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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.

Acting Wing Commander George William CURRY, D.F.C. (86389), R.A.F.V.R., 627 Sqn.

Since assuming command of his squadron, Wing Commander Curry has taken part in a number of operations against a variety of enemy targets. His great determination and capable leadership have resulted in many successful operations. On several occasions his aircraft has been damaged by anti-aircraft fire. The exceptional energy and initiative which this officer has displayed, together with his outstanding keenness and cheerful personality, have had a most marked effect upon the morale and efficiency of his squadron. He has set a worthy example.

Acting Wing Commander Walter DRING, D.F.C. (104424), R.A.F.V.R.

Since the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, Wing Commander Dring has completed a very large number of operations against the enemy. By his untiring efforts, leadership and excellent organising ability he has contributed in a large measure to the formations he commands.

Acting Wing Commander Ernest William TACON, D.F.C., A.F.C. (36196), R.A.F.O., 236 Sqn.

In August, 1944, Wing Commander Tacon led a force of aircraft in an attack on the harbour of Le Verdon. A very heavy barrage of anti-aircraft fire from the enemy ships and ground defences was encountered and after the attack four of our aircraft were severely damaged. Wing Commander Tacon directed one aircraft to alight on the sea near a naval force in the vicinity and then proceeded to an advanced base in France where he supervised the landing of the remaining three aircraft. He displayed outstanding qualities of resourceful leadership and great devotion to duty. Two destroyers were set on fire and seriously damaged during this action.

Acting Squadron Leader Mervyn Richard ATTWATER, D.F.C. (61253), R.A.F.V.R., 156 Sqn.

Throughout a difficult and varied operational tour Squadron Leader Attwater has displayed exceptional keenness, courage and devotion to duty. He gave an outstanding example of his resolution and courage when on a recent sortie to a target in Holland. Although his aircraft was engaged and hit several times by accurate anti-aircraft fire, he remained in the vicinity of the target until the last bomber had completed the attack. His fine fighting spirit has set an example to all.

Acting Squadron Leader Harry Baker LOCKE, D.F.C. (Aus.401980), R.A.A.F., 97 Sqn.

Squadron Leader Locke has completed a large number of sorties and has displayed a high degree of skill and courage. One night in August, 1944, he was detailed for a minelaying mission. The defences were strong and many searchlights were directed on Squadron Leader Locke's aircraft. Undeterred he commenced his run and accurately placed his mines. This officer has displayed a marked degree of coolness and fortitude and on several occasions he has remained in the vicinity of the target area, in the face of heavy enemy defences, for a long period of time. His consistent good work has been most praiseworthy.

Acting Squadron Leader Stuart Parkeshouse PARKES (114010), R.A.F.V.R., 97 Sqn.

One night in August, 1944, Squadron Leader Parkes was detailed to lay mines in enemy waters. In the face of powerful defences and being illuminated by searchlights, this officer flew his aircraft accurately down the length of the channel and placed his mines in the correct position. During the run his aircraft was hit and severely damaged by fire from the ground defences. Despite this Squadron Leader Parkes remained in the vicinity of the target area for some twenty minutes and then flew his damaged aircraft safely home. His unswerving determination, courage and skill in the face of powerful defences, largely contributed to the success of the operation. Squadron Leader Parkes has completed very many operations and his devotion to duty has been unflinching.

Acting Flying Officer Hubert John WEST (172475), R.A.F.V.R., 101 Sqn.

One night in August, 1944, Flying Officer West was captain of an aircraft detailed to attack a target in France. At the commencement of the bombing run the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. Flying Officer West was badly injured in the left leg by a large fragment of shrapnel. With outstanding courage and coolness, he refused treatment until the target had been successfully bombed and the aircraft had passed over the enemy coast on the return flight. This officer later made an excellent landing at an advanced airfield and then lost consciousness. His devotion to duty and splendid example are of a very high order.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander David Walter Sealey CLARK, D.F.C. (36213), R.A.F.O.

Acting Squadron Leader James Richard DOW, D.F.C. (Can./J.5691), R.C.A.F., 635 Sqn.

One night in August, 1944, these officers were pilot and navigator respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Stettin. On the bombing run the