



# SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 15th of SEPTEMBER, 1942

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

FRIDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER, 1942

*Air Ministry, 18th September, 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.*

Wing Commander Reginald Patrick Mahoney GIBBS, D.F.C. (33250), No. 30 Squadron.

This officer, who has achieved much success in torpedo bomber sorties, has displayed fine qualities of leadership, combined with exceptional skill. Throughout, his courage has been of a high order and has proved a source of inspiration to all.

### *Distinguished Service Order.*

Wing Commander Wilfred Edward SURPLICE, D.F.C. (37026), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 226 Squadron.

### *Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Flying Officer Renton Stewart RUTHERFORD (N.Z.404573), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 226 Squadron.

On 19th August, 1942, Wing Commander Surplice and Flying Officer Rutherford were pilot and navigator respectively of the leading aircraft of a formation of bombers detailed to release smoke bombs to screen the landing of troops on the beaches near Dieppe. On the accuracy of this, the first smoke sortie, depended not only the success of the subsequent smoke laying operations by following aircraft but, in a great measure, the safety of the entire combined operation. Fully aware of the importance of his mission Wing Commander Surplice, skilfully guided by Flying Officer Rutherford, flew in to the target at a low level and, defying an intense barrage from the unhampered ground defences, dropped his smoke bombs with precise accuracy. Both these officers displayed the highest standard of courage, skill and devotion to duty in the successful accomplishment of a most vital and dangerous task. Wing Commander Surplice planned the details of all the smoke laying operations allotted to the Squadron.

### *Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander Eric Hugh THOMAS, D.F.C. (39138), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, this officer has completed a large number of operational sorties. Throughout, his high qualities of leadership, combined with great courage and skill in the face of the enemy, have set a most inspiring example. He has destroyed at least 4 hostile aircraft.

Acting Squadron Leader Robert Wardlow OXSPRING, D.F.C. (40743), No. 72 Squadron.

This squadron commander has rendered much valuable service. His skill, whether in attacks on the enemy's ground targets and shipping or in air combat, has been of a high order. He has destroyed at least 7 enemy aircraft.

### *Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Joseph Shaw KENNEDY, D.F.C. (81351), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 226 Squadron.

### *Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Flying Officer Harold Albert ASKER, D.F.M. (47171), No. 226 Squadron.

Flying Officer George Allan CASEY (Can./J.4432), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 226 Squadron.

On 19th August, 1942, Squadron Leader Kennedy and Flying Officers Asker and Casey were pilot, navigator and wireless operator/air gunner respectively of the leading aircraft of a formation of bombers detailed to carry out an attack in support of the combined operations at Dieppe. The formation was met with formidable anti-aircraft fire and Squadron Leader Kennedy's aircraft was repeatedly hit, one engine being put out of action. Flying Officer Casey was wounded in both thighs, whilst his co-gunner was critically injured. In spite of this, Squadron Leader Kennedy, resolutely supported by the skilful navigation of Flying Officer Asker, led his formation over the town at low level and released his smoke bombs with precise accuracy on the target. Meanwhile, Flying Officer Casey, disregarding his injuries, engaged the enemy's defences whenever they came within reach of his guns. Squadron Leader Kennedy eventually flew his damaged aircraft to base and landed safely. Throughout, this officer, gallantly supported by Flying Officers Asker and Casey, displayed great courage, skill and determination.

### *Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Squadron Leader Donald CARLSON (40207), No. 154 Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of operational sorties. He is a skilful and energetic squadron commander who, by his personal example, has raised the squadron to a high pitch of fighting efficiency. He has destroyed at least 3 enemy aircraft.

Acting Flight Lieutenant James WHITHAM (Can./J.15281), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 401 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties over enemy occupied territory. He is an excellent flight commander whose fine fighting qualities have been well illustrated when leading