



## THIRD SUPPLEMENT

TO

# The London Gazette

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*Air Ministry.*  
30th September, 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:—

#### *Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Flight Lieutenant Colin Falkland GRAY, D.F.C. (41844), No. 1 Squadron.

This officer has destroyed a further eight enemy aircraft bringing his total victories to seventeen. In addition he has probably destroyed a further nine enemy aircraft. Flight Lieutenant Gray has always shown the greatest keenness and enthusiasm and has been of great assistance to his squadron commander.

Acting Flight Lieutenant James Willem Louw, D.F.C. (41190), No. 240 Squadron.

Recently whilst engaged on convoy escort duties, this officer attacked an enemy submarine. Later he engaged an enemy aircraft for an hour and a half, preventing it from making any attack on our shipping and finally driving it off by accurate machine gun fire. This officer has completed 1,300 operational flying hours and has at all times displayed great devotion to duty.

#### *Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Bryan William SMITHERS (41750), No. 105 Squadron.

In September, 1941, in an attack on Cotrone harbour, this officer obtained a hit on a 4,000 ton merchant vessel which subsequently appeared to be a total loss. In the course of a long patrol some days later, Squadron Leader Smithers observed two enemy ships. Attacking one of them he obtained a direct hit and left it in a sinking condition. The next day, Squadron Leader Smithers led a force of bombers which operated against a convoy of six merchant vessels escorted by seven destroyers. Flying through an intensive barrage, he subsequently attacked the largest ship of the convoy. The vessel which was also damaged by other aircraft afterwards caught fire. Although his aircraft sustained damage, Squadron Leader Smithers flew it skilfully back to base. This officer has at all times shown outstanding gallantry and fearless leadership.

Acting Squadron Leader Vashon James WHEELER, M.C. (76594), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 85 Squadron.

This officer has performed excellent operational work during a long period, including convoy patrols and reconnaissance missions over enemy territory. He has also carried out a large number of operational flying hours by