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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 Charles Cranston CALDER, D.S.O., D.F.C. (62699), R.A.F.V.R., 617 Sqn.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Service Order, this officer has completed many sorties. Throughout these operations he has shown the greatest resolution and the successes obtained are a splendid tribute to his great skill and courage. Wing Commander Calder led the squadron on the operation when the first 22,000 lb. bomb was dropped over Germany. The target was the viaduct at Bielefeld and complete success was achieved. This officer has rendered much loyal and devoted service.

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Squadron Leader Francis FINNEY (86383), R.A.F.V.R., 114 Sqn.

In February, 1945, this officer completed a successful night bombing attack on the marshalling yards at San Giovanni. Proceeding to reconnoitre roads and railways in the vicinity, he attacked six barges at low level. His aircraft was damaged by fire from the ground defences and set on fire. Squadron Leader Finney gave an order to abandon aircraft, but, owing to the failure of the intercommunication system, was unable to ascertain whether all members of the crew had been able to comply. He therefore judged it his duty not to leave the aircraft but to try to reach friendly territory. During the flight, the intense heat melted parts of the equipment so that the aircraft became very difficult to control. Despite the danger, and deprived of the services of his navigator, Squadron Leader Finney flew back to a landing ground and made a safe landing by night a full hour after the outbreak of fire. It was then found that two members of the crew had jumped when ordered and that the body of the air gunner was still in the charred fuselage. Squadron Leader Finney displayed great courage and skill throughout the perilous return flight, when his aircraft was a brightly lit target for the enemy. He had previously completed 30 operational sorties with gallantry and determination.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Major Felix Kruger WEINGARTZ, D.F.C. (206497V), S.A.A.F., 250 Sqn.

This officer has set a fine example of keenness and devotion to duty. He has completed a large number of sorties and has obtained many successes against enemy targets. In March, 1945, Major Weingartz took part in an attack on enemy shipping in the harbour at Venice and obtained a hit on a medium sized merchantman. Major Weingartz displayed the highest qualities of skill and resolution in this operation which was a notable success by reason of the accuracy and boldness with which it was executed. This officer has invariably displayed a high degree of courage and has set a fine example to all.

Flight Lieutenant John Paul Wargrave CAIRNS, D.F.C. (124540), R.A.F.V.R., 488 (N.Z.) Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Cairns is a highly skilled observer whose work has won the greatest praise. He has taken part in very many operational missions and has at all times displayed the highest standard of keenness and devotion to duty. Flight Lieutenant Cairns has assisted in the destruction of eight enemy aircraft and five locomotives.

Flight Lieutenant Kenneth Albert RICHARDS, D.F.C., (Aus.400104), R.A.A.F., 3 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Flight Lieutenant Richards has participated in many sorties against a variety of enemy targets. In March, 1945, he flew with distinction in a highly successful attack on enemy shipping in Venice Harbour. A few days later he led a formation of aircraft against a mechanical transport convoy. Many vehicles and four large guns were destroyed. His keenness and determination to press home his attacks have been most praiseworthy.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Edward Harold STROM, D.F.C. (Aus.412278), R.A.A.F., 450 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

In March, 1945, this officer participated in several sorties during which much success was achieved. On one occasion he led the squadron in an attack on the Pontelongo railway bridge. The operation was well and accurately executed and a span of the bridge was completely destroyed. Later, on successive days, Flight Lieutenant Strom took part in successful sorties on which the targets were again enemy bridges. Towards the end of March, this officer played a good part in the success obtained in an attack on shipping in the harbour of Venice. Flight Lieutenant Strom has displayed the highest standard of gallantry and devotion to duty.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander John Douglas Richard FORBES, A.F.C. (43630), R.A.F., 77 Sqn.

This officer has completed many sorties against a variety of heavily defended targets. On one occasion in March, 1945, when nearing Essen, two engines became unserviceable. Despite this, Wing Commander Forbes executed a good attack and secured an excellent photograph. He afterwards

flew safely back to base. As squadron commander, he has set a fine example by his great skill, good judgment and outstanding determination.

Flight Lieutenant Robert Francis ARCHAMBAULT (Can/J.11286), R.C.A.F., 425 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Archambault has completed many sorties against such targets as Duisburg, Cologne and Dusseldorf. On one occasion in January, 1945, he was detailed to attack Chemnitz. On the outward flight some important equipment became unserviceable. Later, trouble was experienced with the port outer engine. Undeterred, this officer proceeded to the target which was successfully bombed despite intense enemy activity. He has at all times displayed the utmost determination and devotion to duty.

Flight Lieutenant Charles Butts BENTON, (Can/J.22891), R.C.A.F., 426 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has at all times proved a keen and reliable captain of aircraft and has displayed courage and skill of a high order. One night in January, 1945, he was detailed to attack Saarbrucken. Soon after taking off the port inner engine failed. Undeterred, Flight Lieutenant Benton continued to the target which was successfully attacked. This officer has completed many sorties and his determination to press home his attacks on the enemy has set a fine example to all.

Flight Lieutenant Arthur William BROWNE (Can/J.26970), R.C.A.F., 550 Sqn.

One night in April, 1945, this officer was pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Planen. On the outward flight the starboard inner engine caught fire and had to be put out of action. Although some height was lost, Flight Lieutenant Browne continued to the target which he attacked in the face of considerable and accurate anti-aircraft fire. His aircraft sustained damage to the bomb bays. On the homeward flight another engine failed. Nevertheless, this determined pilot skilfully flew his aircraft back to base where he effected a safe landing. This officer has completed numerous sorties and has displayed courage and determination of the highest order.

Flight Lieutenant Alan Craig DAVIES (Can/J.19015), R.C.A.F., 426 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed two tours of operational duty during which he has attacked a wide range of enemy targets. He has at all times displayed the greatest keenness and throughout has set a fine example of devotion to duty. In March, 1945, Flight Lieutenant Davies participated in an attack against Gladbach. By his skilful leadership, this officer contributed materially to the success obtained.

Flight Lieutenant Paul Melville FORSTER (106650), R.A.F.V.R., 112 Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties during which he has most effectively attacked a variety of enemy targets, including aircraft on the ground, locomotives and mechanical transport. In March, 1945, Flight Lieutenant Forster piloted an aircraft in an attack against the harbour installations at Venice. Despite heavy fire from the ground defences, Flight Lieutenant Forster pressed home a most accurate attack which resulted in the destruction of a portion of the quayside. This officer displayed great skill and courage throughout.

Flight Lieutenant David Charles GONYEA (Can/J.12557), R.C.A.F., 431 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed numerous sorties as pilot and captain of aircraft. His qualities of courage and determination were well reflected on one occasion in March, 1945, when he was badly wounded in the shoulder by anti-aircraft fire. Despite intense pain he flew on to his target which he successfully bombed. On the return flight his arm became completely useless. Although suffering great pain, Flight Lieutenant Gonyea flew his aircraft back to base and effected a safe landing. He afterwards collapsed. This officer set a fine example of courage, fortitude and resolution.

Flight Lieutenant Bertram Morris KAPLANSKY (Can/J.16510), R.C.A.F., 431 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has displayed a high standard of devotion to duty throughout his operational career. He has taken part in very many sorties during which he has attacked such targets as Mannheim, Essen, Stuttgart and Dortmund. The successes obtained are a fine tribute to this pilot's great skill, courage and tenacity.

Captain Annesley Moore COOKE (328314V), S.A.A.F., 245 Sqn.

This officer has executed very many harassing attacks on a variety of enemy targets. In April, 1945, Captain Cooke led his flight with great skill and courage in an attack against a number of enemy self propelled guns. As a result our ground forces were enabled to move forward and gain their objective. Some days later, Captain Cooke led the squadron in an attack on various targets in the village of Bramsche. The results achieved greatly mitigated the task of our attacking forward troops. By his undoubted ability, fearlessness and devotion to duty, this officer has set a splendid example.

Flying Officer Duncun Roderick BLACK (Can/J.89826), R.C.A.F., 426 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Flying Officer Black has completed many operational missions and has proved an efficient and determined captain of aircraft. This was amply demonstrated in March, 1945, when detailed to attack Cologne. Soon after taking off, the starboard outer engine became unserviceable. Although some height was lost, this officer continued to the target which he successfully attacked. Throughout he displayed fine airmanship and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Bruce Burrard GRAY (Can/J.18650), R.C.A.F., 428 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As air gunner, this officer has completed many sorties on his second tour of operational duty during which a wide range of enemy targets have been attacked. He has proved himself to be a highly efficient, vigilant and resolute member of aircraft crew, whose devotion to duty has been unfailing.

Flying Officer William French GRIFFITHS (Can/J.19961), R.C.A.F., 415 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As air gunner, Flying Officer Griffiths has participated in a large number of sorties. He has at all times displayed great devotion to duty. On one occasion in January, 1945, during a sortie against Stuttgart, his aircraft was attacked by an enemy fighter. Directing his captain to take the necessary evading action, Flying Officer Griffiths coolly withheld his fire until the enemy came into close range. Then, with a well placed burst he succeeded in shooting down the attacker. By his vigilance and skill, Flying Officer Griffiths contributed greatly to the safe return of the aircraft.

Flying Officer Percy Charles O'CONNOR, (Can/J.17736), R.C.A.F., 426 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has participated in many sorties as wireless operator. In March, 1945, while attacking a target in Germany, his aircraft was subjected to intense anti-aircraft fire. Flying Officer O'Connor was wounded sustaining severe injuries to the chest and forehead. Despite intense pain, he remained at his post until the target had been successfully attacked and the aircraft was well clear of enemy defences. His determination and devotion to duty were in keeping with that which he has invariably shown.

Flying Officer Graeme Frederick REED (N.Z.402215), R.N.Z.A.F., 219 Sqn.

Flying Officer Ralph BRICKER (146684), R.A.F.V.R., 219 Sqn.

As pilot and observer respectively, Flying Officers Reed and Bricker have undertaken very many sorties. They have invariably displayed a high degree of skill and throughout their devotion to duty has been unswerving. During a sortie one night in March, 1945, in extremely adverse weather, they destroyed a Junkers 88. The next night they were responsible for the detruction of another enemy aircraft operating over the Rhine bridgeheads. Their conduct at all times has been exemplary.

Flying Officer Peter James SPELLMAN (152252), R.A.F.V.R., 182 Sqn.

This officer has always displayed the greatest keenness to attack the enemy. He has participated in a large number of sorties, including harassing attacks on such targets as gun positions, locomotives, barges and mechanical transport. In March, 1945, Flying Officer Spellman flew the leading aircraft of a section engaged on armed reconnaissance. Whilst over an area north of the Rhine, a concentration of enemy mechanical vehicles was sighted. The target was promptly attacked. During the operation, Flying Officer Spellman was wounded when his aircraft was struck by several light enemy shells. Disregarding his injuries, this brave pilot attempted to lead

his formation back to base. But Flying Officer Spellman had lost much blood and was suffering acutely. He was compelled to break formation. Nevertheless, he effected a successful crash landing within our own lines. This officer displayed courage and fortitude of a high order.

Pilot Officer Bent Herbat JENSEN (Can/J.92115), R.C.A.F., 433 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has proved a most reliable captain of aircraft and has displayed exceptional skill and courage in air operations. In March, 1945, he was detailed to attack Bottrop. At the completion of his bombing run the aircraft was attacked and severely damaged by anti-aircraft fire. Two engines were rendered unserviceable. The mid-upper and front gun turrets were put out of action. The hydraulic gear was rendered inoperative and a number of flying instruments were made unusable. Despite this, Pilot Officer Jensen flew back to an airfield in this country and executed a masterly landing. In the face of most difficult circumstances this officer displayed superb captaincy, high courage and great skill.

Pilot Officer Russell Elbert BAGNELL (Can/J.93007), R.C.A.F., 420 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has participated in many sorties. In March, 1945, he was detailed to attack Rheine. When over enemy territory he was subjected to heavy anti-aircraft fire. His aircraft was hit and oil was reported leaking from both starboard engines. In spite of this he continued on to the target and executed a good bombing attack. When approaching the English coast on the return flight, the aircraft commenced to vibrate heavily and fire broke out in the starboard outer engine. Pilot Officer Bagnell decided to alter course and endeavour to reach the nearest airfield. This was accomplished and a successful landing was made. The skill and tenacity of this officer set a very fine example.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Flying Officer John Henry Thomas WOOD (N.Z.426235), R.N.Z.A.F., 75 (N.Z.) Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

N.Z.422976 Flight Sergeant John Austin White PAULING, R.N.Z.A.F., 75 (N.Z.) Sqn.

This officer and airman were pilot and navigator respectively in an aircraft detailed to attack the synthetic oil plant at Merseburg. Whilst over the target the aircraft was hit by fire from the ground defences. A fire started in the nose of the aircraft. Although some of the flying instruments had been put out of action and in spite of thick smoke which obscured his vision, Flying Officer Wood retained control. Meanwhile, Flight Sergeant Pauling had gone to the assistance of the bomb aimer, whose flying clothing was on fire. He succeeded in extinguishing the flames on the clothing of his comrade and afterwards turned his attention to the burning part of the aircraft. Greatly encouraged by his pilot whose example of coolness in these trying moments was inspiring, Flight Sergeant Pauling worked strenuously and finally he succeeded in putting out the fire completely. Afterwards, Flying Officer Wood flew the aircraft back to this country. This officer and his gallant navigator displayed the highest qualities of determination and devotion to duty in the face of most harassing circumstances.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Can/R.201444 Flight Sergeant (now Warrant Officer, Second Class) Moris Spencer JOWETT, R.C.A.F., 431 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Can/R.224884 Flight Sergeant Donald Ellesworth GWYNNE-VAUGHAN, R.C.A.F., 431 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As air gunners, these airmen have participated in very many sorties. They have set a fine example of determination and throughout their devotion to duty has been unfailing. Their coolness and courage in combat was amply demonstrated on one occasion in February, 1945, when attacking Pforzheim. During the operation their aircraft was attacked eight times by enemy fighters, but these gunners, by their good shooting and excellent co-operation, beat off the attackers, one of which was shot down. Their conduct throughout this spirited action was exemplary.

Can/R.176653 Flight Sergeant (now Pilot Officer) Donald LeRoy PHILLIPS, R.C.A.F., 166 Sqn.

Throughout his tour of operational duty this airman has proved himself a gallant and courageous captain of aircraft. One night in April, 1945, he was detailed to attack Plauen. On the outward flight the starboard outer engine became unserviceable. Much height and some air speed were lost. Although unable to maintain his position with the main bomber force, Flight Sergeant Phillips went on to the target which was successfully attacked. His determination and devotion to duty were typical of that which he has shown on all occasions.

Can/R.210293 Flight Sergeant (now Pilot Officer) Frederick George Kenneth SAUNDERS, R.C.A.F., 431 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

In March, 1945, this airman was detailed to attack Heide. During the bombing run, the aircraft sustained severe damage. A large hole was torn in the port wing. The aircraft became almost uncontrollable and went into a dive. Flight Sergeant Saunders succeeded in levelling out and turned away from the target. The mounting of one of the engines was badly damaged and Flight Sergeant Saunders was forced to feather the propeller. The aircraft began to lose height, was vibrating badly and could scarcely be manœuvred. Nevertheless, this pilot displayed the greatest coolness and later brought the aircraft down safely. In hazardous circumstances this airman set a splendid example of skill, courage and resolution.

Air Ministry, 5th June, 1945.

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

Military Cross.

Flying Officer John Still MILLAR (137840), No. 2781 Squadron, Royal Air Force Regiment.

One day in April, 1945, a troop of reconnaissance cars commanded by Flying Officer Millar was ordered to patrol round the perimeter of the airfield at Osnabruck, where a working party was on the air strip and three flights of a squadron of the Royal Air Force Regiment were ordered to neutralise enemy fire which might be directed at them from beyond the Ems Weser Canal. Two flights reached the canal bank when spandaus and snipers fired at one flight, killing an officer and an airman and seriously wounding 4 others and pining the flight down. Flying Officer Millar went to the scene with his troop and took charge. In spite of the proximity of the enemy, he succeeded in removing the dead and wounded in the reconnaissance cars and gave sufficient covering fire to the remainder of the flight to enable them to withdraw. All this time his troop was under concentrated fire from the enemy at a range of under 100 yards. This officer displayed coolness, courage and initiative whilst organising this withdrawal and without his aid this flight would undoubtedly have suffered considerably more casualties.

Air Ministry, 5th June, 1945.

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

Military Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Robert Gordon JOHNSON (Can/J.7810), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 28 Squadron.

Military Medal.

1615593 Sergeant Bernard Roy KEY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 268 Squadron.

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