



THIRD SUPPLEMENT
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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.

Acting Squadron Leader Walter STERNE (75166), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 283 Squadron.

In air/sea rescue operations this officer has rendered most valuable service. During one period of six weeks, the squadron he commands were responsible for the rescue of many members of aircraft crew from the sea around Pantellaria and Sicily. These efforts were made under the supervision and direction of Squadron Leader Sterne who himself effected several of them, involving abnormal hazard, near enemy territory. In June, 1943, he undertook a search for a pilot reported adrift in the dinghy. After many hours' flying, Squadron Leader Sterne located the dinghy very close to the Sicilian coast. The sea was extremely rough but, in circumstances which called for the utmost skill, Squadron Leader Sterne effected a successful rescue. This officer has displayed outstanding leadership and great courage.

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Squadron Leader James Bayntun STARKY, D.F.C. (N.Z.401787), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 115 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Bernard Arthur William BEER (126822), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 115 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1437223 Sergeant Kenneth William John TUGWELL, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 115 Squadron.

1434099 Sergeant Herbert John WILLIS, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 115 Squadron.

One night in September, 1943, Flying Officer Beer and Sergeants Tugwell and Willis were air bomber, mid-upper gunner and rear gunner respectively of an aircraft captained by Squadron Leader Starky and detailed to attack Mannheim. When nearing the target area the aircraft was attacked by a fighter. The bomber was badly hit and sustained much damage. It became filled with smoke and dived earthwards out of control. By a tremendous effort, Squadron Leader Starky succeeded in regaining control as the fighter came in to resume the attack. Sergeants Tugwell and Willis coolly withheld their fire until the attacker came into close range then, with devastating

bursts of fire, shot it down in flames. The situation was critical as the bomber had been badly crippled while the second pilot and flight engineer had been wounded. Nevertheless, on a course plotted by Flying Officer Beer who, throughout the remainder of the homeward flight, rendered great assistance, Squadron Leader Starky battled his way over enemy territory, often under fire from ground defences. Displaying superb airmanship and an unconquerable spirit he finally reached an airfield near the coast and effected a safe landing. In most harassing circumstances these members of aircraft crew discharged their duties in an exemplary manner, setting an example worthy of the highest praise.

Second Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Frederick Desmond HUGHES, D.F.C. (74706), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 600 Squadron.

Squadron Leader Hughes is a brilliant night fighter whose determined efforts have met with further successes. Since being awarded a bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross he has destroyed 7 enemy aircraft. His total victories number at least 16, of which 13 have been destroyed at night. Squadron Leader Hughes is a highly efficient flight commander and his meritorious work has been reflected in the efforts of his flight which has earned notable successes.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Lawrence DIXON, D.F.C. (116698), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 600 Squadron.

Flying Officer Dixon is an extremely skilful observer who has assisted in the destruction of at least 10 enemy aircraft at night. He has at all times displayed great zeal and has proved himself to be a most valuable member of aircraft crew.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Joseph Charles Herve DELISLE (Can/J.16655), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 425 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed very many sorties during which he has attacked a variety of targets with success. Flight Lieutenant Delisle is a skilful pilot whose determination and thoroughness have often been demonstrated. On one occasion his aircraft was hit whilst over the target. The hydraulic system was damaged, causing the undercarriage to fall to the down position, while the bomb doors could not be closed. Flight Lieutenant Delisle flew the damaged aircraft to base where he effected a safe landing although both tyres of the landing wheels were punctured. This officer has displayed great courage and devotion to duty.