



# FOURTH SUPPLEMENT TO The London Gazette

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*Air Ministry, 7th April, 1944.*

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 Wing Commander William Herbert SWEETMAN, D.F.C. (Can/J.15176), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 426 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed 2 tours of operations during which he has attacked most of the enemy's heavily defended targets in Germany, including 6 on the capital city. He has always endeavoured to press home his attacks with the greatest determination and his example of courage and devotion to duty has inspired all. Wing Commander Sweetman is a dauntless leader, whose able and untiring efforts have been reflected in the fine fighting qualities of the squadron he commands.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Michael Innes BOYLE (89389), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 57 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in very many sorties and on 5 occasions has attacked Berlin. He has at all times displayed great keenness and devotion to duty and his successes are an excellent tribute to his skill and determination. He is a most efficient flight commander, whose personal example has proved most inspiring.

Flight Lieutenant William Arthur BETTS (108861), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 199 Squadron.

One night in March, 1944, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed for a sortie over Southern France. When nearing the objective the aircraft was attacked by a fighter and sustained serious damage. The throttle controls to both the port engines were affected thus making the engines uncontrollable. A number of instruments were rendered useless. The pilot's escape hatch was shot away while the mid-upper turret was damaged. One of the petrol tanks was set alight but a little later the flames died away. The aircraft gradually lost height. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Betts set course for home and, displaying superb airmanship, eventually reached an airfield where he effected a masterly landing. In harassing circumstances, this officer displayed exceptional skill, great courage and devotion to duty.

Flight Lieutenant Thomas Henry BLACKHAM (124922), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 50 Squadron.

As pilot, this officer has participated in a number of sorties and has displayed outstanding determination, fearlessness and devotion to duty. This was well illustrated on a recent occasion when detailed to attack Berlin. On the outward flight the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire and the elevators were damaged. Soon afterwards the bomber was struck by bullets from a fighter. The rear turret was rendered unserviceable and the

oxygen installation was damaged. The target was still 100 miles distant but Flight Lieutenant Blackham continued his mission. On the bombing run, 3 members of his crew became unconscious through lack of oxygen. The flight engineer successfully repaired the oxygen system and the affected members were revived. Flight Lieutenant Blackham then pressed home a determined attack and afterwards flew the damaged aircraft to base. A few nights later, this officer again displayed praiseworthy skill and resolution in a successful attack on Augsburg.

Flight Lieutenant Bernard Charles FITCH (117468), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 61 Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties as captain of aircraft. He has invariably displayed a high degree of skill and courage and his determination to inflict loss on the enemy has been most praiseworthy. Flight Lieutenant Fitch has attacked Berlin on 6 occasions.

Flight Lieutenant Francis Howard PHILLIPS (107241), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 44 Squadron.

During his tour of operations, Flight Lieutenant Phillips has attacked most of the enemy's well defended targets including 9 attacks on Berlin. He has displayed great skill and keenness and has invariably pressed home his attacks with vigour. He is a fine leader, whose sterling qualities have impressed all.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Ignatius RADEMEYER (160041), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 44 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in a large number of sorties, including several attacks on Berlin and others on such targets as Munich, Mannheim and Hamburg. He has proved himself to be a highly skilled, determined and courageous member of aircraft crew and his example has been worthy of emulation. In addition to his work in the air, Flight Lieutenant Rademeyer has devoted much skill and energy in the training of other members of the squadron.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Edward Noel THOMPSON (54128), Royal Air Force, No. 77 Squadron.

This officer was the pilot of an aircraft detailed for a mine-laying mission one night in March, 1944. Whilst over the target area the aircraft came under heavy fire from batteries on each side of the shore. Flight Lieutenant Thompson manoeuvred with much skill but eventually his aircraft was heavily hit. The nose of the aircraft was badly damaged and the windscreen of the pilot's cockpit was shattered. One member of the crew was killed and two others were seriously wounded. Nevertheless, Flight Lieutenant Thompson released his mines and then set course for this country. Although deprived of the assistance of his navigator, who was too badly hurt to fulfil his duties, Flight Lieutenant Thompson flew the damaged aircraft to a home-based airfield. In very trying circumstances this officer displayed skill, courage and determination worthy of the highest praise.