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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:—

Bar to Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander Sidney BAKER, D.S.O., D.F.C. (115867), R.A.F.V.R., 635 Sqn.

Wing Commander Baker has completed one hundred sorties, all of them against strongly defended enemy targets. He has displayed the highest qualities of skill and bravery and throughout his devotion to duty has been unflinching. Undeterred by the heaviest opposition, Wing Commander Baker has invariably pressed home his attacks with the greatest resolution. His achievements have won high praise.

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander Peter DOBSON, D.F.C., A.F.C. (64284), R.A.F.V.R., 158 Sqn.

As squadron commander, this officer has consistently displayed leadership, gallantry and determination of a high order. He has completed many sorties against a wide variety of targets. On one occasion, when approaching an enemy target, his aircraft was engaged by heavy and accurate fire from enemy ground defences and he sustained a wound in the left leg. In spite of this, he held the aircraft straight and level on its course and pressed home a good attack. Not until the enemy coast had been crossed en route for home did Wing Commander Dobson draw attention to his injury. Although in great pain and suffering from the loss of blood, he remained at the controls and flew the aircraft back to base. He displayed unbeatable determination and devotion to duty in the face of much physical distress.

Acting Wing Commander Walter Frame GIBB, D.F.C. (88881), R.A.F.V.R., 239 Sqn.

Wing Commander Gibb has completed very many sorties since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Highly efficient, brave and resolute, this officer has set a splendid example to all. Among his successes is the destruction of five enemy aircraft, three of which he shot down in the early days of March, 1945.

Acting Wing Commander John Ramsey ST. JOHN, D.F.C. (39687), R.A.F.O., 103 Sqn.

This officer has completed three tours of operational duty. His record is one of gallant and distinguished service. He has commanded the squadron for almost a year. By his skilful leadership, exceptional ability and unswerving devotion to duty, Wing Commander St. John has contributed in good measure to the successes obtained.

Acting Squadron Leader Basil Arthur TEMPLEMAN-ROOKE, D.F.C. (157102), R.A.F.V.R., 576 Sqn.

This officer is an outstanding pilot and a highly efficient flight commander. He has completed a very large number of sorties and throughout has displayed the highest standard of bravery and devotion to duty. Squadron Leader Templeman-Rooke has invariably participated in the most hazardous of the missions for which the squadron has been detailed and his unconquerable spirit has set a magnificent example.

Acting Wing Commander Christopher David NORTH-LEWIS, D.F.C. (45073), R.A.F. (Lieutenant, The King's Royal Rifle Corps).

Since being awarded a Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross, this officer has participated in a large number of sorties, involving attacks on a wide range of targets in various battle zones. Much success has been achieved. By his skilful leadership, great tactical ability and iron determination, Wing Commander North-Lewis has played a good part in the results obtained. On one occasion in December, 1944, this officer flew with great distinction in a successful attack on an enemy tank force which was greatly threatening our ground forces in an area in the Ardennes. Wing Commander North-Lewis has accomplished much brilliant work.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Ronald Arthur SUTHERLAND, D.F.C. (41079), R.A.F.O., 602 Sqn.

This officer has consistently displayed skill and gallantry of a high order. In March, 1945, he led a small formation of aircraft in a low level attack on an enemy petrol installation. In spite of fierce opposing fire the attack was well pressed home. The success obtained reflects the greatest credit on the efforts of Squadron Leader Sutherland, who displayed exceptional skill and resolution throughout.

Flight Lieutenant Ernest Leopold WILLIAMS, D.F.C. (80424), R.A.F.V.R.

This officer has displayed outstanding keenness and his determination to inflict loss on the enemy on every possible occasion has set an example of the highest standard. Highly skilled, brave and resolute, Flight Lieutenant Williams has obtained much success, including the destruction of 10 enemy aircraft in the air; he has also most effectively attacked others on the ground. In addition, he has executed many good attacks on a number of enemy locomotives. His devotion to duty has been unflinching.

Flying Officer Michael Charles PULSFORD SMITH, D.F.C. (148169), R.A.F.V.R., 640 Sqn.

This officer has set a fine example of determination and devotion to duty in operations against the enemy. He has participated in very many