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*Air Ministry, 6th April, 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 Donald Frank PERRENS, D.F.C. (47493), R.A.F. (Captain, The Suffolk Regiment), 208 Sqn.

This officer has completed many sorties on his second tour of operational duty. He has displayed exceptional tactical skill, great bravery and a determination to complete his mission with success which has won the highest praise. In January, 1945, Squadron Leader Perrens was detailed for an artillery reconnaissance in the vicinity of Bologne. Whilst over the target area he was engaged by heavy and light anti-aircraft fire. His aircraft was repeatedly hit but he remained over the target for nearly another hour to direct our artillery fire on to the enemy's positions. He was forced to turn away however, when the engine of his aircraft failed. Nevertheless, he effected a successful crash landing in our forward defence lines. His coolness and courage in the face of concentrated enemy fire set a fine example.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader John Mathers BAILEY, D.F.C. (N.Z.412183), R.N.Z.A.F., 75 (N.Z.) Sqn.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Squadron Leader Bailey has participated in many sorties against some of the most heavily defended targets in enemy territory. He has consistently displayed a high standard of courage and skill, qualities which were well evident on a recent occasion in February, 1945, when he led the squadron in an attack on an oil refinery at Osterfeld. Whilst over the target the aircraft was hit in several places. The starboard inner engine was rendered unserviceable and the propeller had to be feathered. In spite of this, Squadron Leader Bailey executed a successful attack.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Elwyn Francis DAVIS (122465), R.A.F.V.R., 524 Sqn.

Flying Officer Brook Abbott TAYLOR (N.Z.4213899), R.N.Z.A.F., 524 Sqn.

One night in February, 1945, these officers were pilot and bomb aimer respectively of an aircraft engaged on a sortie. Whilst off the Dutch coast, they sighted a force of eight enemy E. boats. The position was reported and, some time later, Flight Lieutenant Davis dived to the attack. In spite of fierce fire, the attack was pressed home. Bomb bursts were seen to straddle one of the vessels which were also machine-gunned. Later on, a

second attack was made. As he went in, Flight Lieutenant Davis was met with intense and accurate fire. The aircraft was hit repeatedly. Half a mile from the target, the port wing burst into flames. Nevertheless, Flying Officer Taylor coolly continued to direct his pilot on to the target and a straight and level bombing run was executed. Soon afterwards the aircraft became uncontrollable and could no longer be flown. By this time, the fuselage was on fire along most of its length. Coolly and skilfully, Flight Lieutenant Davis brought the aircraft down on to the water. It broke up on impact but Flight Lieutenant Davis and Flying Officer Taylor got aboard the dinghy from which they were later rescued. These officers displayed the highest qualities of skill, courage and resolution.

Flight Lieutenant Robert Joseph GARVIN (Can/J. 11036), R.C.A.F., 427 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed very many sorties and throughout has set a very fine example of skill, keenness and devotion to duty. In January, 1945, Flight Lieutenant Garvin was the captain and pilot of an aircraft detailed for a mine-laying mission in enemy waters. In spite of considerable anti-aircraft fire and the presence of enemy fighters, Flight Lieutenant Garvin displayed the greatest determination and accomplished his task with accuracy. This officer has successfully completed several similar missions.

Flight Lieutenant Edwin Norman JENNINGS (130863), R.A.F.V.R., 206 Sqn.

This officer has completed much operational flying and has set a fine example of devotion to duty throughout. One night recently, Flight Lieutenant Jennings executed a skilful attack on a U-boat. His great determination and the thoroughness with which he had trained his crew for such an engagement were largely responsible for the exemplary way in which the attack was pressed home. On a previous occasion some months earlier, Flight Lieutenant Jennings took part in a successful attack on a U-boat.

Flight Lieutenant Athole John Spalding STEWART (88673), R.A.F.V.R., 547 Sqn.

This officer has completed very many sorties and has invariably displayed commendable skill, courage and devotion to duty. On a recent occasion, Flight Lieutenant Stewart was pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed for an anti-submarine patrol. During the operation he located 2 U-boats escorted by 3 other ships. In spite of fierce fire from all the vessels, Flight Lieutenant Stewart went into the attack with great resolution. At least one of his depth charges fell very close between the submarines. During the engagement, Flight Lieutenant Stewart's aircraft was hit in