



SECOND SUPPLEMENT

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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:—

Bar to Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander John CUNNINGHAM, D.S.O., D.F.C. (90216), Auxiliary Air Force, No. 604 Squadron.

A brilliant leader and a relentless pilot of matchless skill, Wing Commander Cunningham has destroyed at least 16 hostile aircraft, many of them at night, as well as damaging several more. One day recently, Wing Commander Cunningham destroyed an enemy aircraft without firing a shot. He achieved his purpose by diving through cloud at great speed and drove the enemy aircraft down to the ground.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander Robin Peter Reginald POWELL, D.F.C. (33278).

Wing Commander Powell is an excellent leader. His ability and skill have inspired his pilots with confidence and set a high standard of operational efficiency. He has completed many sorties during which he has destroyed 1 and probably destroyed a further 2 enemy aircraft.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Peter Reginald Whalley WICKHAM (33403), No. 111 Squadron.

This officer is a fine leader and a courageous fighter. Whilst serving in the Middle East he destroyed at least 9 and damaged many other enemy aircraft. Since his return to this country, Squadron Leader Wickham has completed many sorties during which he has displayed fine leadership and a magnificent fighting spirit.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Montague Charles CARRINGTON COTTON (Aus. 407041), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 17 Squadron.

This officer displayed great courage and devotion to duty during the fighting in Burma. On one occasion his aerodrome was attacked by a strong force of Japanese aircraft. Flight Lieutenant Cotton immediately took off and engaged the enemy alone. After shooting down a bomber, his aircraft was attacked by 10 fighters. A burst of fire from one of them punctured both petrol tanks in his aircraft while Flight Lieutenant Cotton's left leg was shattered. Despite this, he

succeeded in making a perfect landing on the aerodrome. Earlier the same day this officer distinguished himself during a raid on Moulmein aerodrome by our aircraft.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Robert Aubrey YATES-EARL (40163), No. 226 Squadron.
Pilot Officer Kenneth Henry HOUGHTON (121208), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 226 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1250764 Sergeant Edward LEAVER, No. 226 Squadron.

In July, 1942, Flight Lieutenant Yates-Earl, Pilot Officer Houghton and Sergeant Leaver were pilot, navigator and wireless operator/air gunner respectively of the leading aircraft of a section of bombers which carried out a low level attack on the aerodrome at Bergen Alkmaar. The operation, which was executed in daylight without fighter protection or cloud cover, called for high qualities of leadership and resolution. On nearing the target area, whilst flying at a very low level, severe opposition from the enemy's anti-aircraft defences was encountered. His aircraft was hit but, undeterred, Flight Lieutenant Yates-Earl flew on to the target under the able guidance of his navigator. From the lowest possible altitude he enabled his gunner to deliver effective fire at enemy aircraft in dispersal shelters, which were also bombed and set on fire. Shortly after leaving the target Flight Lieutenant Yates-Earl observed an enemy fighter in close pursuit of an aircraft of his section which had been severely damaged and was incapable of increasing its speed. He immediately drew into protective formation and directed Sergeant Leaver to bring his guns to bear in defence of the damaged bomber. A running fight ensued for some 35 miles out to sea. Flight Lieutenant Yates-Earl displayed the highest conception of his duties as a leader, whilst he was most ably supported by Pilot Officer Houghton and Sergeant Leaver both of whom showed gallantry and fortitude.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1254723 Flight Sergeant Peter Edward George DURNFORD, No. 124 Squadron.

Flight Sergeant Durnford has completed many operational sorties, during which he has destroyed at least 3 enemy aircraft. This airman has at all times displayed great keenness and skill in his engagements with the enemy.