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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:—

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander Frederick Wace SNELL, D.F.C. (39349), R.A.F.O., 82 Sqn.

Since the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, Wing Commander Snell has completed many sorties, including close support operations and low-level attacks on bridges and oil installations. He has obtained many excellent and valuable photographs and his work has at all times been characterised by sound organisation, enterprise and determination. The personal contribution made by this officer towards the air support given to our ground forces in their advance from Imphal to the capture of Rangoon, is a very outstanding and notable one.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant George Gellateby MCKENDRICK (131091), R.A.F.V.R., 209 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1218612 Flight Sergeant Norman THORPE, R.A.F.V.R., 209 Sqn.

This officer and airman were pilot and front gunner in a Sunderland aircraft which attacked two small enemy vessels in August, 1945. In spite of intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire from both vessels, Flight Lieutenant McKendrick went into the attack at low level. Flight Sergeant Thorpe used his guns most effectively and, due largely to his accurate shooting, both the vessels were set on fire. The Sunderland was hit by the enemy's bullets and became difficult to control. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant McKendrick flew safely to base. This pilot and his gunner displayed a high degree of skill and co-operation in this spirited action.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Harold Whittier PEARSON (Can/C.26196), R.C.A.F., 436 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Warrant Officer Douglas George PARKER (Can/R.146583), R.C.A.F., 436 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Pearson and Warrant Officer Parker were pilots of a transport squadron which was engaged in close support operations in the Burma theatre. Early in August, 1945, they were detailed to operate as a detachment from Toungoo in conveying ammunition and supplies

to British ground forces engaged in guerilla warfare in the Shan Hills. These forces, fighting in small groups in purely defensive positions, surrounded by the enemy, were dependent entirely upon the ammunition and supplies conveyed and dropped to them by Flight Lieutenant Pearson and Warrant Officer Parker. Although faced with the greatest difficulties, unfamiliar with the dangerous terrain and in a period of the worst weather conditions, these pilots carried their tasks to a successful completion after 22 days of hazardous operations. Their superb skill and determination set an example of the highest order.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Donald Eric YEOMANS (175272), R.A.F.V.R., 209 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1336000 Flight Sergeant Richard George MEALE, R.A.F.V.R., 209 Sqn.

In August, 1945, this officer and airman as pilot and front gunner respectively of a Sunderland aircraft, were engaged on an armed reconnaissance when they sighted an enemy tug and two barges. Flying Officer Yeomans executed two determined and accurate attacks while Flight Sergeant Meale swept the decks of the vessels with machine-gun fire. As a result of their excellent work and co-operation, two of the vessels were destroyed and the third one badly damaged. The success of this and other sorties is the result of a high standard of efficiency and long training to which they have applied themselves so enthusiastically and diligently in the past.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1605638 Flight Sergeant Laurence Arthur HOWES, R.A.F.V.R.

Flight Sergeant Howes has displayed outstanding bravery and devotion to duty. At Toungoo, in June, 1945, he volunteered to drop from his light aircraft, a supply of petrol and oil to a column who were in vital need of these supplies to enable them to keep open their communications. Although the weather was extremely bad and dusk was advancing, this airman took off. Flying very low and at slowest speed over hilly jungle country held by the enemy, Flight Sergeant Howes located the column and dropped them sufficient stores for the night. He returned to his landing ground just as it was darkening and hurricane lamps had to be put out for his landing. His courageous act undoubtedly helped in the success of the column.