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Air Ministry, 1st May, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations:—

Bar to Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander Sidney BAKER, D.S.O., D.F.C. (115867), R.A.F.V.R., 635 Sqn.

Wing Commander Baker has completed one hundred sorties, all of them against strongly defended enemy targets. He has displayed the highest qualities of skill and bravery and throughout his devotion to duty has been unflinching. Undeterred by the heaviest opposition, Wing Commander Baker has invariably pressed home his attacks with the greatest resolution. His achievements have won high praise.

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander Peter DOBSON, D.F.C., A.F.C. (64284), R.A.F.V.R., 158 Sqn.

As squadron commander, this officer has consistently displayed leadership, gallantry and determination of a high order. He has completed many sorties against a wide variety of targets. On one occasion, when approaching an enemy target, his aircraft was engaged by heavy and accurate fire from enemy ground defences and he sustained a wound in the left leg. In spite of this, he held the aircraft straight and level on its course and pressed home a good attack. Not until the enemy coast had been crossed en route for home did Wing Commander Dobson draw attention to his injury. Although in great pain and suffering from the loss of blood, he remained at the controls and flew the aircraft back to base. He displayed unbeatable determination and devotion to duty in the face of much physical distress.

Acting Wing Commander Walter Frame GIBB, D.F.C. (88881), R.A.F.V.R., 239 Sqn.

Wing Commander Gibb has completed very many sorties since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Highly efficient, brave and resolute, this officer has set a splendid example to all. Among his successes is the destruction of five enemy aircraft, three of which he shot down in the early days of March, 1945.

Acting Wing Commander John Ramsey ST. JOHN, D.F.C. (39687), R.A.F.O., 103 Sqn.

This officer has completed three tours of operational duty. His record is one of gallant and distinguished service. He has commanded the squadron for almost a year. By his skilful leadership, exceptional ability and unswerving devotion to duty, Wing Commander St. John has contributed in good measure to the successes obtained.

Acting Squadron Leader Basil Arthur TEMPLEMAN-ROOKE, D.F.C. (157102), R.A.F.V.R., 576 Sqn.

This officer is an outstanding pilot and a highly efficient flight commander. He has completed a very large number of sorties and throughout has displayed the highest standard of bravery and devotion to duty. Squadron Leader Templeman-Rooke has invariably participated in the most hazardous of the missions for which the squadron has been detailed and his unconquerable spirit has set a magnificent example.

Acting Wing Commander Christopher David NORTH-LEWIS, D.F.C. (45073), R.A.F. (Lieutenant, The King's Royal Rifle Corps).

Since being awarded a Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross, this officer has participated in a large number of sorties, involving attacks on a wide range of targets in various battle zones. Much success has been achieved. By his skilful leadership, great tactical ability and iron determination, Wing Commander North-Lewis has played a good part in the results obtained. On one occasion in December, 1944, this officer flew with great distinction in a successful attack on an enemy tank force which was greatly threatening our ground forces in an area in the Ardennes. Wing Commander North-Lewis has accomplished much brilliant work.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Ronald Arthur SUTHERLAND, D.F.C. (41079), R.A.F.O., 602 Sqn.

This officer has consistently displayed skill and gallantry of a high order. In March, 1945, he led a small formation of aircraft in a low level attack on an enemy petrol installation. In spite of fierce opposing fire the attack was well pressed home. The success obtained reflects the greatest credit on the efforts of Squadron Leader Sutherland, who displayed exceptional skill and resolution throughout.

Flight Lieutenant Ernest Leopold WILLIAMS, D.F.C. (80424), R.A.F.V.R.

This officer has displayed outstanding keenness and his determination to inflict loss on the enemy on every possible occasion has set an example of the highest standard. Highly skilled, brave and resolute, Flight Lieutenant Williams has obtained much success, including the destruction of 10 enemy aircraft in the air; he has also most effectively attacked others on the ground. In addition, he has executed many good attacks on a number of enemy locomotives. His devotion to duty has been unflinching.

Flying Officer Michael Charles PULSFORD SMITH, D.F.C. (148169), R.A.F.V.R., 640 Sqn.

This officer has set a fine example of determination and devotion to duty in operations against the enemy. He has participated in very many

sorties and has invariably pressed home his attacks with great accuracy. One night in March, 1945, Flying Officer Smith piloted an aircraft detailed to attack an oil refinery at Witten. When nearing the target area, the port outer engine became unserviceable. Some height was lost. Even so, Flying Officer Smith continued to the target and pressed home his attack. His determination on this occasion was characteristic of that which he has shown at all times.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Thomas Charles RIGLER, D.F.M. (114032), R.A.F.V.R., 603 Sqn.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties and throughout has displayed keenness and devotion to duty worthy of the highest praise. He has led the squadron on very many low level and harassing attacks on a variety of enemy targets and much success has been achieved. By his great skill and fine fighting qualities, Squadron Leader Rigler has contributed materially to the high standard of operational efficiency of the squadron he commands.

Acting Major Ronald Patrick MARTIN (205962), S.A.A.F., 115 Sqn.

This officer has completed very many sorties and throughout has set a fine example of devotion to duty. On one occasion when nearing the target his aircraft was badly hit by anti-aircraft fire. The navigator was wounded. Despite this, Major Martin went on to execute a good attack. On another occasion, in March, 1945, when passing over the enemy's lines, his aircraft was hit by fire from the ground defences. Much damage was sustained and one engine was put out of action. Although considerable height was lost, this resolute pilot continued to the target and pressed home a determined attack. Major Martin has invariably shown a high degree of skill and gallantry.

Flight Lieutenant Herbert Edward DUNFORD (135481), R.A.F.V.R., 608 Sqn.

This officer has participated in many sorties against a wide range of enemy targets. One night in March, 1945, he was detailed to attack Berlin. Shortly after completing the bombing run, his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and sustained severe damage. The aircraft became extremely difficult to control. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Dunford flew back to an airfield in this country where he brought the badly damaged aircraft down safely at the third attempt. This officer displayed superb skill, great coolness and determination in the face of great difficulty.

Flight Lieutenant Owen Hafen Ellis JONES (122023), R.A.F.V.R., 601 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Jones has displayed great skill and courage in air operations. He has completed very many sorties, including numerous successful attacks against enemy gun positions, tanks and locomotives. On a number of occasions his aircraft has been hit by anti-aircraft fire but Flight Lieutenant Jones has never failed to press home his attack. Cool, courageous and relentless in action, this officer has set a splendid example.

Flying Officer Donald Henry ROBERTS (171727), R.A.F.V.R., 12 Sqn.

As air gunner, this officer has taken part in very many sorties. He has at all times displayed the greatest keenness and has proved himself to be a devoted and resolute crew member. On several occasions, Flying Officer Roberts has defended his aircraft with great skill in the face of determined attacks by enemy fighters. By his good shooting and excellent understanding with his co-gunner, Flying Officer Roberts has assisted in the destruction of at least one enemy aircraft.

Flying Officer Lawrence Charles WILSON (Aus. 40566), R.A.A.F., 626 Sqn.

This officer has displayed praiseworthy skill and courage during his tour of operational duty. He has completed very many sorties and has invariably pressed home his attacks, often in the face of the heaviest opposition. One night in March, 1945, Flying Officer Wilson piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Chemnitz. When on the outward journey the starboard engine failed completely. Nevertheless, with his usual persistence, Flying Officer Wilson continued to the target which he attacked at a height much lower than originally planned. On a previous occasion, Flying Officer Wilson went on to attack his target in similar circumstances.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Warrant Officer Phillip Arthur BARKER (1291702), R.A.F.V.R., 524 Sqn.

Warrant Officer William Charles WINDSOR (656872), R.A.F., 524 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1684713 Sergeant Stanley GRIMSDITCH, R.A.F.V.R., 524 Sqn.

As navigator, pilot and wireless operator respectively Warrant Officers Barker and Windsor and Sergeant Grimsditch have participated in numerous sorties. At various times within recent months they have executed successful attacks on formations of E-boats. The results obtained are an excellent tribute to their exceptional ability, great courage and tenacity.

Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).

Aus. 431444 Flight Sergeant George Bailie FERGUSON, R.A.A.F., 466 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This airman was the mid-upper gunner in an aircraft detailed to attack Essen one night in February, 1945. When approaching the target much anti-aircraft fire was encountered. Flight Sergeant Ferguson was struck in the face by a piece of shrapnel which crashed through the perspex screen round his gun turret. He had sustained a most serious wound. Nevertheless, he would not distract his captain. Making light of his condition, Flight Sergeant Ferguson assured him that he did not require assistance. Another member of the crew went to investigate but this brave gunner kept on his oxygen mask to prevent his comrade from seeing the extent of his injuries and reiterated that he was not in need of help. Throughout the bombing run, Flight Sergeant Ferguson remained at his post. When over allied territory on the way home the captain once more called to his gunner. Owing to congealed blood in the microphone of his mask, Flight Sergeant Ferguson was unable to reply. The wireless operator was promptly sent to his assistance. When taken from his gun turret and his mask removed, Flight Sergeant Ferguson's injuries were fully disclosed. A piece of shrapnel, some two inches long, was embedded in his cheek. His upper jaw had been fractured. Several teeth had been knocked out. His face was very badly swollen and the right eye was completely closed. He was suffering intensely. First aid was given at once. So serious was his condition that the captain brought the aircraft down at an airfield in allied territory so that his brave comrade could receive the medical attention he so urgently needed. Flight Sergeant Ferguson set a magnificent example of courage, self-sacrifice and devotion to duty.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Can/R.223800 Flight Sergeant (now Warrant Officer) Cresswell Elsworth JONES, R.C.A.F., 12 Sqn.

As mid-upper gunner, Flight Sergeant Jones has participated in many sorties. On several occasions his aircraft has been attacked by enemy fighters but Flight Sergeant Jones has invariably defended his aircraft with great skill and resolution. He has assisted in the destruction of at least one enemy aircraft. On one occasion, when a fire started near his gun turret, Flight Sergeant Jones, displayed great courage and coolness. He sustained burns and became almost exhausted by his efforts but he succeeded in extinguishing the flames. This airman has at all times displayed great devotion to duty.

Air Ministry, 1st May, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following award:—

Military Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Dennis Taylor LEES (48112), R.A.F.

In January, 1945, during the operations by the 25th Indian Division at Kangaw in the Arakan campaign, Squadron Leader Lees, while operating a visual Control Post in a most exposed position on the feature known as 170, in support of a brigade, repeatedly contacted aircraft in the air and called them in to attack thus breaking up the enemy attack. His set was damaged by shell fire, but with outstanding coolness he remained at his post trying to get it into a working condition. His coolness and courage were an inspira-

tion to all around him and materially assisted in the success of the operation at that time. Squadron Leader Lees also did valuable work with the leading troops during the whole of the fighting in the Myebon peninsula.

Air Ministry, 1st May, 1945.

The KING has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned decorations conferred upon the personnel indicated in recognition of valuable services rendered in connection with the war:—

CONFERRED BY HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF NORWAY.

Order of St. Olav (Degree of Commander).

Acting Air Commodore Douglas Griffith MORRIS, C.B.E., D.F.C., R.A.F.

CONFERRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF POLAND.

Order of Polonia Restituta (1st Class).

Air Marshal Lloyd Samuel BREADNER, C.B., D.S.C.,
R.C.A.F.

Air Marshal Robert LECKIE, D.S.O., D.S.C., D.F.C.,
R.C.A.F.

Cross of Valour and Bar to Cross of Valour.

Flight Lieutenant Eric Granville ATKINS, D.F.C.
(127846), R.A.F.V.R.

CONFERRED BY HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF
YUGOSLAVIA.

Order of the White Eagle (5th Class).

Flight Lieutenant Archibald George Dunlop
MACKENZIE (143098), R.A.F.V.R.

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