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Air Ministry, 8th September, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to confer the VICTORIA CROSS on the under-mentioned officer in recognition of most conspicuous bravery:—

Wing Commander Geoffrey Leonard CHESHIRE, D.S.O., D.F.C. (72021), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, 617 Squadron.

This officer began his operational career in June, 1940. Against strongly-defended targets he soon displayed the courage and determination of an exceptional leader. He was always ready to accept extra risks to ensure success. Defying the formidable Ruhr defences, he frequently released his bombs from below 2,000 feet. Over Cologne in November, 1940, a shell burst inside his aircraft, blowing out one side and starting a fire; undeterred, he went on to bomb his target. About this time, he carried out a number of convoy patrols in addition to his bombing missions.

At the end of his first tour of operational duty in January, 1941, he immediately volunteered for a second. Again, he pressed home his attacks with the utmost gallantry. Berlin, Bremen, Cologne, Duisberg, Essen and Kiel were among the heavily-defended targets which he attacked. When he was posted for instructional duties in January, 1942, he undertook four more operational missions.

He started a third operational tour in August, 1942, when he was given command of a squadron. He led the squadron with outstanding skill on a number of missions before being appointed in March, 1943, as a station commander.

In October, 1943, he undertook a fourth operational tour, relinquishing the rank of group captain at his own request so that he could again take part in operations. He immediately set to work as the pioneer of a new method of marking enemy targets involving very low flying. In June, 1944, when marking a target in the harbour at Le Havre in broad daylight and without cloud

cover, he dived well below the range of the light batteries before releasing his marker-bombs, and he came very near to being destroyed by the strong barrage which concentrated on him.

During his fourth tour which ended in July, 1944, Wing Commander Cheshire led his squadron personally on every occasion, always undertaking the most dangerous and difficult task of marking the target alone from a low level in the face of strong defences.

Wing Commander Cheshire's cold and calculated acceptance of risks is exemplified by his conduct in an attack on Munich in April, 1944. This was an experimental attack to test out the new method of target marking at low level against a heavily-defended target situated deep in Reich territory. Munich was selected, at Wing Commander Cheshire's request, because of the formidable nature of its light anti-aircraft and searchlight defences. He was obliged to follow, in bad weather, a direct route which took him over the defences of Augsburg and thereafter he was continuously under fire. As he reached the target, flares were being released by our high-flying aircraft. He was illuminated from above and below. All guns within range opened fire on him. Diving to 700 feet, he dropped his markers with great precision and began to climb away. So blinding were the searchlights that he almost lost control. He then flew over the city at 1,000 feet to assess the accuracy of his work and direct other aircraft. His own was badly hit by shell fragments but he continued to fly over the target area until he was satisfied that he had done all in his power to ensure success. Eventually, when he set course for base, the task of disengaging himself from the defences proved even more hazardous than the approach. For a full twelve minutes after leaving the target area he was under withering fire but he came safely through.

Wing Commander Cheshire has now completed a total of 100 missions. In four years of fighting against the bitterest opposition he has maintained a record of outstanding

personal achievement, placing himself invariably in the forefront of the battle. What he did in the Munich operation was typical of the careful planning, brilliant execution and contempt for danger which has established for Wing Commander Cheshire a reputation second to none in Bomber Command.

Air Ministry, 8th September, 1944.

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 Flight Lieutenant Harold Allen WALKER, D.F.C. (Can/J.16644), R.C.A.F., 1138 Sqn.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, this officer has completed many sorties, most of which have demanded a high degree of skill and courage. The successes obtained are a fine tribute to his fine fighting spirit and unflinching devotion to duty.

Distinguished Service Order.

Flight Lieutenant Frank Leslie DODD, A.F.C. (89766), R.A.F.V.R., 544 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1339737 Flight Sergeant Eric HILL, R.A.F.V.R., 544 Sqn.

As pilot and observer respectively this officer and airman have completed many sorties and have displayed a high standard of skill and devotion to duty. In July, 1944, they completed a reconnaissance of many hours duration in the face of extremely adverse weather. During the operation and, although much anti-aircraft fire was directed at their aircraft, they obtained valuable information. Three days later Flight Lieutenant Dodd and Flight Sergeant Hill successfully completed another notable reconnaissance, again securing valuable information. This officer and airman have displayed courage and fortitude of a high order.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander Patrick Henry LEE (39796), R.A.F.O.

This officer has completed much operational flying and has rendered immense service. He is a first class leader, whose tactical ability and determination have contributed in good measure to the success of the formations he commands. Wing Commander Lee has destroyed 4 enemy aircraft.

Squadron Leader Ronald Noel Hamilton COURTNEY (70852), R.A.F.O., 113 Sqn.

Squadron Leader Courtney has had a distinguished operational career. He has completed many sorties of a hazardous nature, often in most adverse weather. He has taken a prominent part in the squadron's assignments in the recent operations in the Imphal Valley and his splendid leadership and great skill have contributed materially to the successes obtained. He has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft.

Squadron Leader Henry Cartwright RANDALL (33444), R.A.F., 248 Sqn.

This officer has taken part in a very large number of varied sorties. In July, 1944, Squadron Leader Randall played a worthy part in a successful attack on 2 minesweepers. Some days later he participated in an attack on 4 armed trawlers. In spite of considerable anti-aircraft fire, Squadron Leader Randall pressed home his attack with great determination from mast height. This officer has set a fine example of courage and devotion to duty.

Acting Squadron Leader Denis John Thomas SHARP (N.Z.2145), R.N.Z.A.F., 11 Sqn.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties, many of them against dangerous and difficult targets. He has displayed a high degree of skill and courage, setting an example which has been reflected in the operational efficiency of the Squadron. He has destroyed 3 enemy aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Gordon Herbert THRING (Can/J.7913), R.C.A.F., 620 Sqn.

In air operations this officer has displayed courage, determination and devotion to duty of a very high order.

Flight Lieutenant Rodney Graham WILLIAMS (110310), R.A.F.V.R., No. 7 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Williams has completed many sorties. As captain he was detailed to make a daylight attack on a target in the Paris area in July, 1944. On approaching the target the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and sustained severe damage. Two engines were affected, whilst the cockpit and the fuselage on the starboard side were damaged; the hydraulic gear was also affected, causing the undercarriage to drop to the down position. The aircraft gradually lost height but Flight Lieutenant Williams held resolutely to a homeward course and finally reached an airfield where he executed a masterly landing. This officer displayed great skill and tenacity in very difficult circumstances.

Flight Lieutenant Alistair Forbes WILSON (118050), R.A.F.V.R., 154 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Wilson has displayed great skill and courage in his attacks on the enemy. He has participated in very many varied sorties and has pressed home his attacks with the greatest determination. In air fighting, Flight Lieutenant Wilson has destroyed 5 enemy aircraft.

Flying Officer Henry Levi BARKER (158244), R.A.F.V.R., 218 Sqn.

This officer has participated in many sorties during which he has attacked a wide variety of well defended targets. He is a most efficient and devoted member of aircraft crew and his skill as bomb aimer has been reflected in the successes obtained. He has at all times displayed commendable keenness and determination.

Flying Officer George Herbert DENNIS (149329), R.A.F.V.R., 218 Sqn.

Flying Officer Dennis has taken part in many sorties, a large number of which have been against strongly defended targets in Germany. He is a navigator of high merit and his excellent work has contributed materially to the successes achieved. His example of keenness and devotion to duty has been worthy of great praise.

Pilot Officer Samuel Richard MORRISON (Can/J.85734), R.C.A.F., 408 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed 2 tours of operations in the role of rear gunner and has displayed great coolness and skill. On several occasions his vigilance and well directed combat manoeuvres have enabled his pilot to evade enemy fighters. He has proved himself to be a brave and devoted member of aircraft crew.

Warrant Officer Walter Gordon FORSBERG (Can/R.107547), R.C.A.F., 428 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has completed very many sorties involving attacks on a wide range of targets in Germany and Northern France; he has also completed numerous minelaying operations. He is an outstanding captain whose skill, determination and devotion to duty have set a fine example.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1175818 Flight Sergeant Frank DALLMAN, R.A.F.V.R., 218 Sqn.

This airman has at all times displayed great enthusiasm and devotion to duty. He has flown as air gunner against many of the most heavily defended targets in Germany. On one occasion when over Berlin, his aircraft was engaged by a fighter. During the encounter, Flight Sergeant Dallman was wounded in the leg. Despite this, he continued to engage the attacker which he finally struck with a well placed burst of fire. The enemy aircraft caught fire and fell to the ground.

Aus.421012 Flight Sergeant Leslie John GILBERT, R.A.A.F., 299 Sqn.

Flight Sergeant Gilbert was pilot and captain of an aircraft detailed for an operational mission one night in May, 1944. Shortly after reaching the enemy coast one of the engines became unserviceable. Despite this, Flight Sergeant Gilbert persisted in his mission which he successfully completed in the face of many difficulties. His appreciation of the responsibilities entrusted to him and his unswerving devotion to duty set a fine example.

1420245 Flight Sergeant Cecil David WILLIAMS, R.A.F.V.R., 514 Sqn.

Flight Sergeant Williams has participated in many sorties as navigator and has displayed skill and devotion to duty of a high order. On one occasion over enemy territory his aircraft was severely damaged in an encounter with a fighter.

In spite of this the pilot flew to an airfield to which he was guided by Flight Sergeant Williams with his usual skill. Two engines were out of action and a third ceased to function as the approach to land was made. The aircraft crashed and Flight Sergeant Williams was severely injured. Since his recovery this resolute airman has completed numerous sorties.

Air Ministry, 8th September, 1944.

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

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander.

James WALLACE, D.F.C. (40868), R.A.F.O., No. 13 Sqn.

Acting Squadron Leaders.

James Hardie BROWN, D.F.C. (43955), R.A.F., No. 6 Sqn.

Harry HOPKINSON (118043), R.A.F.V.R., No. 253 Sqn.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander.

Lionel Edward LEON, D.F.C. (88409), R.A.F.V.R., No. 55 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant.

Leonard Arthur FIELDHOUSE, D.F.C. (109081), R.A.F.V.R., No. 150 Sqn.

Flying Officer.

Neil Dudley COX, D.F.C. (124417), R.A.F.V.R., No. 39 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leaders.

James Richard Abe BAILEY (74325), R.A.F.V.R., No. 600 Sqn.

William Desmond BOXWELL (42555), R.A.F.O., No. 150 Sqn.

Leslie Leetall HARLAND (129961), R.A.F.V.R., No. 55 Sqn.

Donal Rock WEST (42087), R.A.F.O., No. 256 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenants.

Charles Brand BLACK (129776), R.A.F.V.R. No. 6 Sqn.

Richard BOOTHMAN (67085), R.A.F.V.R.

Robin Harry LANGDON-DAVIES (67060), R.A.F.V.R., No. 6 Sqn.

Frederick John NICOLL (120774), R.A.F.V.R., No. 6 Sqn.

Donald Sidney PINKS (122235), R.A.F.V.R., No. 255 Sqn.

Alan George ROBINSON (99315), R.A.F.V.R., No. 55 Sqn.

James WOOLER (115319), R.A.F.V.R., No. 145 Sqn.

Flying Officers.

Tom Everard JOHNSON (136915), R.A.F.V.R., No. 255 Sqn.

Charles Frederick James WATTS, A.F.C. (52540), R.A.F., No. 104 Sqn.

Pilot Officers.

David William Edward ALLUM (175918), R.A.F.V.R., No. 150 Sqn.

Maurice NOBLE (177261), R.A.F.V.R., No. 255 Sqn.

Warrant Officers.

Ernest Dodds BOYD (1204706), R.A.F.V.R., No. 18 Sqn.

Jack Stephen SIMMONS (1314703), R.A.F.V.R., No. 249 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Flight Sergeants.

1436389 John HORTON, R.A.F.V.R., No. 18 Sqn.

100237 Hedley Robert LYLE, R.A.F.V.R., No. 6 Sqn.

1425267 Thomas William WALTERS, R.A.F.V.R. No. 18 Sqn.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader.

Roy Trevor HUDSON, D.F.C. (Aus.402356), No. 450 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant.

Alexander Mons YELLAND (Aus.401181), No. 680 Sqn.

Acting Flight Lieutenant.

Ronald Manning TURNER (Aus.413933), No. 150 Sqn.

Flying Officers.

Bruce Albert BRETHERTON (Aus.401891), No. 255 Sqn.

Richard Walter LEWIS (Aus.418438), No. 37 Sqn.

James Samuel Gordon MURPHY (Aus.423307), No. 104 Sqn.

Max Edward THOMPSON (Aus.416902), No. 150 Sqn.

Pilot Officer.

Eric Jack MATTINGLEY (Aus.409931), No. 150 Sqn.

Warrant Officer.

William Kay PATERSON (Aus.406536), No. 39 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Sergeant.

Aus.420414 Albert Granville Frank WEATHERSTONE, No. 450 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenants.

Frederick Alexander ASHBAUGH (Can/J.15538), No. 104 Sqn.

David Lloyd George TURVEY (Can/J.7424), No. 417 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Pilot Officer.

Raymond WILSON (Can/J.86699), No. 13 Sqn.

SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Major.

William Tweeddale DALLING, D.F.C. (105907V), No. 21 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Major.

Roy Malcolm COULL (203104V), No. 12 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Captains.

Anthony Jasper BIDEN (103615V), No. 1 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Hendrik Oswald Meyer ODENDAAL (103164V), No. 5 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Lieutenants.

Aubrey McARAVEY (94288V), No. 21 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Gerald Peter Victor MORUM (207806), No. 55 Sqn.

Albertus Louw VERSFELD (328625V), No. 12 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

The above awards are in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations.

Air Ministry, 8th September, 1944.

The KING has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned decoration conferred upon the officer indicated in recognition of valuable services rendered in connection with the war:—

CONFERRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

Air Medal.

Air Marshal Sir John BALDWIN, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., R.A.F.

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