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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 Flying Officer Bob JONES (182962), R.A.F.V.R., 15 Sqn.

In December, 1944, this officer was pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed for an attack against Oberhausen. On the run in to the target his aircraft was hit by heavy anti-aircraft fire and sustained extensive damage. Flying Officer Jones was injured about the face. Both eyes were affected causing temporary blindness. The aircraft went into a dive. Although in dire distress, Flying Officer Jones displayed outstanding coolness. He succeeded in levelling out and then, with another member of the crew to direct him, rejoined the bomber forces to execute his attack. Still unable to see, Flying Officer Jones remained at the controls and left the target area in accordance with the directions given to him by his comrade standing by. When over the sea on the homeward flight, this pilot recovered vision in one eye. Finally he reached an airfield where he safely landed his badly damaged aircraft. This officer displayed unbeatable determination, high courage and fortitude and won through in the face of great physical discomfort and pain.

Acting Wing Commander William Edward COLES (41579), R.A.F.O., 233 Sqn.

This officer has displayed high qualities of leadership, great skill and courage in operations against the enemy. In September, 1944, he led the squadron on several supply dropping missions to our forces in the neighbourhood of Arnhem. On one occasion, whilst over the dropping zone, his aircraft sustained severe damage and became difficult to control. In spite of this, Wing Commander Cole made a second run over the target to release the remainder of his containers. He afterwards flew the badly damaged aircraft to base. He displayed superb skill and great personal courage.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander Maurice BOOTH, D.F.C. (39810), R.A.F.O., 271 Sqn.

This officer has displayed high powers of leadership, skill and courage, qualities which have contributed in good measure to the success of the many operations in which the squadron has been concerned. In September, 1944, Wing Commander Booth participated in the operation whereby the first force of gliders was landed in the vicinity of Arnhem. Three days later, he took part in a

supply dropping mission to our ground forces. In the face of heavy enemy opposition, Wing Commander Booth displayed great determination and devotion to duty.

Squadron Leader Peter Dickson SQUIRES, D.F.C. (40954), R.A.F.O., 271 Sqn.

This officer has completed three tours of operational duty. He has at all times displayed the greatest keenness and his undoubted skill and fearless example have won great praise. He has participated in all the operations to which the squadron has been committed and his resolute and gallant efforts have contributed materially to the successes obtained. Squadron Leader Squires flew with great distinction on several sorties in the neighbourhood of Arnhem in September, 1944.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant James Keith O'Neill EDWARDS (123886), R.A.F.V.R., 271 Sqn.

In air operations, this officer has displayed skill, courage and fortitude of a very high order.

Flight Lieutenant Rooney Alexander HODGINS (Can/J.41894), R.C.A.F., 443 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Hodgins has completed very many sorties over Northern France, Belgium and Holland. He has destroyed three enemy aircraft and has also been responsible for putting out of action over 50 enemy mechanical vehicles. On one occasion in September, 1944, in a fight against a superior force of enemy aircraft, Flight Lieutenant Hodgins destroyed two Messerschmitt 109s. This officer has at all times displayed the greatest keenness to engage the enemy and has proved himself a skilful and intrepid pilot.

Flight Lieutenant David Henry Gason INCE (49606), R.A.F., 193 Sqn.

This officer has completed very many sorties and has set a fine example of determination and devotion to duty throughout. On a recent occasion he was detailed to reconnoitre a target immediately after it had been attacked by other aircraft. In the face of considerable concentrated anti-aircraft fire, Flight Lieutenant Ince commenced his run-in. His aircraft was hit. The oil system to the engine was damaged. The fluid gushed out and completely obscured the wind shield. Flight Lieutenant Ince was compelled to fly by instruments only. As he completed his run the aircraft became difficult to control. Nevertheless, he succeeded in flying to an airfield within the Allied lines and landed safely. This officer displayed a high degree of skill, courage and resolution throughout.