



THIRD SUPPLEMENT TO The London Gazette

Of FRIDAY, the 18th of MAY, 1945

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

TUESDAY, 22 MAY, 1945

Air Ministry, 22nd May, 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:—

Distinguished Service Order.

Lieutenant-Colonel Donald Pax TILLEY, D.F.C. (102179V), S.A.A.F., 19 (S.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Lieutenant-Colonel Tilley has an outstanding record as an operational pilot. He has participated in a very large number of sorties against a wide variety of targets. In February, 1945, he led a formation of aircraft in a carefully planned attack against a medium sized armed merchantman lying in the port of Fiume. With considerable determination and accuracy this officer pressed home his attack, obtaining hits on the vessel amidships. The destruction of the vessel, without loss to his formation, was largely due to the careful planning and skilful leadership of Lieutenant-Colonel Tilley. The successes he has achieved are a fine tribute to his sterling qualities.

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander John Nicol STACEY, D.F.C. (41217), R.A.F.O., 160 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Harold Francis McNABB (151604), R.A.F.V.R., 160 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenant Leslie WATERFIELD (Can/J.23061), R.C.A.F., 160 Sqn.

Flying Officer James Duncan Alexander ROBERTSON (Can/J.29252), R.C.A.F., 160 Sqn.

Warrant Officer Leonard Toogood SUTTON (927108), R.A.F.V.R., 160 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1567487 Flight Sergeant James McGARRY, R.A.F.V.R., 160 Sqn.

These members of aircraft crew have taken part in many operational missions. One night in March, 1945, they were detailed to participate in a mine-laying mission in enemy waters. The operation called for a high degree of courage and resolution and the success achieved reflects the credit on the efforts of the above-named personnel who, in various capacities displayed skill and fortitude of a high order. On reaching base at the completion of the sortie they had been in the air for some 21 hours on a flight covering more than 3,000 miles.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Group Captain Ian Balmford NEWBIGGING, R.A.F.

Group Captain Newbigging has been in command of his station since April, 1944. During the

period he has participated in numerous sorties as captain of aircraft. On one occasion in March, 1945, when attacking Bruchstrasse, his aircraft was illuminated by searchlights for some minutes and was the target for intense enemy opposition. Despite this, he pressed home his attack with resolution and success. The determination of this officer to maintain a high standard of efficiency throughout every aspect of the operational commitments of his station, coupled with his fine personal example, is reflected in the fine fighting qualities of all the personnel under his command.

Acting Squadron Leader Neil Reginald SMITH (Aus.409954), R.A.A.F., 455 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

This officer has completed very many attacks on enemy shipping. On one occasion, in June, 1944, he pressed home an attack against two vessels escorting an important convoy off the Friesian Islands. The opposition by the enemy was very severe, but the photographic evidence brought back by Squadron Leader Smith showed how successful his attacks were. On numerous sorties his aircraft has been badly damaged by enemy fire but he has always pressed home his attack. His skilful leadership, together with his efficiency and courage, have won great praise.

Acting Squadron Leader Gordon Ernest WILLIS (64880), R.A.F.V.R., 524 Sqn.

This officer has proved himself to be an efficient and resourceful captain of aircraft. He has participated in a large number of sorties, including many attacks on enemy shipping during which he has achieved notable successes. This officer has at all times displayed the highest standard of devotion to duty and his record is one of persistent and determined endeavour.

Flight Lieutenant Joseph Aschiale Eugene GAGNON (Can/J.27002), R.C.A.F., 23 Sqn.

Since joining his squadron in December, 1944, this officer has completed many sorties against a variety of targets. His determination has been outstanding and his persistent attacks on enemy locomotives, rolling stock and road transport have been most successful. One night in March, 1945, he was detailed on a mine laying mission in a section of the Elbe river. On the outward journey the starboard engine developed trouble but despite this he went on to accomplish his task in the face of heavy enemy fire. On the return journey the starboard engine became completely unserviceable. Height could not be maintained and the aircraft was forced down to 400 feet, becoming extremely difficult to control. Displaying brilliant airmanship and determination, Flight Lieutenant Gagnon made a successful landing at base without injury to his crew and with but slight damage to the aircraft. His devotion to duty has been most notable.