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*Air Ministry,
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ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:—

Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Robert Carl FUMERTON, D.F.C. (Can/C.1352), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 89 Squadron.

Flying Officer Fumerton is a most tenacious and skilful pilot. One night in June, 1942, he destroyed 2 enemy bombers during one flight and repeated this achievement a few nights later. His determination to destroy the enemy at all costs is outstanding. Since the beginning of June, 1942, 7 enemy aircraft have been destroyed at night by Flying Officer Fumerton.

Flying Officer Ronald West, D.F.C. (89405), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 249 Squadron.

In April, 1942, this officer displayed great courage and determination as leader of a section which intercepted 8 Junkers 87s escorted by fighters. In the ensuing engagement, Flying Officer West destroyed 1 and probably destroyed another of the enemy's bombers. When returning to base he sighted a Junkers 88 and, although he had expended his ammunition, he attacked this aircraft head on and forced it to jettison its bombs. In June, 1942, Flying Officer West shot down a Junkers 88; he was immediately attacked by a fighter but, skilfully evading it, he flew to the assistance of one of his fellow pilots who was being attacked by another fighter. Flying Officer West destroyed this attacker. Whilst returning to base he observed one of our pilots afloat in his dinghy whereupon he passed information as to the position. Flying Officer West then flew on and made a safe landing at base. This officer has destroyed at least 7 enemy aircraft.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Percy Belgrave LUCAS (100626), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 249 Squadron.

In July, 1942, Squadron Leader Lucas displayed great courage in an engagement against 3 bombers escorted by 14 fighters. He unhesitatingly led his squadron through the enemy's fighter escort and, diving down, they destroyed all 3 bombers, 2 of them falling in flames. Squadron Leader Lucas has destroyed 3 hostile aircraft and damaged 7 others.

Pilot Officer Bruce Hamilton HAY (N.Z.41511), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 3 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Hay has participated in a large number of operational sorties and has completed many successful intruder operations over enemy territory. He has destroyed 4 enemy aircraft, probably destroyed 1 and damaged 2 others. This officer is a valuable pilot and an inspiration to his colleagues. He is cool, skilful and possesses marked courage and devotion to duty.

Pilot Officer John Gordon SMITH (Can/J.6960), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 214 Squadron.

One night in June, 1942, Pilot Officer Smith was captain of an aircraft detailed to attack a target in the Ruhr. Whilst flying over enemy territory, his aircraft was attacked by an enemy fighter whilst at a height of 17,000 feet. The fighter made repeated attacks in quick succession but was driven off by fierce and accurate fire. The fighter is believed to have been destroyed. Another enemy aircraft then took up the attack and opened fire from close range. Pilot Officer Smith's aircraft sustained severe damage. The front gunner and flight engineer were badly injured and the port outer engine caught fire. The flames from the engine assumed dangerous proportions but, after the propeller fell off, the fire subsided considerably. Despite the damage sustained, Pilot Officer Smith displayed excellent airmanship and flew the aircraft back to this country where he made a successful forced landing. This officer's skill, coolness and gallantry in the face of trying circumstances were of a high order. He has participated in several sorties and has always shown great determination to press home his attacks against the enemy.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

N.Z.402444 Sergeant Peter Masters GAWITH, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 3 Squadron.

This airman has participated in many operational sorties, both by day and night. He has taken part in successful intruder operations against the enemy in Germany and German occupied territory. He shows great keenness at all times to engage the enemy and has destroyed 2 aircraft and damaged 2 others. By his courage and initiative he sets an excellent example.

Aus.400468 Sergeant Frank Morton GRIGGS, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 214 (Federated Malay States) Squadron.

1378114 Sergeant Arthur O'HARA, No. 214 (Federated Malay States) Squadron.