



THIRD SUPPLEMENT

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*Air Ministry,
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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 Frederick Snowden STAPLETON, D.F.C. (36059).

Since June, 1941, this officer has participated in 47 operational sorties. Leading the wing with the utmost coolness and determination he has taken every opportunity to support the formations and to inflict damage on the enemy. Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross he has destroyed 4 enemy aircraft, and has probably destroyed or damaged several others.

Acting Wing Commander Adrian Hope BOYD, D.F.C. (39101), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Since August, 1941, this officer has led the wing on numerous occasions greatly distinguishing himself throughout. His excellent leadership and tactical ability have been of great value when difficulties have been encountered. Wing Commander Boyd has destroyed at least 16 enemy aircraft.

Acting Wing Commander James RANKIN, D.F.C. (37210), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Since the end of August, 1941, this officer has participated in 21 operational sorties in which he has destroyed 5 hostile aircraft. This brings his total victories to 18 destroyed and also he has probably destroyed, or

damaged a number or others. He is an outstanding wing leader who has displayed exceptional ability, determination and courage on all occasions.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Peter Geoffrey St. George O'BRIAN (33329), No. 247 Squadron.

This officer has commanded the squadron for the past 13 months and has participated in a large number of sorties both by day and night. On one occasion, he participated in one of the longest night flights ever undertaken in a single-seat fighter aircraft during which he displayed good judgment and fine navigational skill. His outstanding qualities as a leader have set an excellent example.

Flight Lieutenant Raymond Edward THOROLD-SMITH (Aus. 402144), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 452 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has participated in 50 operational sorties since July, 1941. He has proved himself to be a first class fighter pilot and a most determined and capable flight leader. He has destroyed 5 enemy aircraft and shared in the destruction of another.

Pilot Officer Henry Patrick LARDNER-BURKE (87449), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 126 Squadron.

In November, 1941, this officer was the pilot of one of 4 aircraft which engaged a force of 18 hostile aircraft over Malta and destroyed 3 and seriously damaged 2 of the enemy's aircraft. During the combat Pilot Officer Lardner-Burke, who destroyed 1 of the enemy's aircraft, was wounded in the chest and his aircraft was badly damaged. Despite this, he skilfully evaded his

opponents and made a safe landing on the aerodrome; he then collapsed. Throughout the engagement, this officer displayed leadership and courage of a high order. He has destroyed 5 enemy aircraft over Malta.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

745807 Acting Flight Sergeant George Edward Alfred PENDRILL, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 97 Squadron.

One night in November, 1941, this airman was the captain of an aircraft which carried out a mine-laying operation in heavily defended waters. By sheer determination and devotion to duty, the flight of over 500 miles was made in the face of adverse flying conditions and, despite intense anti-aircraft opposition, the task was successfully accomplished. Two days later, he attacked a target in the Rhineland and, on the return journey, his aircraft was intercepted by an enemy fighter. Displaying great coolness, Flight Sergeant Pendrill instructed his rear gunner to withhold his fire until the enemy flew into close range when it was shot down and observed to crash and burst into flames. This airman has always shown the greatest courage in attacking his targets.

751588 Sergeant Ronald William DALTON, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 604 Squadron.

This airman has displayed great skill in night operations. His enthusiasm and perseverance have set an excellent example.

1260024 Sergeant Ronald Edward GILLMAN, No. 107 Squadron.

In November, 1941, this airman participated in a shipping sweep over the Ionian Sea. Two merchant vessels escorted by a destroyer were observed and, despite intense fire from all 3 vessels, 1 of them was attacked at mast height. Sergeant Gillman pressed home his attack and, although his aircraft was hit several times by shell-fire, he scored 2 direct hits on the ship which caught fire and became enveloped in thick black smoke. This airman displayed great courage and determination throughout the attack.

758018 Sergeant John Edward VAN SCHAICK, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 609 Squadron.

Since July, 1941, this airman has participated in 50 operational sorties and has proved himself to be a keen and reliable pilot. He has destroyed 2, and probably destroyed or damaged several other hostile aircraft.

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