirit of his crews. In November, 1944, Squadron Leader Mackie led a formation of aircraft in an attack on Duisburg, one of the most heavily defended targets in the Ruhr. Considerable heavy and accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered on approaching the target but Squadron Leader Mackie kept his formation well together to execute a good attack. This officer, who has always elected to take part in the most dangerous operations, has set an example of a high order.

Acting Squadron Leader Bernard MOORCROFT, D.F.C. (147001), R.A.F.V.R., 635 Sqn.

This officer has participated in many sorties since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. In addition to his notable work in the air, Squadron Leader Moorcroft has rendered valuable service in the training of other members of the Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader William Alfred OLMSTED, D.F.C. (Can/J.5125), R.C.A.F., 442 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has led the squadron on very many sorties during which great loss has been inflicted on the enemy. Much of the success achieved can be attributed to this officer's brilliant leadership, outstanding skill and courage which have inspired all under his command. Squadron Leader Olmsted himself has been responsible for putting out of action a large number of mechanical vehicles, numerous locomotives and coaches and much other equipment; he has also destroyed 4 enemy aircraft. His determination to harass the enemy on every possible occasion has been worthy of the highest praise.