



FIFTH SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 20th of FEBRUARY, 1945

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

FRIDAY, 23 FEBRUARY, 1945

Air Ministry, 23rd February, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations:—

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander Derrick Milner WALBOURN, D.S.O., D.F.C. (72004), R.A.F.V.R., 37 Sqn.

In December, 1944, Wing Commander Walbourn piloted an aircraft in an attack on the railway sidings at Coblenz. Almost immediately after taking off, the starboard engine began to vibrate badly and had to be put out of action. Despite the loss of engine power, Wing Commander Walbourn continued to the target which he reached on time. Whilst over the target much anti-aircraft fire was directed at his aircraft. Nevertheless, Wing Commander Walbourn executed a straight and level bombing run. The aircraft was hit many times in the fuselage and mainplane but this pilot flew back to base. The success achieved reflects the greatest credit on the skill and determination of this officer.

Acting Squadron Leader Gordon Wonnacott, D.F.C. (Can/J.9868), R.C.A.F., 414 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer continues to show great gallantry in air operations. His keenness to engage the enemy was well in evidence on one occasion in January, 1945, when, on returning to base at the completion of a reconnaissance, he saw the airfield was being attacked by a large force of enemy aircraft. Squadron Leader Wonnacott immediately engaged the enemy. Before all his ammunition was expended, this resolute pilot had destroyed three of the attacking force. This officer has displayed devotion to duty of a very high order.

Flight Lieutenant Reginald John FOSTER, D.F.C. (106065), R.A.F.V.R., 604 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Maurice Frederick NEWTON, D.F.C. (116700), R.A.F.V.R., 604 Sqn.

As pilot and observer respectively, Flight Lieutenants Foster and Newton have completed a very large number of sorties. They have set a fine example of courage and determination and have destroyed eight enemy aircraft, successes which are an excellent testimony to their great skill and co-operation. Flight Lieutenant Newton has shared in the destruction of one more enemy aircraft which was shot down when he was flying with another pilot.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Peter Maurice BEZENCENET (115617), R.A.F.V.R., 208 Sqn.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties, including numerous successful recon-

naissances over the forward battle area during these operations. Squadron Leader Bezencenet has faced heavy enemy fire with complete disregard for his own safety. Nevertheless, he has executed his missions with great skill. On one occasion, in September, 1944, whilst over the Bologna area, his aircraft sustained such damage that he was forced to abandon it. Although he was badly wounded when fired upon by an enemy patrol, Squadron Leader Bezencenet succeeded in reaching the British lines. This officer has displayed outstanding keenness and has set a fine example of bravery and devotion to duty.

Flight Lieutenant Peter Frank RAW (Aus.409445), R.A.A.F., 178 Sqn.

This officer has completed a notable tour of operational duty. He has displayed exceptional skill and devotion to duty and his example of determination and courage in the face of danger has been reflected in the fine spirit of his crew. Early in his operational career, Flight Lieutenant Raw was called upon to take part in an attack on Ploesti East oil refinery. In spite of fierce fire from the ground defences, this resolute pilot executed a successful bombing run and afterwards evaded an enemy fighter which attempted to close in. He returned safely to base. Since then, Flight Lieutenant Raw has participated in several sorties calling for a high degree of skill and resolution. His record is most impressive.

Flight Lieutenant Donald Campbell GORDON (Can/J.16633), R.C.A.F., 442 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has displayed the highest standard of skill and resolution in his attacks on the enemy. Among his successes is the destruction of four enemy aircraft. Two of these he shot down recently in an engagement against a large force of enemy fighters. Flight Lieutenant Gordon was wounded and his aircraft was badly damaged but he effected a successful crash-landing.

Flight Lieutenant Stewart William REES (Aus.415681), R.A.A.F., 600 Sqn.

Flying Officer Douglas Clive BARTLETT (147947), R.A.F.V.R., 600 Sqn.

These officers, as pilot and observer respectively, have completed a large number of sorties. Throughout, they have displayed great co-operation and high skill and have been responsible for the destruction of four enemy aircraft at night.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Ernest Jack FLETCHER (Aus.409138), R.A.A.F., 178 Sqn.

As pilot and captain of aircraft, Flight Lieutenant Fletcher has participated in very many sorties and has displayed exceptional ability and devotion to duty. On several occasions he has been detailed for missions entailing flights far into enemy territory. The success obtained on all