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*Av Ministry, 6th February, 1945.*

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.*

Flight Lieutenant John Alan ANDERSON (Can/J. 25399), R.C.A.F., 419 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has displayed a high degree of gallantry and devotion in operations against the enemy. He has completed very many sorties and has set the finest example in pressing home his attacks, often in the face of fierce opposition. On one occasion in September, 1944, he was pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Bottrop. When over the target intense anti-aircraft fire was encountered. Flight Lieutenant Anderson's aircraft was hit repeatedly by fragments of shrapnel. Both the port engines were put out of action. The hydraulic system was rendered unserviceable. The controls were so damaged that it became necessary for two members of the crew to assist their captain by pulling manually on the rudder controls. In spite of this, Flight Lieutenant Anderson executed a good bombing run. He afterwards flew the severely damaged aircraft to base where he effected a masterly landing. In most difficult and dangerous circumstances this officer displayed outstanding coolness and great courage.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Strathmere Folkes BEADMAN, D.F.C. (101030), R.A.F.V.R., 571 Sqn.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross this officer has completed many sorties and continues to display the greatest keenness and gallantry in his attacks on the enemy. On a recent occasion he flew with great distinction in an attack on an enemy target. His skill, leadership and resource contributed materially to the success obtained.

Flying Officer Arthur Edward KELL, D.F.C. (Aus. 412969), R.A.A.F., 617 Sqn.

Since being awarded the D.F.C. this officer has participated in many sorties, the last 3 of which were attacks on the German battleship Tirpitz. He has invariably displayed a high degree of skill and courage and his determination to make every sortie a success has won great praise.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander Thomas Aston HEATH, A.F.C. (70294), R.A.F.O., 169 Sqn.

This officer has displayed great skill, courage and determination in his attacks on the enemy. He has completed very many sorties during which he

has most effectively attacked such targets as locomotives, barges, road transport and other enemy targets on the ground; he has also destroyed 2 enemy aircraft. His fine qualities have been well reflected in the high standard of operational efficiency of the squadron he commands

Acting Squadron Leader John Allen Cyril PARSONS (60140), R.A.F.V.R., 524 Sqn

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties including several attacks on U-boats and a number of vigorous attacks on enemy shipping. He has displayed high skill and courage and throughout his devotion to duty has been unflinching. On one occasion in December, 1944, he piloted an aircraft detailed for a reconnaissance. The weather was extremely bad. Despite this, Squadron Leader Parsons displayed the greatest perseverance. He sighted a convoy of four vessels near the enemy coast. After reporting the position he executed two attacks and then shadowed the vessels for two hours until attacks were made by other aircraft. On this sortie, during which his aircraft was struck by lightning and the rear gunner injured, Squadron Leader Parsons displayed outstanding perseverance to complete his mission successfully in most unfavourable flying weather.

Flight Lieutenant Stanley Bruce DE VERE (NZ.413037), R.N.Z.A.F., 66 Sqn.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties including many low level bombing and machine gun attacks against various enemy targets. In November, 1944, he took part in an attack on a target at Klundert. During the operation his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. The windscreen was shattered. Flight Lieutenant De Vere was cut about the face. Nevertheless, he flew safely back to base. Some days later, this pilot was again in action. This time the target was a railway siding at Maarn. Flight Lieutenant De Vere pressed home his attack but his aircraft sustained serious damage. Even so he flew it to a forward airfield where he effected a successful crash landing. This officer has displayed courage, skill and resolution of a high order.

Flight Lieutenant Jack PLUMMER (NZ.42451), R.N.Z.A.F., 75 (N.Z.) Sqn.

This officer has completed numerous sorties including a number of attacks on well defended targets in Germany and has invariably displayed the highest standard of determination in the execution of his allotted tasks. On one occasion, in October, 1944 he was pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Duisberg. Shortly after the bombs had been released the aircraft was hit in the nose by a high explosive shell. The inrush of air through