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*Air Ministry, 19th January, 1945.*

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 Service Order.*

Acting Wing Commander Gage Darwent SISE, D.S.O., D.F.C., (N.Z.39941), R.N.Z.A.F., 248 Sqn.

This officer has displayed great gallantry in operations against the enemy. He is a brilliant leader whose personal example and untiring efforts have done much towards raising his squadron to the highest standard of fighting efficiency. Since being awarded a bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross, he has led formations of aircraft in several attacks on enemy shipping. In November, 1944, Wing Commander Sise participated in an attack on shipping in Floro Harbour. Much anti-aircraft fire was encountered. Wing Commander Sise's aircraft was hit. One engine caught fire but he pressed home his attack and afterwards flew his damaged aircraft to base. Some days later this officer led a very large formation of aircraft in an operation off Aalsund. His great skill and forceful leadership played a large part in the success of the operation.

*Distinguished Service Order.*

Acting Wing Commander Peter Andrew KLEBOE, D.F.C., A.F.C. (88440), R.A.F.V.R., 109 Sqn.

This officer continues to display the highest standard of skill and gallantry. He has completed a very large number of sorties, many of them against well-defended targets important to the enemy's war effort. In October, 1944, Wing Commander Kleboe took part in an attack on Essen. At the commencement of the bombing run heavy and concentrated anti-aircraft fire was encountered. The aircraft was hit. A large piece of shrapnel smashed through the pilot's windscreen. Wing Commander Kleboe sustained numerous small cuts about the face. This, together with the violent inrush of wind through the broken windscreen, temporarily blinded him. Control was lost. Wing Commander Kleboe quickly levelled out however and, although in great pain, went on to execute a steady and successful bombing run. He afterwards flew the aircraft safely back to this country. He set a fine example of tenacity and devotion to duty.

Acting Squadron Leader Robert FINDLATER, D.F.C. (46337), R.A.F., 109 Sqn.

This officer has displayed courage, tenacity and devotion to duty of a high order. He has completed a very large number of sorties, many of

them being missions demanding the highest standard of ability. One night in November, 1944, he was the navigator of an aircraft detailed to attack Gelsenkirchen. His outstanding work in difficult circumstances played a good part in the success of the sortie. In addition to his notable work in the air this officer has devoted much of his skill and knowledge towards the training of other members of the squadron. His record is most impressive.

Acting Squadron Leader Harry Edward Tony PRAGER, D.F.C. (138695), R.A.F.V.R., 514 Sqn.

This officer has completed very many sorties since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He has displayed outstanding qualities of leadership, great skill and unflinching devotion to duty. On one occasion in September, 1944, he took part in a bombing attack on Le Havre. In the run-in the aircraft came under heavy anti-aircraft fire. The bomb bay was hit and set on fire. In spite of this, Squadron Leader Prager held to a steady run to enable his bomb aimer to release his bombs on the target. Other members of the crew succeeded, with great difficulty, in extinguishing the flames and Squadron Leader Prager flew the aircraft safely to base. His coolness and resolution in dangerous circumstances were most commendable.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander Richard Ashley ATKINSON, D.S.O., D.F.C. (70030), R.A.F.O., 235 Sqn.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Service Order, Wing Commander Atkinson has participated in a very large number of sorties. In September, 1944, this officer led an attack on two merchant ships, both of which were sunk. In October, 1944, Wing Commander Atkinson led a formation of aircraft in an attack on a large barge, a tug and two escort vessels. In spite of intense anti-aircraft fire the attack was pressed home with great determination. The two escort vessels were set on fire and the tug was seriously damaged. On yet another occasion this officer led a formation of aircraft in an attack on two small ships, both of which were sunk. By his gallant leadership and great tactical ability Wing Commander Atkinson played a prominent part in the successes obtained.

Flying Officer Conrad Newsham SAUNDERS, D.F.C. (143105), R.A.F.V.R.

As observer, this officer has participated in a very large number of reconnaissances. Throughout he has displayed a high degree of skill and courage and has never failed to secure excellent photographs, often in spite of considerable anti-