



FIFTH SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette.

Of TUESDAY, the 9th of DECEMBER, 1941

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

FRIDAY, 12 DECEMBER, 1941

*Air Ministry,
12th December, 1941.*

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.

Wing Commander Peter JEFFREY, D.F.C.,
Royal Australian Air Force.

This officer has led a fighter wing with great success since the present operations in the Western Desert began. His fine fighting spirit is well illustrated by the fact that, although in one engagement he was forced down in the enemy's lines, he succeeded in making his way safely back to base. Since that incident, he has continued to lead the wing valiantly and, in one fight, the unit destroyed 15 of the enemy's aircraft. After the engagement, Wing Commander Jeffrey landed his aircraft, rescued a pilot who had been forced down in the enemy's lines and flew back to base with him. Throughout, Wing Commander Jeffrey has displayed magnificent leadership, fearlessness and skill and has contributed in a large measure to the successes achieved.

Wing Commander Robert Gordon YAXLEY,
M.C., D.F.C. (33130), No. 272 Squadron.

Since the operations in the Western Desert commenced this officer has led his squadron with conspicuous success. Enemy aerodromes, as far west of the battle area as Benghazi, have been attacked daily and other serious damage has been inflicted on the enemy. On the opening day of the operations a number of Junkers 52 aircraft, carrying troops, were encountered and 7 of them were

shot down. In addition to a daily toll of enemy aircraft destroyed, heavy casualties have been inflicted on ground crews while lines of communication have been harassed and petrol tankers set on fire. Altogether, within a space of 6 days operations, no less than 46 of the enemy's aircraft were destroyed. Much of the brilliant successes achieved can be attributed to the courageous leadership and determination displayed by Wing Commander Yaxley. Throughout, he has set a magnificent example.

Squadron Leader Denys Edgar GILLAM,
D.F.C., A.F.C. (37167), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 615 Squadron.

This officer has led the squadron with conspicuous success against enemy shipping which, escorted by armed ships, were passing through the Straits of Dover. He has participated in every attack and has displayed fine leadership and enterprise. Throughout, Squadron Leader Gillam has displayed great daring and he has set a magnificent example which has undoubtedly contributed materially to the notable successes achieved.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Richard Playne STEVENS, D.F.C. (87639), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 151 Squadron.

This officer has shown himself to be a fearless and outstanding night fighter pilot. One night in October, 1941, flying at sea level, he intercepted a Junkers 88 off the East Anglian coast. The raider immediately turned and flew towards the continent at maximum speed but Flight Lieutenant Stevens gave chase and slowly overhauled it. The raider then opened fire with his guns and began to drop his bombs singly. Columns of water were shot up as a result of the explosions but Flight Lieutenant Stevens swerved round them and,