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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 Service Order.

Flying Officer Brian Michael RIDGWAY (118082), R.A.F.V.R., 240 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Alexander SMITH (Aus.421407), R.A.A.F., 240 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1455600 Flight Sergeant Albert Edward SELLARS, R.A.F.V.R., 240 Sqn.

As captain, navigator and second pilot of aircraft respectively, these officers and this airman have completed many operational missions. The results obtained are a splendid testimony to their outstanding qualities of skill, fortitude and determination. On one occasion they successfully completed a sortie in the face of extremely adverse weather. At one stage of the flight a severe tropical storm was encountered. Turbulent conditions and fierce rain made the aircraft almost uncontrollable at times, and frequent alterations in course had to be made. Nevertheless, Flying Officer Ridgway well supported by Flight Lieutenant Smith and Flight Sergeant Sellars, flew back to base and effected a safe landing.

Distinguished Service Order.

Flying Officer Keith Vernon PANTER (162949), R.A.F.V.R.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties against a wide variety of targets. In attacks on the enemy's railway system, he has been responsible for the destruction of three locomotives. On one occasion he attacked an industrial building south of Gournay setting it on fire. In February, 1945, Flying Officer Panter took part in an attack on various enemy airfields. Whilst attacking the airfield at Landau his aircraft was engaged by a superior force of enemy fighters and sustained very severe damage. A little later the aircraft was hit by fire from the ground defences. It became necessary to abandon the aircraft. The navigator had apparently been hit and was dazed. In most difficult circumstances Flying Officer Panter coolly assisted his comrade to leave the aircraft before jumping himself. Flying Officer Panter came down safely in enemy country and was captured. He was released when Frankfurt was captured by the allies. On this occasion his

example of courage and resolution were well in keeping with that which he had shown throughout his tour of operational duty.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Philippe Elwyn ETIENNE (Can/J.15118), R.C.A.F., No. 406 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant William Aaron BOAK (Can/J.13413), R.C.A.F., No. 406 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As pilot and navigator respectively these officers have participated in many sorties. They have consistently displayed a high standard of skill and co-operation and have set a fine example of devotion to duty. In air fighting Flight Lieutenants Etienne and Boak have destroyed 4 enemy aircraft at night.

Flight Lieutenant Frederick Morgan JARMAN (Aus. 420951), R.A.A.F., No. 161 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Jarman has participated in many sorties as wireless operator/air. He has at all times shown great keenness and skill and his courage has been of the highest order. One night in February, 1945, this officer and his crew were forced to leave the aircraft by parachute. The aircraft crashed with one crew member trapped inside. Displaying great coolness this officer returned to the scene of the crash in an endeavour to try to release his trapped comrade. Unfortunately his courageous attempts were unsuccessful and he received severe burns. His example has been most praiseworthy.

Flight Lieutenant Vernal Garnet SHAIL (Can/J.20663), R.C.A.F., No. 406 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As navigator, Flight Lieutenant Shail has participated in many day and night sorties over enemy territory. He has proved himself to be a navigator of exceptional ability and has consistently displayed a high degree of courage and determination. As a result of his outstanding qualities, this officer has materially assisted his pilot in the destruction of six enemy aircraft, inflicting damage on numerous others. His example has been most praiseworthy.

Flight Lieutenant Michael John STANLEY (130790), R.A.F.V.R.

This officer has completed much operational flying at night. He has participated in a large number of patrols including many against the flying bomb raids on this country. During the course of his tour of duty, he has assisted his pilot in the destruction of three enemy aircraft and 36 flying bombs. The technical skill and great enthusiasm of Flight Lieutenant Stanley have made him an invaluable member of his squadron.