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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:—

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Wing Commander Clifford Murray BLACK (Can/J. 3476), R.C.A.F., 426 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed numerous sorties against a variety of heavily defended targets and has invariably pressed home his attacks with great resolution. On one occasion, when attacking Bottrop, despite the failure of one engine, he completed a successful attack and also obtained a valuable photograph. Wing Commander Black has set a fine example to the squadron he commands, and his leadership and courage have been outstanding.

Acting Squadron Leader John Fulton ROBERTS (Can/J. 37731), R.C.A.F., 405 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As navigator, this officer has participated in very many sorties against a variety of enemy targets. His example of keenness and devotion to duty has been of a high order throughout. On one occasion in March, 1945, his navigational aids became unserviceable en route to the target. Displaying outstanding initiative and resourcefulness, Squadron Leader Roberts successfully navigated the aircraft to the target and back to this country with his usual accuracy.

Flight Lieutenant Joseph Roland LAPORTE (Can/J. 6958), R.C.A.F., 425 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

One night in March, 1945, this officer was detailed to attack Chemnitz. Before reaching the French coast, the distant reading compass became unserviceable and a little later, the starboard engine failed. Undeterred, this officer continued to the target which was bombed most effectively. On the return journey, the aircraft came under fire from the ground defences and sustained several hits. In spite of this, Flight Lieutenant Laporte flew back to base and landed safely. This officer, who has completed many sorties, has invariably displayed a high degree of skill and resolution.

Flight Lieutenant Donald Elwood SILLERS (Can/J. 26991), R.C.A.F., 424 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has at all times proved a most reliable captain of aircraft and has displayed commendable courage and skill. One night in February, 1945, he was detailed to attack Duisburg. Immediately after the bombing run his aircraft was attacked and severely damaged by an enemy fighter. One engine was rendered unserviceable and much technical equipment was put out of action. Displaying great coolness and excellent airmanship, Flight Lieutenant Sillers succeeded in evading the fighter and afterwards brought his damaged aircraft safely back to base.

Flight Lieutenant Sillers has completed many sorties and his devotion to duty has been of a high standard.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Joseph Antoine BRASSARD (Can/J. 35310), R.C.A.F., 425 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Brassard has completed many sorties against a variety of strongly defended targets. Throughout his tour of operational duty he has displayed skill and leadership of a high standard. One night in March, 1945, he was detailed to attack Chemnitz. On the outward flight the port inner engine became troublesome but Flight Lieutenant Brassard continued his mission. When over enemy territory the hydraulic and intercommunication systems became unserviceable. Later, the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire. In spite of this, Flight Lieutenant Brassard was determined, if possible, to reach the target. After skilfully evading a fighter he went on to execute a good bombing attack and secure a photograph. In completing his mission successfully, this officer displayed high qualities of skill and tenacity. He set a very fine example.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Kenneth Orvil POWELL (Can/J. 36290), R.C.A.F., 429 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Powell is a skilful and resourceful pilot who has completed many sorties against the enemy, including numerous difficult mine-laying missions, requiring a high degree of accuracy. In March, 1945, this officer was detailed for a night attack on Cologne. Early on the outward flight one of his engines became unserviceable. Nevertheless, he continued to the target which he successfully attacked. On the return journey, a second engine failed. Despite this, Flight Lieutenant Powell succeeded in flying the aircraft back to base, where he executed a masterly landing. The keenness, efficiency and devotion to duty shown by this officer have been exceptional.

Flying Officer Henry Hugh COWAN (Can/J. 85095), R.C.A.F., 424 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has participated in numerous sorties against the enemy and has on all occasions pressed home his attacks. In March, 1945, he was detailed to attack Dortmund. On the outward journey one engine became unserviceable but he continued to the target and made a successful attack in the face of intense anti-aircraft fire. He afterwards flew safely to base. This officer has set a fine example of devotion to duty and his determination to make every sortie a success has won great praise.

Flying Officer John Lister MOULD (Can/J. 86694), R.C.A.F., 424 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has participated in a number of operational missions and has quickly shown the qualities of an efficient and determined captain. This was amply demonstrated one night in March,