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*Air Ministry, 22nd June, 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:—

*Bar to Distinguished Service Order.*

Acting Group Captain Robert Norman BATESON, D.S.O., D.F.C., R.A.F.O.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Service Order this officer has completed very many sorties and the successes obtained are a splendid tribute to his exceptional skill, great courage and unflinching devotion to duty. In March, 1945, Group Captain Bateson led a large formation of aircraft in an attack on the headquarters of the German Gestapo in Copenhagen. The operation called for the highest standard of skill as the target was small and well defended. Nevertheless, the attack was pressed home with a determination and accuracy which ensured success. In April, 1945, this officer led his squadrons in an attack against a similar target at Odense. In spite of opposition from the ground defences the attack was vigorously and accurately pressed home. By his brilliant leadership, Group Captain Bateson played an important part in the success of these notable sorties.

*Distinguished Service Order.*

Group Captain Leslie William Clement BOWER, D.F.C., R.A.F.

This officer has set a magnificent example of courage and devotion to duty in operations against the enemy. He has commanded the squadrons at his station for a considerable time and much of the success achieved during the period can be attributed to Group Captain Bower's high powers of leadership, unsurpassed skill and iron determination. His services have been of immense value.

Acting Wing Commander Leonard William George GILL (70244), R.A.F.O., 68 Sqn.

This officer's operational record has been worthy of high praise. He has always displayed the greatest keenness, coupled with a high degree of skill and courage. His personal example has been well reflected in the fine fighting spirit of the squadron which he commanded for a period. He has completed a large number of sorties and throughout his devotion to duty has been unflinching. Wing Commander Gill has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft at night.

Acting Wing Commander George Herbert WESTLAKE, D.F.C. (84019), R.A.F.V.R.

This officer has displayed skill, courage and devotion to duty of a high order. He has par-

ticipated in a large number of sorties and his achievements have won the greatest praise. In March, 1945, Wing Commander Westlake led a large formation of aircraft in an attack on the docks and shipping in the port of Venice. Harbour installations and stores were extensively damaged, whilst a medium sized merchantman, a naval vessel and a small coaster were destroyed. In April, 1945, Wing Commander Westlake took part in an air attack against forward enemy positions in support of an assault by our ground forces. The attack was pressed home with results which greatly facilitated the task of the infantry in their subsequent successful attack. By his excellent leadership, great tactical ability and exceptional determination, Wing Commander Westlake played a good part in the success achieved. In air fighting this officer has been responsible for the destruction of 11 enemy aircraft.

*2nd Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Edward Barnes SISMORE, D.S.O., D.F.C. (130208), R.A.F.V.R.

In March, 1945, Squadron Leader Sismore was the navigator in the leading aircraft of a large formation detailed to attack the Gestapo headquarters at Copenhagen. The operation, necessitating a flight of more than 1,000 miles, demanded the highest standard of navigational ability. In this direction, Squadron Leader Sismore's work was outstanding and contributed materially to the success obtained. Again, in April, 1945, this officer flew with great distinction in an attack against a similar target at Odense. This officer, who has completed much operational flying, has rendered very valuable service.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Air Vice-Marshal Basil Edward EMBRY, C.B., D.S.O., A.F.C., R.A.F.

On three occasions within recent months, Air Vice-Marshal Embry took part in air attacks on Gestapo headquarters. The targets were at Aathus, Copenhagen and Odense respectively. In the first operation complete surprise was achieved and the attack proved highly successful. At Copenhagen the operation was also well executed and success obtained. At Odense, the target was cleverly camouflaged; making the task on hand even more difficult. In spite of this, several runs were made over the target, which was finally attacked with great precision. In these hazardous missions, Air Vice-Marshal Embry pressed home his attacks with a skill and gallantry in keeping with his outstanding reputation.