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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.