



FOURTH SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette

Of FRIDAY, the 26th of JANUARY, 1945

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

TUESDAY, 30 JANUARY, 1945

Air Ministry, 30th January, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:—

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Norman Leslie MERRETT, D.F.C. (Aus. 416446), R.A.A.F., 164 Sqn.

Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross this officer has participated in many sorties, involving harassing attacks on enemy troops and positions. He has consistently displayed the finest qualities of skill and courage, setting an example worthy of the greatest praise. In December, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Merrett took part in an attack on an enemy field gun position near Tiel. As he went into the attack his aircraft was hit. Nevertheless he dived to a low level and pressed home a vigorous attack. He afterwards flew the damaged aircraft to our own lines and effected a crash-landing in a small field which was apparently the only one not waterlogged or ploughed up. This officer displayed unbeatable determination.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Captain John Aneck HAHN (542972V), S.A.A.F., 37 (S.A.A.F.), Sqn.

This officer has displayed the highest standard of keenness and devotion to duty in air operations. He has participated in very many sorties as navigator and his ability has contributed in good measure to the successes obtained. In November, 1944, he took part in an attack on a target in Yugoslavia. Whilst over the area, Captain Hahn was struck by a piece of shrapnel and seriously injured. Although bleeding profusely and in great pain, this gallant officer refused attention until he had given his pilot a course for home. Later, he was given morphia to ease his pain but he still persisted in helping to navigate the aircraft to base. On landing Captain Hahn was taken immediately to hospital where it was discovered that he had sustained a fractured pelvis. This officer displayed courage, fortitude and devotion of the highest order.

Flying Officer John Alexander SIMPSON (150404), R.A.F.V.R., 225 Sqn.

This officer has completed numerous sorties and throughout has displayed the greatest determination and devotion to duty. On a recent occasion he was detailed to reconnoitre and then direct artillery fire against two heavy anti-aircraft gun positions in the Bologna area. Whilst over the target considerable anti-aircraft fire was directed at his aircraft. In spite of this Flying Officer Simpson

remained over the target for some time. As a result of his excellent directions our batteries were enabled to register on the gun positions with accuracy. Although his aircraft had been hit several times by anti-aircraft fire, Flying Officer Simpson flew safely to base. This officer set a fine example of courage and tenacity.

Flying Officer William Stanley MARTIN (Can/J. 22604), R.C.A.F., 409 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.
Warrant Officer Edward Frederick COLE (Can/R. 157880), R.C.A.F., 409 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

As observer and pilot respectively Flying Officer Martin and Warrant Officer Cole have completed a large number of operational missions. They have displayed a high degree of skill and determination and throughout have set a fine example of devotion to duty. During a recent sortie they were responsible for the destruction of two enemy aircraft. In the second of the fights one wing of the hostile aircraft was shot away. It struck Warrant Officer Cole's aircraft which sustained severe damage. Height was gradually lost but Warrant Officer Cole flew a considerable distance to reach an airfield where a safe landing was effected. On the flight home he received the greatest assistance from Flying Officer Martin whose navigation, although deprived of the use of many of his instruments, was faultless. These members of aircraft crew displayed courage and coolness in difficult circumstances.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1476180 Flight Sergeant Stephen YEARDSLEY, R.A.F.V.R., 178 Sqn.

As air gunner, Flight Sergeant Yeardsley has participated in very many operational missions and has proved himself to be a highly skilled and valiant member of aircraft crew. On a recent occasion he was the rear gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack a railway siding in enemy territory. During the outward flight, enemy fighters were encountered but the timely warnings given by this gunner enabled his pilot to evade the enemy aircraft. The target was reached and bombed but, soon afterwards, the aircraft was hit by a stream of bullets from a fighter. Flight Sergeant Yeardsley was wounded in the thigh and leg. His turret was rendered unserviceable. In spite of the severity of his injuries, Flight Sergeant Yeardsley displaying a fine fighting spirit crawled to the beam position and attempted to man the gun there but collapsed through loss of blood. In trying circumstances he displayed high qualities of courage and set an example which greatly inspired his crew members.