



FOURTH SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 27th of JULY, 1943

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

FRIDAY, 30 JULY, 1943

Air Ministry, 30th July, 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:—

Second Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader James Archibald Findlay MACLACHLAN, D.S.O., D.F.C. (39639), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Alan Geoffrey PAGE (74709), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Recently, these officers in the course of an operation over enemy occupied territory shot down 6 enemy aircraft, 3 of which were destroyed by Squadron Leader MacLachlan and 2 by Flight Lieutenant Page, while the other was destroyed jointly. The operation, which was planned by Squadron Leader MacLachlan, was brilliantly executed and the successes were worthily earned.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander Robert Clifford ALABASTER, D.F.C. (81065), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 97 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Alfred Eaton CLARKE (61030), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 97 Squadron.

One night in July, 1943, Wing Commander Alabaster was captain and navigator of an aircraft piloted by Flight Lieutenant Clarke detailed to attack Cologne. Some 50 miles from the target the bomber was attacked by an enemy fighter. Before it could be evaded the aircraft was repeatedly hit. One engine was damaged, other structural essentials almost shot away, while the rear gunner was wounded and his turret rendered unserviceable. The bomber became difficult to control but, despite this, course was re-set for the target which was attacked successfully. On the return flight shortly after crossing the enemy coast, the damaged engine caught fire and could not be extinguished but Flight Lieutenant Clarke flew on to the nearest airfield to effect a masterly landing. This pilot displayed outstanding skill and tenacity while Wing Commander Alabaster's high navigational skill and excellent captaincy proved a valuable contribution to the success of the operation.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Robert Wendell MCNAIR, D.F.C. (Can/J.4745), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 421 (R.C.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer is a skilful and determined fighter, whose record of achievement and personal example are worthy of high praise. Squadron Leader McNair has destroyed 10 hostile aircraft (5 of them whilst serving in the Middle East) and damaged a number of others.

Flight Lieutenant John Michael BRYAN, D.F.C. (102570), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 137 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Bryan is a skilful and tenacious pilot. Since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, he has damaged 2 mine-sweepers, 3 barges and an E. boat. In addition he has executed 13 destructive attacks on locomotives; he has also participated in several successful attacks on enemy airfields. Flight Lieutenant Bryan has displayed high qualities of leadership, setting an inspiring example.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Peter BUNCLARK, D.F.M. (117580), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 78 Squadron.

One night in July, 1943, this officer piloted an aircraft detailed for an operation against Cologne. Soon after the target had been attacked 1 of the bomber's engines was struck by shrapnel and put out of action. The propeller was feathered and the homeward flight continued, but, some time later, whilst still over enemy territory, a second engine became useless. Despite this, Squadron Leader Bunclark succeeded in flying the bomber to this country. Other essential equipment was unserviceable and the position became serious. With complete disregard for his own welfare, Squadron Leader Bunclark struggled on to avoid a built-up area and succeeded in crash-landing the damaged bomber in a field. This officer displayed courage and tenacity of a high order.

Acting Flight Lieutenant David Mowbray BALME (118095), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 207 Squadron.

This officer was the captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Turin one night in July, 1943. Although 1 engine failed soon after the commencement of his flight to this distant target, Flight Lieutenant Balme continued his mission. When nearing the Alps a quantity of movable stores was jettisoned in stages in order to gain height. This accomplished, the bomber was piloted safely over the mountains and on to the target which was successfully attacked. When some 150 miles on the return journey the defective engine became serviceable but it soon became evident that the petrol would become exhausted before this country was reached if the full complement of engines were used. Flight Lieutenant