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

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross

Acting Squadron Leader Stanley Rowland MULLER-ROWLAND DFC (103498) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve No 39 Squadron

This officer is a highly efficient flight commander whose continued good work has been worthy of great praise. In July 1943 he led a section of torpedo carrying aircraft in an attack on a medium sized supply ship and its escorting vessel. In spite of fighter opposition hits were obtained on both vessels. Three days later Squadron Leader Muller-Rowland led another formation in an attack against a tanker escorted by 3 ships and with fighter cover. Despite the opposition the tanker was destroyed while one escort vessel was set on fire. On both occasions Squadron Leader Muller Rowland displayed faultless leadership and great determination.

Distinguished Flying Cross

Acting Squadron Leader James Albert LEE-EVANS (63074) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve No 47 Squadron

This officer has taken part in 41 sorties and has invariably displayed courage and determination of a high order. On 3 occasions recently he has led formations of aircraft in attacks on enemy shipping with successful results. His skilful leadership and personal example have been most inspiring.

Acting Squadron Leader Kenneth Richard Percy PAINTER (119247) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve No 47 Squadron

This officer has recently participated in several attacks on enemy shipping and has achieved successes. On 1 occasion he executed a most determined attack on a schooner raking it with gun fire and leaving it in a sinking condition. In pulling out of his dive Squadron Leader Painter's aircraft struck the mast of the vessel. In July 1943 he participated in an attack on a convoy north west of Corsica. Before reaching his target Squadron Leader Painter engaged 2 Junkers 52s shooting down 1 of them. He then flew on and in the face of heavy opposition attacked a large merchant vessel which had been damaged by other attacking aircraft and obtained a hit amidships. An internal explosion followed and the vessel began to sink rapidly. This officer has displayed courage and determination of a high order setting an inspiring example.

Flight Lieutenant Cyril Patrick TOWSEY (N Z 403480), Royal New Zealand Air Force No 40 Squadron

This officer has completed a large number of sorties many of them against enemy targets in Europe. On one occasion in October 1942 when detailed to search over the sea for a missing air crew Flight Lieutenant Towsey made flights totalling nearly 30 hours until he succeeded in his quest. In the Middle East Flight Lieutenant Towsey has participated in numerous operations and his efforts have been marked by outstanding determination to bomb his targets effectively. He has invariably displayed great courage and devotion to duty.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Mark Clifford BATMAN (106882), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve No 236 Squadron

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties including numerous attacks on shipping in the face of strong opposition. He has displayed great skill and gallantry throughout setting a praiseworthy example.

Acting Flight Lieutenant William Gough HOWELL (84771) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve No 108 Squadron

This officer is an exceptionally skilful observer who has taken part in very many operations. He has assisted in the destruction of 9 enemy aircraft at night 5 of them in recent operations off the coast of Sicily. He has displayed determination and devotion to duty of a high order.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Thomas Alexander STEWART DFM (N Z 41629) Royal New Zealand Air Force No 61 Squadron

In July 1943 this officer led a formation of bombers in an operation against an electric transformer and switching station in Northern Italy. Displaying great persistence Flight Lieutenant Stewart made several runs over the target before releasing his bombs and afterwards circled the area at a low level while his gunners silenced 3 gun positions thus enabling other aircraft of his formation to concentrate on bombing the target. This officer displayed inspiring leadership great courage and determination.

Flying Officer Michael Metcalfe DAVISON (101089) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve No 108 Squadron

This officer is a keen and determined pilot. In night operations off the coast of Sicily he has operated with great skill and destroyed 3 enemy aircraft bringing his victories to 6. He has set an inspiring example.