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Air Ministry, 8th October, 1946.

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

Military Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Hubert Brooks (Can/J.94368), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 419 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

On 8th April, 1942, Flight Lieutenant Brooks was navigator-bomb aimer of a Wellington aircraft, detailed to attack Hamburg. Prior to reaching the target, the aircraft caught fire and had to be abandoned. Flight Lieutenant Brooks landed near Oldenburg. Despite an injury to his knee, he disposed of his parachute and attempted to evade capture. Eventually, his injuries caused so much pain that he was compelled to seek assistance and in doing so, was handed over to the German authorities. He was taken to a prisoner of war camp at Lamsdorf on 16th April, 1942, and remained there till 10th May, 1943. During this time, Flight Lieutenant Brooks made two unsuccessful attempts to escape and, finally in May, 1943, he succeeded in getting away to join Polish partisans with whom he remained till liberated by Russian forces in January, 1945. The first escape entailed cutting the barbed wire on the hut window and also the wire of a double fence, brilliantly lighted and patrolled by guards. Flight Lieutenant Brooks and a companion succeeded in doing this and were travelling towards Cracow, moving by night and existing on food saved from Red Cross parcels, when they were recaptured owing to information given by pro-German Poles. After a long interrogation, Flight Lieutenant Brooks was placed in solitary confinement for 14 days and, when this was over, had to go to hospital as his feet had been badly blistered. On 10th September, 1942, Flight Lieutenant Brooks made his second bid for freedom, escaping this time with five other prisoners from the top storey of a building despite the armed guard on the ground floor. He walked to Lunenburg and successfully concealed himself on a train to Vienna where he was again arrested. While en route to another prisoner of war camp, Flight Lieutenant Brooks was confined in a dug out for eight days and was severely beaten by a German non-commissioned officer for trying to escape. On arrival at the camp, he was put in solitary confinement for 14 days. Finally in November, 1942, Flight Lieutenant Brooks was sent to work at a sawmill at Tost. While there he planned an escape but details became known to the Germans and he was warned that he would be shot if any attempt was made. Undeterred, this officer revised his plans. He made several useful contacts with Poles outside the camp and obtained civilian clothing and maps. On 10th May, 1943, he and a sergeant cut through the window bars and escaped. They successfully evaded all efforts to capture them and reached

Czectochowa where they remained hidden till January, 1945. Throughout the whole period, Flight Lieutenant Brooks showed great determination. He was not dismayed or deterred from attempting to escape by punishments or hardships and even when he knew he was a marked man, he continued to make further plans and efforts to escape.

Flight Lieutenant Dominic Bruce, A.F.M. (45272), Royal Air Force, No. 9 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Bruce was shot down over Zeebrugge in June, 1941, and picked up by a German vessel. After an unsuccessful tunnel attempt in July, 1942, Flight Lieutenant Bruce and two companions made a very clever escape from Spangenburg in September, 1942, disguised as a German civilian commission and officer escort. They reached Cassel aerodrome hoping to find a Junkers 52—the only German aircraft they knew how to fly—and, finding none of this type on the field, they decided to make for France but were caught several days later near Frankenberg. After this attempt, Flight Lieutenant Bruce was transferred to Warburg. From there he made several attempts to escape, the most successful being in January, 1942, when three men masqueraded as a German guard escorting a party of British orderlies. For this, Flight Lieutenant Bruce received three months in cells from which he attempted to escape with the aid of a dummy key, but was prevented by the bad weather. In September, 1942, he escaped from Colditz in an empty crate and made for Danzig. He was captured ten days later at Frankfurt-on-Oder, but escaped while awaiting interrogation. He reached Danzig and was arrested trying to board a troop ship. Flight Lieutenant Bruce continued to try every possible means of escape, with varying degrees of success, throughout his captivity making about seventeen attempts in all. He was liberated from Colditz in April, 1945.

Air Ministry, 8th October, 1946.

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

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant.

Arthur Sidney Ronald STRUDWICK (127804), R.A.F.V.R., 234 Sqn.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant.

Hebert Darrell BIGGS (Can/J.36325), 405 Sqn.

SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.**Major.*

D. W. MURDOCH (205706V), 5 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.
The above awards are in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations.

AMENDMENTS.

In notification of 1st January, 1943 (Page 53, Column 1), for "*Sergeant, South African Women's Territorial Service*" read "*Sergeant, East African Women's Territorial Service*".

In notification of 17th September, 1943 (Page 4130, Column 1), for "Colonel H. M. SALMON, M.C., South African Air Force" read "Colonel H. M. SALMON, M.C., The Welch Regiment.

In notification of 1st January, 1946 (Page 36, Column 2), O.B.E. (Mil.) for Acting Wing Commander Sir Richard Bellingham GRAHAM (79463) R.A.F.V.R. read Acting Wing Commander Sir Richard Bellingham GRAHAM, Bt. (79463), R.A.F.V.R.

In notification of 13th June, 1946 (Page 2808, Column 2), B.E.M. (Mil.) for 8134111 Flight Sergeant James GILMOUR, Auxiliary Air Force, amend number to read "803411".

In notification of 13th June, 1946 (Page 2808, Column 2), B.E.M. (Mil.) for 540086 Flight Sergeant Leonard Joseph PURSEY, Royal Air Force, amend name to read Lenard Joseph Harold PURSEY.

In notification of 13th June, 1946 (Page 2810, Column 1), B.E.M. (Mil.), for 2085111 Corporal Rhoda HESKETH, Women's Auxiliary Air Force, amend number to read "2085111."

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