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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:—

Distinguished Service Order.

Flying Officer David Malcolm JOHNSTONE (86904), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).

1313625 Flight Sergeant Ronald John FOSS, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 224 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1216857 Sergeant Maurice William DIKKS, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 224 Squadron.

This officer and airmen were members of the crew of an aircraft engaged on an anti-submarine patrol in September, 1943. During the flight the aircraft was engaged by 4 Junkers 88. The captain was killed in the early stages of the combat and Flight Sergeant Foss, the second pilot, immediately took over the controls. Flying Officer Johnstone, with commendable initiative immediately went to his assistance and rendered material help in subsequent evading tactics. The enemy pressed home their attack, however, and the aircraft was extensively damaged and caught fire, while several of the crew were wounded. Although the aircraft was fast becoming uncontrollable, Flight Sergeant Foss and Flying Officer Johnstone, by a combined effort, succeeded in bringing the aircraft down on to the sea where it became wrecked on impact with the water. Although under water, Flying Officer Johnstone, who was himself injured, gallantly assisted 2 of his wounded comrades to get clear by allowing them to step on his shoulders and head and thus to scramble through a gaping hole in the submerged portion of the aircraft. Meanwhile, Flight Sergeant Foss assisted other members of the crew into the dinghy. For nine days, these members of aircraft crew were adrift and during this period, Flying Officer Johnstone, Flight Sergeant Foss and Sergeant Diiks displayed great courage and high morale. Throughout this trying ordeal their exemplary conduct set an example of the highest order.

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander Francis John CHARLES, D.F.C. (36198), Royal Air Force.

Wing Commander Charles is an inspiring leader, whose great skill and tenacity have contributed materially to the successes obtained by the formations with which he has flown. In September, 1943, he led a formation of fighters which acted as escort to a bomber force detailed to attack an airfield in Northern France. During the opera-

tion, 12 enemy fighters were engaged and, in the ensuing combats, 4 of the hostile aircraft were shot down, 1 of them by Wing Commander Charles. This officer, who has destroyed at least 15 enemy aircraft, has displayed great courage and unflagging devotion to duty.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Ian Kenneth Sefton JOLL (90951), Auxiliary Air Force, No. 604 Squadron.

This officer has undertaken very many sorties and has destroyed 4 enemy aircraft and damaged several more. He is an exceptionally keen and skilful leader, whose personal example has been reflected in the high morale of the flight he commands. In spite of trying experiences, his enthusiasm remains unabated.

Flight Lieutenant John Christopher Shaboe DOLL (87445), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 91 Squadron.

This officer is a most efficient flight commander, whose skill and dash have won great praise. He has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft in combat.

Flight Lieutenant Leslie Neil McCaIG (Can/J.14907), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 426 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer captained an aircraft detailed to attack Mannheim one night in September, 1943. Whilst over the target area, the bomber was attacked by a fighter. It was driven off, however, but a few minutes later another enemy aircraft flew in to the attack. The bomber was repeatedly hit by machine-gun fire and sustained much damage. In spite of this, Flight Lieutenant McCaig skilfully out-maneuvred the attacker, and thus enabled his gunners to engage the enemy aircraft which was shot down by their accurate bursts of fire. Displaying exceptional skill, Flight Lieutenant McCaig flew the badly damaged bomber to this country and effected a successful crash-landing at an airfield. This officer displayed courage, coolness and determination worthy of high praise.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Desmond Palmer PERRIN (N.Z.404404), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 1 Squadron.

This officer has participated in very many sorties and has led his flight with distinction on all occasions. In the course of his activities, Flight Lieutenant Perrin has executed destructive attacks on locomotives, rail installations and enemy shipping. On one occasion he obtained a hit on an ammunition truck which blew up with such violence that his aircraft was endangered by the explosion. In addition, Flight Lieutenant Perrin has destroyed a Messerschmitt 210. His fine fighting qualities have been highly commendable.