



SECOND SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 4th of MAY, 1943

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

FRIDAY, 7 MAY, 1943

Air Ministry, 7th May, 1943.

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.

Acting Squadron Leader John Victor BERGGREN (40459), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 139 Squadron.

Flying Officer Ralph Peter WRIGHT (116973), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 139 Squadron.

One day in April, 1943, Squadron Leader Berggren and Flying Officer Wright were captain and navigator respectively of the leading aircraft of a formation of bombers detailed to attack the railway workshops at Malines. Shortly after crossing the enemy coast anti-aircraft fire and fighter opposition were encountered. Despite this, close formation was maintained and, brilliantly navigated by Flying Officer Wright, Squadron Leader Berggren skillfully led the formation to the target where a daring low level attack was successfully executed. Just before releasing his bombs, Squadron Leader Berggren's aircraft struck some high tension cables. Nevertheless, he released his bombs, obtaining hits on his objective. Both these officers displayed exceptional skill and high courage, contributing in a large measure to the success of the operation.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Pilot Officer Dallas LASKEY (Can/J.22525), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 426 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Can/R.101990 Sergeant Leslie Lester ANDERSON, No. 426 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

One night in April, 1943, Pilot Officer Laskey and Sergeant Anderson were bomb aimer and wireless operator respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Kiel. Whilst over the target area, the aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire which damaged the rear turret, trapping the gunner. By a strenuous effort, Pilot Officer Laskey was able to move the turret sufficiently to enable the gunner to free himself. Afterwards, the target was successfully bombed but, almost immediately, the aircraft was attacked by an enemy fighter, and sustained further damage. In spite of this the pilot attempted to fly the damaged bomber back to this country. During the flight, Pilot Officer Laskey and Sergeant Anderson rendered much assistance but their efforts were unavailing. The aircraft came down on to the sea and, after 5½ hours drifting on an overturned dinghy, Pilot

Officer Laskey and Sergeant Anderson, the only 2 survivors, were picked up. Both displayed great courage and fortitude in very trying circumstances.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Pilot Officer Charles Parkinson McDONALD (Can/J.16989), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 83 Squadron.

One night in April, 1943, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed to attack Spezia. On the outward flight, whilst still a considerable distance from the target, the fuel system developed a fault, causing excessive petrol consumption. Although aware that if he continued to Spezia he might be short of fuel during the return flight, Pilot Officer McDonald flew on to the target and made a successful attack. Displaying exceptionally skilful airmanship he flew his aircraft back to this country, and landed at an airfield near the coast. This officer displayed outstanding determination and devotion to duty. On 2 previous occasions in difficult circumstances he has exhibited commendable qualities in successfully completing his allotted task.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Can/R.95724 Flight Sergeant Howard John O'CONNOR, Royal Canadian Air Force No. 15 Squadron.

1466617 Sergeant Joseph William Edward GAYLOR, No. 15 Squadron.

One night in April, 1943, these airmen were captain and mid-upper gunner of an aircraft which attacked a target in Germany. On the return flight the aircraft was attacked by 3 enemy fighters. Early in the combat the bomber was hit by the enemy's fire. One engine was damaged, while both the front and rear turrets were rendered unserviceable. Despite this, Flight Sergeant O'Connor coolly and skilfully manouevred his aircraft, enabling his gunners to deliver effective bursts of fire. Sergeant Gaylor, who used his guns with great skill, shot down 1 of the enemy aircraft. Both these airmen displayed commendable courage and determination.

Can/R.91742 Sergeant Robert Ernest TOD, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 75 (N.Z.) Squadron.

This airman was the wireless operator of an aircraft which was damaged by anti-aircraft fire during an operational flight over enemy territory. The aircraft gradually lost height and the pilot was eventually compelled to bring it down on to the sea. Meanwhile, Sergeant Tod coolly worked at his apparatus, maintaining wireless contact with base. His excellent work enabled the aircraft to be continuously plotted from the ground, and plans for rescue to be made. The entire crew of