



# THIRD SUPPLEMENT TO The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 23rd of NOVEMBER, 1943

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

FRIDAY, 26 NOVEMBER, 1943

*Air Ministry, 26th November, 1943.*

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 Flight Lieutenant Kenneth Harry Francis LETFORD, D.F.C. (132892), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 207 Squadron.

One night in October, 1943, this officer was captain and pilot of an aircraft detailed to attack Leipzig. During the sortie, the bomber was engaged by a fighter and was hit by a hail of bullets. The mid-upper gunner was wounded and his gun turret rendered useless; the wireless operator was also wounded and some of his wireless equipment was destroyed. The inter-communication gear was put out of action and other damage was sustained. The situation became alarming when some incendiary bombs and the accumulators caught fire. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Letford coolly organised his crew to fight the flames and under his able directions they succeeded in quelling the fire. When base was reached, Flight Lieutenant Letford effected a perfect landing without the aid of flaps. In circumstances fraught with great danger, this officer displayed inspiring leadership, great courage and determination.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Squadron Leader Colin Pryse BARBER (40284), Royal Air Force, No. 70 Squadron.

This officer has participated in very many sorties, involving attacks on targets in the battle area, on airfields, dockyard installations and railway junctions. One night in August, 1943, Squadron Leader Barber participated in an attack on the railway junction at Bagnoli. The operation demanded a high degree of skill and determination and Squadron Leader Barber's excellent efforts contributed materially to the great success achieved. This officer is a highly efficient flight commander whose example has proved inspiring.

Squadron Leader James Ronaldson Herbert LEWIS (39997), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 227 Squadron.

This officer has participated in very many sorties, including a number of successful attacks on shipping during which he has damaged at least 30 caiques. In air combat he has shot down 3 enemy aircraft. Squadron Leader Lewis is a skilful and determined leader, whose excellent example has inspired the flight he commands.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Eric GITTINS (112716), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 227 Squadron.

As navigator, this officer has participated in very many sorties, involving attacks on targets in

Tunisia, Sicily and the island of Rhodes. During these operations many successes have been obtained, including destructive attacks on shipping and harbour installations. By his skilful and resolute efforts, Flight Lieutenant Gittins has played a good part in the results achieved. His fine record is worthy of high praise.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Douglas John Garcia HARCOURT (141478), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 294 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Harcourt has undertaken a large number of air/sea rescue operations during which he has been responsible for some 43 personnel being rescued from the sea. Many of them he has saved himself by taking them aboard his aircraft, and others he has located and then remained with them whilst sending messages of guidance to surface craft which has taken them aboard. Flight Lieutenant Harcourt has displayed great courage and devotion to duty, setting an inspiring example.

Acting Flight Lieutenant John Alexander HAYLOCK (Aus.403739), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 148 Squadron.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties and has invariably displayed a high degree of skill and courage. This was amply demonstrated during a recent operation against a far distant objective. Although the target was obscured by heavy cloud, Flight Lieutenant Haylock persisted in his task and eventually pressed home an accurate attack from a low level. On the return flight extremely adverse weather was encountered and the situation became serious. Nevertheless, this resolute pilot battled on and, by a superb effort reached base. On other occasions, Flight Lieutenant Haylock has achieved success in the face of heavy odds. His achievements have been worthy of high praise.

Flying Officer Kenneth Robert AMES (133400) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 61 Squadron.

This officer was the pilot of an aircraft which attacked Kassel one night in October, 1943. Soon after the bombs had been released the aircraft was attacked by a fighter. The enemy aircraft was shot down but the bomber had sustained extensive damage and 2 of its crew had been wounded. Almost immediately, a second and then a third fighter attacked. Before Flying Officer Ames could fly clear further damage was sustained and a fire commenced causing some ammunition to explode. The flames were extinguished, however, and course was set for home. In the face of heavy odds, Flying Officer Ames battled on and reached an airfield in this country. This officer displayed exceptional skill, courage and resolution.