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*Air Ministry, 31st 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.*

Acting Squadron Leader Peter Erskine VAUGHAN-FOWLER, D.F.C. (110008), R.A.F.V.R., 213 Sqn.

This officer is a skilful and courageous pilot. He has completed a very large number of sorties against a variety of targets and his determination and great keenness have materially assisted his squadron in maintaining their high standard of morale. Despite extremely adverse weather and damage to his aircraft, Squadron Leader Vaughan-Fowler has made many attacks against mechanical transport vehicles, locomotives and shipping, with a high degree of success. Much damage was inflicted on the enemy. This officer is a fine leader whose example has been well reflected in the operational efficiency of the squadron he commands.

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Major Gordon Benjamin LIPAWSKY, D.F.C. (103347V), S.A.A.F., 1 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

As squadron commander this officer has set a fine example of devotion to duty. He has completed many sorties since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and has obtained much success. In April, 1945, Major Lipawsky led a formation of aircraft in an attack against important enemy buildings North East of Alfonsini. Despite anti-aircraft fire, the attack was pressed home to a successful conclusion. The main building was completely destroyed. During the final stages of the Italian campaign his squadron achieved excellent results against enemy mechanical transport, locomotives, trucks and barges. These successes were a fine tribute to his leadership and personal example.

Major Hendrik Oswald Meyer ODENDAAL, D.F.C. (103164V), S.A.A.F., 5 Sqn.

Major Odendaal has led his squadron on many sorties during which much damage has been inflicted on the enemy. Railway bridges, locomotives, harbour installations and shipping have been most effectively attacked. In April, 1945, this officer led a section of aircraft on an armed reconnaissance in Yugoslavia. During the course of this operation his aircraft was shot down. Evading capture he returned to his unit some six weeks later after an arduous and dangerous journey. His example of courage, keenness and devotion to duty have been an inspiration to all members of his squadron.

Flight Lieutenant John Dickie YOUNIE, D.F.C. (119103), R.A.F.V.R., 249 Sqn.

This officer has participated in a large number of varied sorties. Many of his attacks have been made in adverse weather and over difficult terrain. Nevertheless he has consistently pressed home his attacks with accuracy and determination. In April, 1945, Flight Lieutenant Younie led a section of aircraft in an attack on an island observation post. Despite poor visibility, he located the post and after obtaining hits with his bombs, he remained over the target assisting the other pilots. On numerous occasions he has led his squadron in attacks against enemy mechanical transport and locomotives inflicting much damage despite intense opposition. Flight Lieutenant Younie has consistently displayed a high standard of keenness and courage and has set a fine example of devotion to duty.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Major Jacobus Ludewicus VAN EYSEN (102760V), S.A.A.F., 31 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed numerous sorties against a variety of heavily defended targets, including minelaying missions in the Danube. One night in August, 1944, he was engaged on a supply dropping mission in occupied territory. When over the target area his aircraft was hit and set on fire by anti-aircraft fire. Three engines were rendered useless. Two of his gunners were killed and the second pilot seriously wounded. The aircraft was rapidly losing height. Nevertheless this courageous pilot successfully completed his task. Under great difficulties he restarted one of the disabled engines and set course for friendly territory. However, finding it impossible to maintain control of the aircraft he ordered the surviving members of his crew to leave by parachute, following them a few minutes later. He landed safely and evading capture made his way to friendly territory. Since returning to his squadron Major Van Eysen has completed several successful sorties. His cool courage, efficiency and fine leadership are worthy of the highest praise.

Flight Lieutenant Anthony John Adrian BRYAN (Can/J.21120), R.C.A.F., 417 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer is a highly skilled and courageous pilot. He has completed a large number of operational missions and on numerous occasions has led a formation of aircraft in attacks against enemy mechanical transport, guns and armoured vehicles inflicting much damage. Throughout Flight Lieutenant Bryan has displayed a high degree of efficiency and keenness setting a fine example to all. His determination to make every sortie a success is particularly noteworthy.

Captain Neville Vernon COATS (205526V), S.A.A.F., 31 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Captain Coats has participated in a large number of sorties many of which were over difficult terrain and in adverse weather. Throughout his skill and courage have been of the highest standard and he has invariably pressed home his attacks with outstanding success. On one occasion, despite intense enemy opposition, he successfully completed a 1,900 mile round flight to carry out a supply dropping mission over enemy held territory. The following night he completed a similar hazardous journey. The keenness and devotion to duty of this officer have been unflinching.

Captain Eustace Lloyd GARSON (47216V), S.A.A.F., 30 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Throughout three tours of operational duty this officer has displayed outstanding skill and keenness. He has completed many long and hazardous sorties from various theatres of war as leading flight navigator, and his efficiency has been an important factor in the success of many of the operations in which he has taken part. On one occasion in April, 1945, Captain Garson led a successful attack on enemy transport and tanks massing to cross the river Po at Cousori. Despite heavy anti-aircraft fire many hits were obtained. This officer has shown great enthusiasm and devotion to duty and has proved himself a valuable asset to his squadron.

Captain Henry Paul WILES (8899V), S.A.A.F., 2 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has displayed a high degree of skill and courage in air operations. He has participated in a large number of sorties and throughout has pressed home his attacks with great determination. In harassing attacks on enemy transport Captain Wiles has been responsible for the destruction of many mechanical vehicles. On one occasion in March, 1945, this officer led an attack against a sugar refinery near Migliarino. Intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire was encountered, but due to the fine leadership and ability of Captain Wiles, the target was successfully bombed. This officer has set a fine example of devotion to duty and coolness in the face of the enemy and has done much to build up and maintain the high standard of his squadron.

Lieutenant William Adams DOWDEN (205698V), S.A.A.F., 1 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Lieutenant Dowden has completed many sorties during which much success has been obtained. He

has set an outstanding example of skill and keenness and has inflicted much material damage on the enemy. In March, 1945, he led a formation of aircraft in an attack against an important enemy building near Solarolo. He scored two direct hits and the building was left in flames. Lieutenant Dowden then continued on a low level reconnaissance at Polesella. The area was very heavily defended and his aircraft was hit and burst into flames. The aircraft became uncontrollable and this officer was forced to leave by parachute. He had a successful landing but was unable to evade capture. His determination, courage and devotion to duty have been an inspiration to all.

Lieutenant Robert Edmund DE JONGH (206971V), S.A.A.F., 1 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has displayed the highest standard of efficiency and courage. He has completed a very large number of sorties including many reconnaissances. In April, 1945, Lieutenant de Jongh was leading a formation of aircraft on a strafing reconnaissance. A convoy of motor transport was observed in the Montebelluno area. Despite adverse weather and heavy enemy opposition, this officer led the formation into attack. Twelve of the enemy vehicles were subsequently destroyed and a further three damaged. In air fighting Lieutenant de Jongh has been responsible for the destruction of at least one enemy fighter and has damaged others.

#### *Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1458458 Flight Sergeant Walter Melvin MONKMAN, R.A.F.V.R., 249 Sqn.

Flight Sergeant Monkman has participated in many sorties during which much success has been obtained. Numerous locomotives, railway trucks, marshalling yards and gun positions have been most effectively attacked. On one occasion in March, 1945, Flight Sergeant Monkman attacked an ammunition train near Derventa. As he flew over the waggons they exploded beneath his aircraft setting it on fire. Nevertheless, this airman flew on in the direction of partisan held country. Only when he was beyond enemy territory, did he leave his aircraft by parachute. This action was typical of the coolness and courage shown throughout his tour of operational duty.

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