



# THIRD SUPPLEMENT TO The London Gazette

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*Air Ministry, 16th August, 1946.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:—

#### *Military Cross.*

Flight Lieutenant Sydney Hastings DOWSE (86685), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 608 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Dowse was captured by the Germans at Brest in August, 1941, after he had abandoned his aircraft which had been set on fire by enemy fighters. Throughout his captivity, this officer persistently tried to escape but never succeeded in reaching England. In December, 1941, he escaped from a hospital at Stadtroda to which he had been taken after capture for treatment for an injured leg. Three days later, he was caught by a frontier guard at the German-Dutch border. Flight Lieutenant Dowse later escaped from a camp at Bad Sulza by mingling with a fatigue party. After travelling by train to Werwitz, he continued on foot, through deep snow towards the German-Belgian frontier where he was eventually captured, suffering from extreme exhaustion. After some days in hospital, Flight Lieutenant Dowse was imprisoned at Oflag VI.B. Whilst there he was engaged in the construction of four tunnels from one of which six officers escaped successfully in April, 1942. In May, 1942, Flight Lieutenant Dowse was transferred to Sagan where he made two unsuccessful attempts to leave the camp. He also continued his tunnelling activities and in March, 1942, he escaped with 76 other officers. He was recaptured after 14 days freedom and imprisoned at Sachsenhausen concentration camp, where he again helped in tunnel digging, in spite of many obstacles, and the depressing news that 50 of the officers who had previously attempted to escape, had been shot. Flight Lieutenant Dowse and four others continued with their scheme to gain their freedom and succeeded in getting away on 23rd September, 1944. He and a companion succeeded in reaching Berlin before being caught. For the next four months, he was kept in solitary confinement. He was liberated by the Allied Forces in May, 1945.

Flight Lieutenant David Ivor PIKE (43479), Royal Air Force, No. 113 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Pike was forced to make a crash landing near Tobruk in June, 1940. His skull was fractured and he was captured immediately. On arrival at a prison camp at Sulmona, he began preparations for escape and in January, 1941, with two other officers, he climbed over a 10 foot wall by means of ladders. The party's original intention of stealing an aircraft from Foggia airfield had to be abandoned

because of unfavourable weather and instead, they struggled on foot, through deep snow towards the coast. Seven days later they were captured by Italian coastguards. Throughout the remainder of his imprisonment, Flight Lieutenant Pike continued in his efforts to escape, and, as a result, was sent to Gavi prison camp. In September, 1943, when the Germans occupied this camp, they entrained all prisoners for Germany. Although Flight Lieutenant Pike had broken his ankle and his leg was in plaster, he climbed on to the buffers of the train when it was travelling at 25 miles per hour and jumped off. With another officer, he made his way to Marano, where he was sheltered until his leg was healed. Towards the end of November, 1943, he continued his way south but was recaptured on 5th December, 1943, by a Fascist. He was liberated in May, 1945, by the Russians from Stalag Luft I.

*Air Ministry, 16th August, 1946.*

#### ROYAL AIR FORCE.

##### GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

###### *Confirmation and promotion.*

Plt. Off. (prob.) J. S. SPENCER (57933) *confmd.* in appt. and to be Flg. Off. (war subs.). 21st July 1946.

###### *Promotion.*

Wg. Cdr. to Gp. Capt. (temp.). 1st July 1946:—  
C. K. J. COGGLE (16902) (*seny.* 1st Mar. 1943).  
S. S. MURRAY, O.B.E. (26117) (*seny.* 1st July 1944).

(*Seny.* 1st Jan. 1945.)

G. D. STEPHENSON (26165).  
E. D. ELLIOTT (24205).

(*Seny.* 1st July 1945.)

W. P. WELCH (26217).  
N. H. J. TINDAL (05225).  
C. E. S. LOCKETT (32103).  
H. T. BENNETT (26173).  
W. H. N. TURNER, D.F.C. (26216).

Temp. Air Cdre. (actg. Air Vice Mshl.) H. B. RUSSELL, C.B., D.F.C., A.F.C., is granted the rank of Air Cdre. (war subs.). 23rd July 1946.

##### TECHNICAL BRANCH.

###### *Confirmation and promotion.*

Plt. Offs. (prob.) *confmd.* in appts. and to be Flg. Offs. (war subs.):—

24th July 1946.

I. SCOTT, B.E.M. (57677).  
W. WOODS-HILL, B.E.M. (57667).