

Not for publication, broadcast in overseas bulletins or use on club tapes before 0830 D.B.S.T. on ~~17.4.1945~~..... (i.e. for Tuesday ~~Evening~~ papers.)
Overseas messages should be prefaced with this embargo.

ROYAL AIR FORCE AWARDS NO. 1007, PART 2, SECTION 1.

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.

Flying Officer Alexander BOUVET, (182813), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 77 Squadron. This officer has completed a tour of operational duty. He has, throughout, displayed great keenness, courage and devotion to duty. On one occasion in June, 1944, during an attack against Laon, his aircraft was attacked by a Ju.88. As a result of this officer's accurate fire the enemy aircraft crashed to the ground in flames. Both in the air and on the ground, Flying Officer Bouvet has always set a praiseworthy example.

Flying Officer Victor Ronald BROWN, (179567), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 77 Squadron. Flying Officer Brown has completed a most successful tour of operational duty. Over many of the enemy's most heavily defended targets he has displayed reliability and skill, pressing home his attacks with a marked degree of accuracy. In June, 1944, while attacking Laon his aircraft was subjected to six attacks from hostile fighters. Flying Officer Brown's skilful airmanship enabled his gunner to destroy one Junkers 88, and was instrumental in frustrating the other attackers. Severe damage had been inflicted, however, in the course of the engagement but Flying Officer Brown skilfully flew his crippled aircraft back to this country where he effected a safe landing. The coolness, courage and fine co-operation displayed by this officer has always been most praiseworthy.

Flying Officer John Richard FORD, (182358), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 57 Squadron. Flying Officer Ford has completed a very successful tour of operational duties during which he has attacked many heavily defended targets such as Brunswick, Nuremberg, Dusseldorf and Munich. He has always displayed fine leadership as a captain of aircraft and exceptional ability as pilot. During a mission against Kaiserlautern, his aircraft had part of the elevator shot away. The starboard outer engine was also hit and the mid-upper gunner put out of action, but despite this damage, Flying Officer Ford attacked the target successfully and flew the aircraft safely to this country. This officer has always pressed home his attacks against strong opposition with vigour and determination.

Flying Officer Jack GIBSON, (173955), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 49 Squadron. This officer has completed his second tour of operational duty/having participated in numerous attacks on heavily defended targets in Germany and occupied territory. In July, 1944, he was wireless operator in an aircraft detailed to attack Creil. Soon after leaving the target, the bomber was attacked by an enemy fighter and sustained serious damage to the port main engine and port outer engine. In spite of great damage and violent evasive action, Flying Officer Gibson continued to carry to his destination with his usual coolness and efficiency. Throughout this remarkable service, the crew were kept in a state of high alert and a determination, such as the... ..