



FOURTH SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette

Of FRIDAY, the 13th of APRIL, 1945.

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

TUESDAY, 17 APRIL, 1945

Air Ministry, 17th April, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations:—

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander Thomas BALMFORTH, D.F.C. (41363), R.A.F.O.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross this officer has participated in a large number of sorties and has displayed the highest qualities of skill and leadership. In addition to his gallant work in the air, Wing Commander Balmforth has rendered most valuable service on the ground. By his great tactical knowledge, perseverance and enthusiasm he has done much to raise the operational efficiency of all under his command to the highest standard. He has set a magnificent example.

Acting Wing Commander William Walter John LOUD, D.F.C. (136179), R.A.F.V.R.

This officer has led large formations of aircraft on various sorties during the past nine months. In these operations great loss has been inflicted on the enemy; including the destruction of 46 aircraft, some 290 mechanical vehicles, numerous locomotives and much rolling stock; very many barges and several steamers have also been most effectively attacked. The success achieved is an excellent testimony to the exceptional skill, brilliant leadership and great bravery shown by Wing Commander Loud whose example has inspired all under his command.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Philip Lintott ARNOTT, D.F.C. (63090), R.A.F.V.R., 234 Sqn.

This officer has led the squadron on more than 100 sorties and has displayed skill and keenness of a high order. He has invariably displayed great courage and throughout has set an example of efficiency and determination which has impressed all. His sterling qualities have been well reflected in the success of the squadron he commands.

Flight Lieutenant Cyril Lionel Francis TALALLA, D.F.C. (130674), R.A.F.V.R., 122 Sqn.

This officer has participated in a very large number of varied sorties. He has displayed the greatest keenness to engage the enemy and has invariably pressed home his attacks with determination. Among his successes is the destruction of 4 enemy aircraft.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander Maurice Edward BLACKSTONE (72257), R.A.F.V.R., 165 Sqn.

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties and has displayed the highest standard of devotion to duty. He has led the squadron in

attacks against a variety of targets, including radio installations, locomotives and rolling stock, barges and gun positions. By his great skill, courage and determination, Wing Commander Blackstone has played a good part in the successes obtained. He has set a fine example.

Acting Squadron Leader John Adam SOWREY (33551), R.A.F., 131 Sqn.

This officer is a skilful and resolute fighter. He has participated in a very large number of sorties, including many attacks on enemy airfields and lines of supply. In air fighting he has destroyed 5 enemy aircraft. Squadron Leader Sowrey has invariably displayed a high degree of courage and, throughout a long period of operational flying, his devotion to duty has been unflinching.

Flight Lieutenant Joseph Eric BENNETT (133612), R.A.F.V.R., 29 Sqn.

This officer has displayed the greatest keenness for air operations. He has completed a large number of sorties, including many attacks against enemy airfields far into enemy territory. Throughout he has shown the highest standard of devotion to duty. His example both in the air and on the ground has been worthy of much praise.

Flight Lieutenant Derek CLARE (103536), R.A.F.V.R., 524 Sqn.

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties, many of them involving attacks on a wide range of well defended enemy targets in Germany. More recently, Flight Lieutenant Clare has taken part in a number of attacks on enemy shipping. During a sortie in February, 1945, his navigation was brilliant and contributed in a large way to the success of an engagement against 3 E-boats. This officer has invariably displayed the highest standard of devotion to duty.

Flight Lieutenant David Arthur DREW (103591), R.A.F.V.R., 64 Sqn.

This officer has participated in a large number of varied sorties during which he has been responsible for the destruction of many mechanical vehicles and two locomotives; he has also most effectively attacked a number of barges, petrol dumps and various other targets. On one occasion in January, 1945, Flight Lieutenant Drew took part in an engagement against a formation of enemy fighters, seven of which were shot down. Throughout this engagement, Flight Lieutenant Drew displayed great tactical ability and assisted in the destruction of two enemy aircraft. He has led the squadron with skill on numerous occasions.

Flight Lieutenant Ernest Derek EYLES (116703), R.A.F.V.R., 96 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Eyles has completed two tours of operational duty. He is a highly skilled observer whose fine work has won much praise. He has assisted in the destruction of 4 enemy aircraft.