

actively participating in the dangerous task. From November, 1944, to February, 1945, he took his turn with other officers in clearing Knocke Airfield of mines. This operation involved the clearance of over 10,000 mines, a large proportion being anti-personnel mines in a dangerous condition, lying in difficult ground. Flight Lieutenant Booth shared with his men the task of detecting, neutralizing and lifting the mines. By his zeal, energy and courage he has earned the respect and confidence of his flight and has done much to uphold the men's morale in spite of somewhat heavy casualties.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Horatio Alfred Cox (109177), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Cox has been continuously employed on Bomb Disposal duties since October, 1940. As a Flight Commander he took his flight to the Continent in September, 1944. His activities since that date have included the examination and disposal of large stocks of German munitions and Allied unexploded bombs abandoned by the enemy. Since October, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Cox has acted as Deputy Commanding Officer of a Squadron which has been responsible for clearing thousands of mines and booby traps from Knocke and Coxyde Airfields and at Blankenberghe. On many occasions he personally reconnoitred, breached and opened out unexplored mine panels, always sharing in the hazards involved. Whilst engaged on booby trap clearance at Blankenberghe he has, on several occasions, led inexperienced personnel to enable them to obtain the confidence so necessary in booby trap clearance. On three occasions since December, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Cox materially assisted in the rendering safe for disposal unexploded Flying Bomb Warheads required by the Air Ministry for research purposes. He has proved to be an outstandingly courageous, capable and reliable Bomb Disposal Officer.

*Air Ministry, 17th July, 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:—

*Distinguished Service Order.*

Wing Commander Leslie Fox, D.F.C. (36099), R.A.F., No. 203 Sqn.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, Wing Commander Fox has participated in a large number of operational missions. He has consistently shown a high degree of skill and courage, qualities which have been reflected in the fighting spirit of the squadron he commands. In March, 1945, Wing Commander Fox led the squadron in an attack against enemy shipping. A cargo vessel and another ship were hit by bombs and several smaller vessels were effectively machine-gunned. In April, 1945, this officer led his formation in an attack against two enemy vessels one of them being heavily armed. Despite much opposing fire the attack was pressed home to a successful conclusion. Wing Commander Fox's skilful leadership contributed materially to the success achieved.

Acting Wing Commander John Laurence Hillel BERLANDINA, D.F.C. (46778), R.A.F.O.

Since being awarded a bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross, Wing Commander Berlandina has participated in many sorties. Throughout these operations he has continued to display the highest qualities of skill and courage and has set a fine example to all. Towards the end of the fighting in the Italian theatre, Wing Commander Berlandina led formations of aircraft in attacks against various targets with great success. On one occasion the target was the pontoon bridge at Polesella. The objective was attacked with great determination and resulted in the destruction of the approaches to the bridge and to transport of certain ferry terminals nearby. Two days later this officer led an attack on Po river crossings in the Polesella-Guarda Veneta area. By his skilful leadership and exceptional determination, this officer played a good part in the successes obtained. He has set a magnificent example to all.

Squadron Leader Campbell Haliburton MUSSELLS (Can/C.1639), R.C.A.F., 405 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

In April, 1945, this officer piloted an aircraft in an attack against Leipzig. Just after making his

first run over the target, the aircraft was attacked by an enemy fighter and sustained serious damage. The rear turret and the starboard rudder were shot away. The port rudder was smashed and both elevators were badly damaged. The aircraft dived out of control. As Squadron Leader Mussells fought to regain control he found that the trimming controls were useless. Nevertheless, he succeeded in levelling out after considerable height had been lost. To keep the nose of the aircraft up the control column had to be lashed back. In circumstances of the greatest difficulty, Squadron Leader Mussells flew the crippled aircraft back to this country. After crossing the English coast, he ordered his crew to abandon the aircraft and, with the exception of the mid-upper gunner who was seriously wounded, they left by parachute. Squadron Leader Mussells flew on to the nearest airfield with his wounded comrade. With the control column still lashed back and without the aid of flaps, this officer showed superb skill in bringing the crippled aircraft down safely. Throughout a most trying experience this officer displayed the highest qualities of leadership, skill and courage. His example was outstanding.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Squadron Leader Harold Edward WALMSLEY, D.F.C. (139425), R.A.F.V.R., No. 350 Sqn.

This officer has completed many sorties since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and throughout has set a fine example of determination and devotion to duty. In air fighting, Squadron Leader Walmsley has been responsible for the destruction of 9 enemy aircraft and has also inflicted much damage on enemy transport despite heavy opposition. He has proved a most valuable asset to the squadron.

Squadron Leader Patrick Anthony WOMERSLEY, D.F.C. (90649), A.A.F., No. 18 Sqn.

Squadron Leader Womersley has completed much operational flying. He has displayed skill and courage of a high order and his determination to attack his targets with accuracy, despite heavy enemy opposition, has set a fine example. On one occasion when attacking the ferry terminals at Cavanella D'Adige, his aircraft was repeatedly hit by anti-aircraft fire. Undeterred, Squadron Leader Womersley pressed home his attack and successfully bombed his objective. His exceptional qualities of efficiency and keenness have been well in evidence throughout his tours of operational duty.

Flight Lieutenant Douglas Irving HALL, D.F.C. (Can/J.12193), R.C.A.F., No. 414 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Hall has displayed considerable skill and ability both in the air and on the ground. He has completed a large number of sorties, including many reconnaissances. On a tactical reconnaissance mission in May, 1945, he engaged a formation of enemy aircraft. In the ensuing combat, Flight Lieutenant Hall shot down 3 Focke Wulf 190s and a Messerschmitt 108 and damaged two others. His example of keenness and determination has set a high standard to all members of his squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander Frederick George PAISEY (78753), R.A.F.V.R., No. 354 Sqn.

This officer has displayed great skill and courage in attacks on enemy shipping. He has invariably attacked his targets at low level and has been responsible for the destruction of two of the six enemy ships which have been sunk by the squadron. His devotion to duty has been unflinching.

Flight Lieutenant Henry Joliffe BROWN (127272), R.A.F.V.R. No. 18 Sqn.

As navigator, this officer has participated in a large number of sorties, many of which were over difficult terrain and in adverse weather. Throughout, his technical skill has been of the highest standard and his ability, coupled with great keenness and determination have contributed materially to the successes obtained. On one occasion, in March, 1945, his aircraft was repeatedly hit by anti-aircraft fire. Coolly and skilfully, Flight Lieutenant Brown continued to give his usual able directions on the bombing run and a successful attack was made. His courage and devotion to duty have set a fine example.