



**THIRD SUPPLEMENT**

TO

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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:—

*Bar to the Distinguished Service Order.*

Acting Group Captain Harry BROADHURST, D.S.O., D.F.C., A.F.C.

This officer has organised and led his wing with conspicuous gallantry and success. During a heavy engagement over Bethune, in June, 1941, Group Captain Broadhurst's aircraft was hit by a cannon shell which, besides making a large hole in the port wing, put the port wing guns out of action and also damaged the aileron thus making control difficult. A second shell hit the side of the fuselage, causing havoc in the cockpit. Group Captain Broadhurst received many small wounds in the arm and legs and only recovered from the effects of the shell-fire at 1,000 feet over the target area. Nevertheless, he flew the aircraft back to England. Within a few days, Group Captain Broadhurst was again leading the wing in action over Northern France. On the return journey, he was attacked by a force of 6 Messerschmitt 109s but, by brilliant tactics, Group Captain Broadhurst fought them off and, it is believed, destroyed 2 of them before the engagement was terminated some 15 miles north of Gravelines. Although his aircraft was damaged by the enemy's fire, Group Captain Broadhurst flew it safely back to this country. Since being awarded the Distinguished Service Order in June, he has

destroyed 8 and probably destroyed a further 4 enemy aircraft. He has set an example worthy of the highest traditions of the service.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander Eustace Sweeting BARNES (78523), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 107 Squadron.

This officer has performed splendid work whilst commanding the squadron. Attacks on enemy shipping in the Benghazi and Tripoli area have been attended with magnificent results and much of the successes obtained can be attributed to this officer's skill and courage. Wing Commander Barnes has also led attacks on road transports and various targets in Sicily and Italy whereby considerable damage has been inflicted on the enemy. His leadership and personal example, especially during a difficult phase of operations, have had a most beneficial effect on the morale of his flying crews. Wing Commander Barnes has carried out 35 operational missions.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Flight Lieutenant Everest George EDMUNDS (N.Z.403312), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 18 Squadron.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

1001649 Sergeant Sigurd Edgar HEDIN, No. 18 Squadron.

In November, 1941, Flight Lieutenant Edmunds and Sergeant Hedin were the pilot and navigator respectively of an aircraft which carried out an attack on shipping east of Tripoli. In spite of extremely unfavourable flying conditions Flight Lieutenant Edmunds persisted in his mission and, ably assisted by

Sergeant Hedin who skilfully navigated the aircraft over 200 miles of the sea to the target area finally attacked and scored hits on a large vessel and an escorting destroyer. Two days later, Flight Lieutenant Edmunds, with Sergeant Hedin as navigator, led a low flying attack on shipping in Navarini Bay. In spite of intense fire from the shore, several hits were scored on a 6,000 ton tanker which was set on fire. The skill and determination shown by Flight Lieutenant Edmunds, combined with the skilful and accurate navigation displayed by Sergeant Hedin, were largely responsible for the success achieved.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.*

571837 Acting Flight Sergeant William Holden ROBINSON, No. 7 Squadron.

In November, 1941, this airman was the flight engineer of an aircraft which participated in a daylight attack on shipping off Borkum. The aircraft was subjected to intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire and sustained damage to the starboard outer engine oil system. Owing to the presence of 8 enemy fighters, Flight Sergeant Robinson manned his turret, but, fully realising the danger of the engine seizing, instructed another member of the crew to give him a commentary on the behaviour of the damaged engine. Skilfully dividing his attention between his gunnery and engineering duties, Flight Sergeant Robinson was able to keep the damaged engine going until the engagement was broken off. During the battle, he shot down one of the enemy aircraft in flames. Afterwards, when the port outboard engine also became unserviceable, Flight Sergeant Robinson carefully calculated the amount of fuel necessary to reach base, jettisoned as much as possible of the remainder and so made it possible to return safely on 2 engines. This airman has participated in many successful operations on one of which, although wounded, he carried out his duties fully and, until the aircraft was safely landed, he did not indicate that he had been wounded in the groin.

1052190 Sergeant Frank Charles ASTLEY, No. 615 Squadron.

This airman has carried out a large number of operational sorties, involving interception and convoy patrols. He has also participated in numerous highly successful attacks on enemy shipping, during which several enemy ships were set on fire and others damaged, and attacks on ground targets in Northern France. As a section leader for the past 3 months, Sergeant Astley has taken an active part in the training of new pilots, a task in which he has shown great keenness and devotion to duty.

748413 Sergeant Ronald Boswell BIRTLES, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 118 Squadron.

This airman has participated in a large number of sweeps and reconnaissances; he has also taken part in 3 attacks on enemy shipping and 4 on land targets when trains, factories and other objectives have been attacked. In November, 1941, during a sortie, Sergeant Birtles silenced a light anti-aircraft gun which was firing on his section leader. Some days later he participated in an attack on a railway station in France.

On the return journey, one of his fellow pilots was shot down into the sea. Sergeant Birtles, with great initiative, flew down to almost sea level and while operating his aircraft controls with the right hand only, detached his own dinghy and so skilfully manoeuvred his aircraft that he succeeded in dropping the dinghy within a few feet of his comrade who was then swimming in the sea. Sergeant Birtles then flew on to his base which he reached with only very little petrol in the tanks.

778244 Sergeant Robert Cyril FINN, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 615 Squadron.

This airman has participated in a large number of operational sorties consisting of interception and convoy patrols. In addition, he has taken part in 43 attacks on enemy shipping and ground targets in Northern France. In the course of these attacks, 6 ships, of various types, have been destroyed, 2 set on fire and 5 damaged, whilst on land a transformer station and a factory were badly damaged. Sergeant Finn has carried out the duties of section leader for 5 months, displaying great keenness and devotion to duty.

901770 Sergeant Paul Gerald LOUIS, No. 615 Squadron.

This airman has participated in over 100 operational sorties, including channel sweeps, convoy, and night patrols. Sergeant Louis has taken part in most of his unit's highly successful attacks on enemy shipping wherein 6 ships of various types and sizes have been destroyed and others damaged. He has destroyed 1 Junkers 88 and probably a Messerschmitt 109F. Throughout, he has displayed great keenness and devotion to duty.

N.Z.40613 Sergeant Peter Coulson WHITWELL, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 7 Squadron.

This airman was the rear gunner of an aircraft which carried out a daylight attack on shipping off Borkum. During the operation the aircraft was attacked by a force of 8 Messerschmitt 109s. Displaying great coolness and accuracy of fire, Sergeant Whitwell warded off the first 4 attacks and, in the next one, seriously damaged one of the attackers which was observed to dive steeply away with the engine emitting black smoke. Three further attacks were made by the enemy aircraft and, in the last one, Sergeant Whitwell scored a further success. Following a well-aimed burst by him, one of the enemy aircraft turned over and dived vertically. On another occasion, when his aircraft was attacked by a Messerschmitt 110, Sergeant Whitwell withheld his fire until the attacker had closed to a range of 50 yards and then shot it down in flames. This airman has displayed great ability, tenacity and courage.

1166186 Sergeant Henry Richard LEVEN, No. 107 Squadron.

990766 Sergeant Michael John NOLAN, No. 107 Squadron.

925183 Sergeant Cecil Arthur EVANS, No. 107 Squadron.

As pilot, air observer, and wireless operator/air gunner respectively, Sergeants Leven, Nolan and Evans have participated in numerous sorties in which enemy shipping

has been attacked. Undismayed by the heavy defensive fire from armed escort ships these airmen have shown great courage and determination to complete their allotted task. Sergeants Leven and Nolan have completed 34, and Sergeant Evans 27 operational missions.

## AMENDMENT.

In notification of 21st November, 1941 (p. 6705, col. 1) for Pilot Officer Eugene Hugh O'NEILL (107919), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, *read* Pilot Officer Eugene Hugh O'NEILL (AUS.400030), Royal Australian Air Force.

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