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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 Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Warren Edward SCHRADER, D F C (N Z 411944), R.N.Z.A.F., No. 486 (R.N.Z.A.F.) Sqn

As squadron commander, this officer has set a fine example of devotion to duty. He has proved himself to be a skilful, resolute and courageous fighter and has inflicted much damage on enemy targets on the ground. In air fighting, Squadron Leader Schrader has been responsible for the destruction of 9 enemy aircraft. His example has been most inspiring.

Acting Squadron Leader James Roy CULLEN, D F C. (N Z 416462), R.N.Z.A.F., 183 Sqn

This officer has participated in very many sorties since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He has consistently displayed the highest standard of skill and courage, setting a fine example to all. In April, 1945, Squadron Leader Cullen led the squadron in an attack against enemy shipping at Ems. Considerable anti-aircraft fire was encountered both from various ships and batteries on shore. Despite this, the attack was well pressed home, Squadron Leader Cullen obtaining hits on a medium-sized merchantman. The skill and daring shown by this officer contributed materially to the success achieved.

Distinguished Flying Cross

Acting Squadron Leader John Douglas DERRY (128376), R.A.F.V.R., No. 182 Sqn

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties as air gunner and later as a pilot. He has at all times displayed great determination and skill and his courage has been of the highest order. In April, 1945, he led his squadron in an attack against enemy gun positions. Despite intense opposition the attack was pressed home with great accuracy. The success of this operation was due in no small measure to Squadron Leader Derry's gallant and skilful leadership. This officer has set a fine example to all.

Major Hugh Ernest WELLS (104021V), S.A.A.F. No. 72 Sqn

Major Wells has led his squadron on many sorties during which much success has been obtained. Many buildings, gun positions, much mechanical transport, and a number of railway trucks and several barges have been most effectively attacked. In April, 1945, this officer led his section against an enemy strongpoint. Despite

intense enemy opposition, hits were obtained on the objective which caused its destruction. As a result our ground troops were able to move forward and occupy the position. The example of courage, keenness and devotion to duty shown by Major Wells has inspired all members of his squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Ian Reginald PONSFORD (135689), R.A.F.V.R., No. 130 Sqn

Flight Lieutenant Ponsford is a most resolute fighter. He has participated in a large number of sorties and throughout has displayed the greatest keenness to engage the enemy. He has destroyed at least 7 enemy aircraft, three of them in one sortie in April, 1945. In harassing attacks on enemy targets on the ground, Flight Lieutenant Ponsford has been responsible for the destruction of many mechanical vehicles. This officer has set a fine example of courage and devotion to duty.

Flight Lieutenant Richard Gerald Cruickshanks RUSSELL (86703), R.A.F.V.R., No. 241 Sqn

This officer has participated in a large number of varied sorties. He has set a fine example of skill and courage and has invariably pressed home his attacks with accuracy and determination. On his last sortie in April, 1945, Flight Lieutenant Russell took part in an armed reconnaissance. When nearing Padova a convoy of enemy vehicles was sighted. In the face of considerable light anti-aircraft fire a good attack was pressed home. In the first run over the target, Flight Lieutenant Russell's aircraft was hit. Despite this, he made several more runs over the target. He afterwards flew back to an airfield where he executed a perfect landing although the tyre of one of the landing wheels was punctured.

Flight Lieutenant Douglas James Thomas HAMM (Can/J 13116), R.C.A.F., No. 409 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn

Flying Officer Evert Emanuel HERMANSON (Can/J 191175), R.C.A.F., No. 409 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn

As navigator and pilot respectively, these officers have displayed a high degree of skill, keenness and co-operation. On one occasion, a night in April, 1945, they were responsible for the destruction of 3 enemy fighters. Cool, resolute and determined, these officers have proved themselves invaluable to the squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Brian DAVIES (186992), R.A.F.V.R., No. 10 Sqn

Throughout his tour of operational duty, Flight Lieutenant Davies has attacked many heavily defended targets in Germany and has also participated in numerous minelaying missions. On one occasion in April, 1945, when taking part in a mine-laying operation in the Baltic, despite the failure of an engine on the outward journey, he