



FOURTH SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette

Of FRIDAY, the 27th of FEBRUARY, 1942

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

TUESDAY, 3 MARCH, 1942

*Air Ministry,
3rd March, 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 Flying Cross.

Wing Commander Edward Lawrence COLBECK-WELCH (34081), No. 29 Squadron.

This officer has commanded the squadron since June, 1941, and he has participated in 70 night sorties. In January, 1942, after a pursuit lasting nearly 20 minutes, he shot down a Dornier 217 into the sea some 70 miles from the coast. This is the second enemy aircraft he has shot down at night far out to sea. Wing Commander Colbeck-Welch has shown tenacity and a fine fighting spirit.

Acting Squadron Leader Robert Grant LYNN (41041), No. 224 Squadron.

This officer has carried out over 900 hours operational flying, involving patrols and reconnaissances over the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea and off the Norwegian Coast. In all conditions of weather and in spite of encounters with the enemy he has always completed his tasks. On a recent occasion, on the completion of a patrol, his aircraft sustained damage from the fire of an armed ship which he was attacking. The starboard engine was damaged, the rudder trimmers shot away and the gyro-pilot put out of action. Despite this, Squadron Leader Lynn skilfully manoeuvred his aircraft into some low clouds and, by jettisoning movable equipment and some fuel, he was able to regain height of a few thousand feet. Shortly afterwards, the damaged engine failed completely but later it began to revolve again, causing the aircraft to vibrate violently and rendering it almost uncontrollable. Never-

theless, Squadron Leader Lynn succeeded in flying across the sea to reach this country. Unfortunately it became necessary to abandon the aircraft by parachute but, before leaving himself, Squadron Leader Lynn left the controls to ensure that all the crew got away from the aircraft safely. Throughout, this officer displayed great coolness and courage in the face of hazardous circumstances.

Acting Squadron Leader John Groves TOPHAM (41882), No. 219 Squadron.

This officer has participated in operational flying over a long period. He is a skilful and keen night fighter pilot and, although he has frequently carried out his sorties in extremely unfavourable flying conditions, he has destroyed 2 Junkers 88's. Squadron Leader Topham has at all times set a worthy example.

Flight Lieutenant Eric Frank Knowles CAMPLING (42049), No. 142 Squadron.

On 12th February, 1942, this officer participated in an attack on the enemy warships. Whilst making his attack at 700 feet, his aircraft was hit by the enemy's opposing fire and sustained damage to the port wing, the elevator trimming tabs and the fuselage. The aircraft became temporarily out of control and dived towards the sea and when 300 feet from the water, it was attacked by 2 enemy fighters. The rear gunner was unable to retaliate owing to the damaged hydraulics but, displaying the greatest skill, Flight Lieutenant Campling regained control of his aircraft and evaded the attackers. By flying low over the water, he evaded further interception and finally flew safely back to this country where he made a safe landing. Flight Lieutenant Campling has always shown a magnificent fighting spirit which, combined with his experience, skill and zeal, has set an inspiring example.