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Air Ministry, 25th September, 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.

Flight Lieutenant Victor Thomas DAVIS (Aus. 421637), R.A.A.F., 160 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Davis has completed a large number of operational missions and has invariably displayed the highest standard of skill and resolution. On one occasion in July, 1945, he successfully executed a mission involving a flight to a target many hundreds of miles from his base. The target was small and difficult to locate, but Flight Lieutenant Davis displaying the greatest perseverance and determination, executed his mission with success. His devotion to duty has been outstanding.

Flight Lieutenant Dennis Holstead TURNBULL (132081), R.A.F.V.R., 240 Sqn.

This officer has flown on many operational missions, including numerous hazardous night sorties over enemy controlled territory. On one occasion, in March, 1945, he was captain of an aircraft detailed to make a landing on the sea by moonlight to deliver supplies. On reaching the target area it was found that the water was rough and affected by a heavy swell. Despite this, Flight Lieutenant Turnbull brought his aircraft down on to the water and in circumstances of extreme difficulty he finally brought it to rest. After successfully completing his mission, he experienced great difficulty in taking-off. After several attempts, involving serious damage to the hull of the aircraft, Flight Lieutenant Turnbull successfully took-off again and course was set for base. His skill and determination under trying circumstances has set a magnificent example to the rest of his squadron.

Flying Officer Kenneth Askin RUTHERFORD (N.Z. 404469), R.N.Z.A.F., 17 Sqn.

Flying Officer Rutherford has completed a very large number of sorties including attacks against river craft, rolling stock, buildings and installations. On one occasion, he engaged a formation of enemy fighters who were attacking our ground forces. He dispersed them and harried them for over 60 miles, only breaking off the engagement when running short of petrol. The skill and gallantry of this officer have been an inspiration to his fellow pilots.

Flying Officer Henry John WEEDEN (Can. J. 26419), R.C.A.F., 8 Sqn.

Flying Officer Weeden has completed much operational flying as navigator and has displayed

outstanding enthusiasm and courage. Despite adverse weather and difficult navigational conditions, his skill and tenacity of purpose have contributed in a large measure to the successes achieved.

Flying Officer Charles William WHEELER (170135), R.A.F.V.R., 99 Sqn.

On the 15th June, 1945, this officer was detailed to attack an enemy tanker off Kol Samoi Island. In spite of extremely adverse weather Flying Officer Wheeler located the target which was being escorted by two naval vessels. Nevertheless, he dived to an extremely low level in the face of considerable anti-aircraft fire to make his attack. The aircraft was repeatedly hit and sustained damage to the controls and the hydraulic system. One engine was put out of action and another was badly affected. Despite this, Flying Officer Wheeler retained control. With difficulty he regained height sufficiently to clear the hilly terrain which had to be crossed on the flight home. By the time an airfield was reached the aircraft was down to 500 feet. Flying Officer Wheeler brought the badly damaged aircraft down safely but, as he touched the ground, the undercarriage collapsed and the aircraft swung violently to port. With great skill, Flying Officer Wheeler brought the aircraft to rest. A fire had started on the flight deck but all the crew with the exception of the flight engineer, who was trapped, got clear. Without thought for his own welfare, Flying Officer Wheeler struggled hard to release his comrade. Unfortunately, the fire spread rapidly and he was forced to desist. This officer displayed great skill and courage in most harassing circumstances.

Air Ministry, 25th September, 1945.

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

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officers.

Harry John FARQUHAR (162208), R.A.F.V.R., 142 Sqn.

Thomas Selskar FENNING (54967), R.A.F., 189 Sqn.
David Duncan Skene FERGUSON (179652), R.A.F.V.R., 550 Sqn.

James Norman FERGUSON (152579), R.A.F.V.R., 90 Sqn.

Robert Roy FIELDER (177013), R.A.F.V.R., 640 Sqn.

Douglas Alexander FINDLAY (169026), R.A.F.V.R., 10 Sqn.

David Benjamin FRANCIS (154401), R.A.F.V.R., 460 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.