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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:—

Distinguished Service Order.

Wing Commander Howard Frizelle BURTON, D.F.C. (33227).

Wing Commander Burton is the commanding officer of an exceptionally successful wing. Recently, he has taken part in several sorties involving low level attacks on heavy armoured fighting vehicles. His brilliant leadership has contributed in a large measure to the great success achieved.

Squadron Leader Donald WESTON-BURT (33226), No. 6 Squadron.

This officer has led his squadron with great dash in recent low level attacks on the enemy's armoured fighting vehicles and mechanised transport. On one occasion intervention by his squadron prevented an attack on a French force. Squadron Leader Weston-Burt has displayed great courage and skill.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Donald Frederick Edgar Charles DEAN, D.F.C. (42997), No. 35 Squadron.

One night in February, 1943, this officer captained an aircraft detailed to attack St. Nazaire. Whilst crossing the Channel, on the outward flight, one of the port engines failed. Nevertheless, Squadron Leader Dean continued his mission. Whilst over the target area his aircraft was held in searchlights and subjected to heavy fire from the ground defences. Despite this, he pressed home a vigorous attack. Shortly after the aircraft was headed for home one of the starboard engines failed. Squadron Leader Dean succeeded in maintaining height and eventually reached an airfield in this country where he effected a masterly landing in difficult circumstances. This officer displayed great courage, skill and determination throughout.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Harry MALKIN, D.F.C. (Can/J.15521), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 35 Squadron.

One night in March, 1943, this officer captained an aircraft detailed to attack Berlin. Whilst over the city the bomber was held in searchlights and subjected to heavy anti-aircraft fire. The rudder controls were severed and one of the port engines was damaged, causing it to fail. Despite this, Flight Lieutenant Malkin skilfully controlled the damaged aircraft and executed a successful attack. Soon after leaving the target area, efforts to restart the damaged engine proved successful, but further trouble was encountered. The bomber

was again engaged by anti-aircraft fire, which rendered the port outer engine unserviceable. The mid-upper gunner was wounded, while all lights in the cockpit failed. With extreme difficulty height was maintained and, displaying superb airmanship, Flight Lieutenant Malkin flew the damaged bomber to an airfield in this country. This officer displayed great skill, determination and endurance in most difficult circumstances.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Group Captain Edward Hedley FIELDEN, M.V.O., A.F.C.

This officer has flown on various operational missions, some of a most hazardous nature. He has displayed a high standard of operational efficiency, setting an example which has contributed materially to the high morale of the air crews under his command. His great organising ability has proved a valuable asset.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Edward Gerard GILMORE (Can/C.1036), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 408 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1475434 Sergeant James William Taylor Mason SMITH, No. 408 (R.C.A.F.), Squadron.

One night in February, 1943, Squadron Leader Gilmore and Sergeant Smith were captain and bomb aimer respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Cologne. Whilst over the target area the aircraft was subjected to heavy anti-aircraft fire and sustained much damage. The aircraft went out of control and considerable height was lost before Squadron Leader Gilmore regained control. The bomber was riddled by shell splinters and one of its propellers was shot away. Two compasses were rendered useless and all navigational charts were lost. Nevertheless, Squadron Leader Gilmore flew the damaged bomber to an airfield near the coast, having received valuable assistance from Sergeant Smith who, by use of the bomb sight compass, displayed skilful navigation.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Flight Lieutenant William Walter BLESSING (Aus.404648), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 105 Squadron.

In March, 1943, this officer flew the leading aircraft of a bomber force detailed to undertake a low level attack on the railway workshops at Paderborn. The operation, involving a deep penetration into Germany in daylight, demanded a high degree of efficiency. That the sortie was executed exactly as planned and success achieved was largely attributable to Flight Lieutenant Blessing's fine leadership and great skill. This officer has