



**FIFTH SUPPLEMENT**  
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**TUESDAY, 20 JANUARY, 1942**

*Air Ministry,  
20th January, 1942.*

**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 Squadron Leader Maurice Michael STEPHENS, D.F.C. (33522), No. 80 Squadron.

In December, 1941, this officer led a bombing and machine-gun attack on enemy mechanical transport in the Acroma area. Following the attack, Squadron Leader Stephens observed the fighter escort in combat with a force of enemy fighters, but, whilst attempting to participate in the engagement, his aircraft was severely damaged by an enemy fighter pilot whose cannon fire exploded the starboard petrol tank which, with the oil tank, burst into flames. The same burst of fire wounded Squadron Leader Stephens in both feet and blew out the starboard side of the aircraft's cockpit. Squadron Leader Stephens then prepared to abandon aircraft but, when half-way out of the cockpit, he observed an enemy aircraft fly past him. He immediately regained his seat and shot down the enemy aircraft. Squadron Leader Stephens finally left his crippled aircraft by parachute and landed safely on the ground where he beat out the flames from his burning clothing. Although he had landed within 300 yards of the enemy's lines, Squadron Leader Stephens succeeded in regaining our own territory within three-quarters of an hour. Throughout, this officer displayed great courage and devotion to duty. Previously, Squadron Leader Stephens led his squadron on operations which were of the

greatest value during the battle for Tobruk. His leadership and example proved an inspiration.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Sidney LINNARD (40179), No. 274 Squadron.

This officer has shown himself to be an exceptionally resolute leader. In December, 1941, he led the squadron against a force of 15 Junkers 87's escorted by 16 fighter aircraft. The engagement resulted in the loss of 5 enemy aircraft while the remainder were dispersed. Two days later, Squadron Leader Linnard led his squadron as part of a wing escort to a formation of bombers detailed to attack enemy columns between El Adem and Sidi Rezegh. During the flight, some 30 enemy fighters were encountered but, under the skilful leadership of Squadron Leader Linnard, his squadron provided protection for the bombers for some time and, when the enemy finally attacked, 3 of their aircraft were shot down and many others damaged. Squadron Leader Linnard has participated in operational flying over a long period, including the campaigns in Greece and Syria, and has always shown courage and skill.

Major Malcolm Stephen OSLER (102867), South African Air Force, No. 1 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has displayed exceptional skill and leadership as squadron commander during the present campaign in Cyrenaica. In December, 1941, whilst on an operational flight, Major Osler and the pilot of another aircraft became involved in combat with a large force of enemy fighters and bombers. Despite the odds, Major Osler at once attacked and the section shot down 3 of the enemy's aircraft. Major Osler has destroyed 7 enemy aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Wilfred Stanley ARTHUR, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 3 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

In November, 1941, this officer participated in an operational sweep over the Bir El Gobi area. A large formation of enemy aircraft was intercepted and, in the ensuing combat, Flight Lieutenant Arthur destroyed 4 of them. This officer has displayed great skill and gallantry on many occasions and he has destroyed at least 7 hostile aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Charles Victor Douglas WILLIS (33354), No. 109 Squadron.

In November, 1941, this officer was the captain of a Wellington aircraft. During the flight his aircraft was attacked by 3 enemy fighters and, although the aircraft sustained damage, including the rear turret which was rendered unserviceable, 1 of the attackers was shot down and a second one damaged. Some days later, in the course of another flight, Flight Lieutenant Willis's aircraft was engaged by a Messerschmitt 110 but, by skilful tactics, the attacker was driven off with its rear gun out of action. This officer has carried out a large number of operational missions, many of which have been of great importance. Throughout he has displayed keenness, courage and efficiency.

Captain Cornelius Arthur VAN VLIET (102747), South African Air Force, No. 1 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron.

In December, 1941, this officer led a formation of fighter aircraft acting as escort to a number of bombers detailed to attack Derna. During the operation a force of 18 enemy fighters was encountered, but Captain van Vliet employed his formation with such skill that the bombers were defended from attack for nearly half an hour, while 3 of the enemy's aircraft were shot down, 1 of which was destroyed by Captain van Vliet himself. This officer has performed splendid work in East Africa and the Western Desert during the last 17 months. He has destroyed 11 hostile aircraft.

Flying Officer Kenneth Graham HART (42222), No. 250 Squadron.

This officer has displayed great courage and skill in operational flying. In December, 1941, during a patrol, his squadron inter-

cepted a force of 24 enemy bombers, escorted by 27 fighters. In the ensuing engagement, Flying Officer Hart shot down 2 Messerschmitt 109's and several times prevented attacks on his fellow pilots. He has destroyed at least 8 enemy aircraft.

Lieutenant Dennis Vernon Dold LACEY (203185), South African Air Force, No. 2 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has shown exceptional keenness, dash and initiative. In December, 1941, whilst taking off, his aircraft was attacked by an enemy fighter. Skilfully overcoming the attacker's initial advantage, Lieutenant Lacey afterwards shot down the enemy aircraft. During many of the squadron's operational activities, Lieutenant Lacey's aircraft has been subjected to simultaneous attacks by several enemy aircraft. Not only has he obtained successes but he has many times prevented his formation from being attacked. Lieutenant Lacey has destroyed 5 enemy aircraft.

#### *Distinguished Flying Medal.*

AUS.407088 Sergeant Rex Kerslake WILSON, Royal Australian Air Force, No. 3 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

During the advance this airman participated in an operational sortie over the Sidi Rezegh area. His formation was attacked by a large force of enemy fighters and, in the ensuing combat, Sergeant Wilson destroyed a Messerschmitt 110 and damaged another. He then engaged and shot down 2 enemy army co-operation aircraft. This airman has destroyed 8 hostile aircraft.

102543 Air Sergeant Robert ADDISON, South African Air Force, No. 12 (S.A.A.F.) Squadron.

In December, 1941, during a bombing attack on Benina aerodrome, this wireless operator/air gunner was seriously wounded by fire from enemy fighters. Despite this, he bravely continued firing his gun until the attackers broke away. He then tended his fellow gunner, who was also wounded and, at the same time, made great efforts to obtain wireless contact with base. Throughout the attack and, during the flight back to base, Sergeant Addison's conduct was worthy of high praise.

#### LONDON

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