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ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:—

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander Ronald BERRY, D.F.C. (78538), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

In the campaign in North Africa, this officer participated in a large number of sorties and displayed great skill and leadership. In addition he has displayed excellent organising ability which has contributed materially to the success of the wing he commands. Wing Commander Berry has destroyed 17 enemy aircraft.

Acting Squadron Leader Colin Falkland GRAY, D.F.C. (41844), No. 81 Squadron.

Squadron Leader Gray is a first class fighter, whose personal example has fostered a fine fighting spirit in the squadron. He has taken part in many sorties in operations in North Africa and has destroyed 5 enemy aircraft, bringing his total victories to at least 21. His gallant leadership has been inspiring.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader George Urquhart Hill, D.F.C. (Can/C.1075), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 111 Squadron.

This officer has led the squadron with great success and, since early April, 1943, has destroyed five enemy aircraft. Early in May, 1943, he led his formation in an operation off the Tunisian coast. During the flight a superior force of enemy fighters was engaged. In the ensuing combats, 7 enemy aircraft were destroyed without loss, 2 of them by Squadron Leader Hill. This officer is a courageous and skilful fighter.

Acting Squadron Leader John Stuart TAYLOR, D.F.C. (60090), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 601 Squadron.

This officer's high qualities of leadership and efficiency have contributed materially to the high standard of operational efficiency of the squadron he commands. He has at all times displayed the greatest keenness to engage the enemy and has destroyed 11 enemy aircraft.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Oliver Donald Brittain COE (43094), No. 241 Squadron.

In operations in North Africa this officer led the squadron on many bombing missions. One

day in March, 1943, he participated in 2 attacks against Maknassy, where enemy positions were successfully bombed despite poor visibility. Squadron Leader Coe has invariably displayed skill and courage of a high order.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Cyril Harley Sergeant KIRKUS (45600), No. 241 Squadron.

In the campaign in North Africa, this officer participated in numerous bombing and reconnaissance sorties, rendering valuable service. He has at all times displayed great skill and keenness.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Edward Graham NICHOLL (111707), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 241 Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties and has led the squadron with great skill and determination. On 1 occasion in March, 1943, during a bombing mission near Medjez, his aircraft was shot down between the opposing lines. Flight Lieutenant Nicholl succeeded in re-joining his squadron the same afternoon and expressed a keen desire to resume flying duties immediately. His courageous example has been inspiring.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Francis Peter MARSH (Can/J.15643), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 426 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Flying Officer Donald Wallace SIMPSON (Can/J. 11110), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 426 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in April, 1943, these officers were wireless operator and navigator respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Duisburg. When nearing the target area the bomber was engaged by an enemy fighter and sustained severe damage. On the return flight Flying Officer Simpson displayed exceptional navigational ability in most difficult circumstances and Flight Lieutenant Marsh, who skilfully obtained bearings, rendered him valuable assistance. Both these members of aircraft crew displayed great coolness and skill in a perilous situation.

Aus. 400297 Acting Flight Lieutenant Egbert Campbell SMITH, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 361 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Smith has completed a very large number of hours flying on operations. He has always displayed great keenness and determination, setting a fine example. On 2 successive days recently, he executed attacks on U-boats. On the latter of these occasions a photograph taken during the operation showed debris and several of the crew in the water.