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

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Michael Christopher Bindloss BODDINGTON, D.F.M. (88017), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 242 Squadron.

In operations against Sicily this officer led his squadron with great skill, contributing materially to the successes obtained. Within the first three days of the invasion of the island, Squadron Leader Boddington shot down three and shared in the destruction of another enemy aircraft. This officer who has displayed fine fighting qualities has destroyed 12 hostile aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Geoffrey Theodore BAYNHAM (41518), Royal Air Force, No. 152 Squadron.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties. He is a skilful flight commander whose example of keenness and devotion to duty has proved most inspiring. Flight Lieutenant Baynam has destroyed six enemy aircraft.

Flying Officer Charles Patrick HOLMAN (115604), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 227 Squadron.

As navigator, this officer has participated in 49 sorties in the Middle East theatre and has displayed commendable skill and devotion to duty. In July, 1943, he navigated one of two aircraft which attacked a gun boat escorted by three fighters. During the operation the aircraft were engaged by the fighters and, in the ensuing fight, Flying Officer Holman manned a gun most effectively whilst giving skilful evading directions to his pilot. Flying Officer Holman has proved himself to be a valuable member of aircraft crew.

Flying Officer Norman Garston JONES (115275), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 152 Squadron.

This officer is a skilful and determined fighter whose courage and keenness have set an inspiring example. In recent operations he has destroyed five enemy aircraft, three of them in one day. His leadership has been of a high order.

Flying Officer George Noel KEITH (Can/J. 15374), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 72 Squadron.

Flying Officer Keith is a fine section leader, whose skill and determination have been outstanding. He has destroyed seven enemy aircraft in recent operations.

Flying Officer Walter Young MCGREGOR (N.Z. 412789), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 227 Squadron.

In operations in the Middle East this officer has obtained notable successes. On one occasion he attacked a medium sized ship with cannon fire,

setting drums of petrol alight while on another occasion, in July, 1943, he successfully bombed another vessel of similar tonnage, causing its destruction. In other sorties, Flying Officer McGregor has destroyed one Junkers 52 and shared in the destruction of another. In addition, he has executed destructive attacks on rail and road transport. His sound judgment, great skill and keenness have set a worthy example.

Pilot Officer Deryck Reginald ALDRIDGE (145682), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 44 Squadron.

On 17th August, 1943, this officer piloted an aircraft which attacked Peenemunde. Soon after leaving the target area, the bomber was attacked by an enemy fighter. The rear turret and the inter-communication and call light systems were rendered useless, but, in spite of this the attacker was beaten off. Some ten minutes later, the bomber was engaged by another fighter. Much damage was sustained but, by skilful tactics, Pilot Officer Aldridge finally evaded the enemy aircraft. By superb airmanship, he then succeeded in flying the badly crippled bomber to base. This officer has completed many sorties and his work throughout has been of a high standard.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1239042 Flight Sergeant William BIGGS, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 427 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

1479954, Sergeant Jack ELLIOTT, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 427 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

1268616, Sergeant Leslie Ernest MOYLER, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 427 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in August, 1943, these airmen were captain, flight engineer and wireless operator/air gunner respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Mannheim. Shortly after bombing the target the aircraft was attacked by a fighter. Although the enemy aircraft was eventually shot down, the bomber sustained extensive damage. A fire broke out in one of the wings but Sergeant Elliott, after making an aperture in the side of the fuselage with an axe, was able to put out the flames with an extinguisher. The aircraft became exceedingly difficult to control, requiring almost superhuman efforts to maintain a level flight. Despite this, Flight Sergeant Biggs battled on to reach this country. The aircraft was so badly crippled, however, that a landing could not be effected but the crew were able to leave the bomber by parachute. Flight Sergeant Biggs displayed great courage and a fine fighting spirit throughout, while Sergeant's Elliott and Moyler, though the latter was wounded displayed great devotion to duty and rendered valuable assistance.