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Air Ministry, 28th August, 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 Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Rex Hayward FLETCHER (66586), R.A.F.V.R., 261 Sqn.

Squadron Leader Fletcher has completed a very large number of sorties including many attacks in support of our ground forces. He has displayed outstanding enthusiasm and courage and the results achieved have been of the highest standard. His keenness to engage the enemy at all times has been an inspiration to all.

Acting Squadron Leader John Colin PARRY (114461), R.A.F.V.R., 240 Sqn.

Squadron Leader Parry has completed many operations as pilot and captain of aircraft. On a recent occasion, he was detailed at very short notice, to execute a sortie involving a flight over controlled territory and surrounded closely by the enemy. This officer skilfully planned, supervised and briefed the crews for the operation. He then flew the leading aircraft. The operation was completely successful and reflects the greatest credit on the skill and leadership shown by Squadron Leader Parry. It is mainly due to his untiring and selfless work and the outstanding care he applies to the execution of his task that his flight has achieved its present splendid record.

Acting Squadron Leader Raymond Alexander WEIR (119839), R.A.F.V.R., 146 Sqn.

As squadron commander, this officer has displayed outstanding qualities of leadership, courage and determination. He has participated in a large number of sorties involving attacks against a variety of targets in support of our ground forces. The many successes attained by his squadron are an excellent tribute to his ability and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Eric Stewart ALEXANDER (160703), R.A.F.V.R., 60 Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties including many operations in support of our ground forces. He has at all times displayed a high standard of leadership and navigation which have contributed in a large measure to the many successes of the squadron.

Air Ministry, 28th August, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following Awards:—

Military Cross.

Flight Lieutenant George Henry AVERY (C.12166), Royal Canadian Air Force, attached 5th Infantry Brigade, 2nd British Division, 33rd Indian Corps, Burma.

Flight Lieutenant Avery commanded No. 4 Section S.R.U. prior to and during the operation resulting in the establishment of a bridgehead on the bank of the Irrawaddy River in the Myittha area. He made several reconnaissances, by night and in view of the enemy, and gathered valuable information necessary for the furtherance of the operations. On the night of 24th-25th February, 1945, Flight Lieutenant Avery led the first assault party across the river, and guided craft to the landing beaches, under heavy fire. His work was arduous and dangerous, but his remarkable achievements contributed greatly to the successful establishment of the vital bridgehead through which, later, the whole division passed.

Military Medal.

541279 Sergeant Patrick COLGAN, Royal Air Force, attached 5th Infantry Brigade, 2nd British Division, 33rd Indian Corps, Burma.

Prior to the establishment of a bridgehead on the bank of the Irrawaddy River at Myittha, Sergeant Colgan made several reconnaissances in full view of the enemy and obtained valuable information. He materially assisted the actual establishment of the bridgehead by cutting barbed wire, under heavy enemy fire, thus enabling assault craft to beach. When urgent medical supplies were needed Sergeant Colgan swam the river for them. He also assisted in ferrying wounded to safety. Sergeant Colgan's display of courage and effort was inspiring and contributed to the success of the action.

Air Ministry, 28th August, 1945.

The KING has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned decorations conferred upon the personnel indicated, in recognition