

TWO NEW GROUP CAPTAINS FOR RIAF

NEW DELHI, May 15.— Wing Commander Mehr Singh, D.S.O., member of the Armed Forces Nationalisation Committee and Wing Commander Narendra, Officer Commanding the R.I.A.F. Depot at Arkonam, were yesterday promoted to the rank of Group Captain — a rank only attained by two other officers of the Royal Indian Air Force previously.

Group Captain Mehr Singh, first Indian Air Force officer to be awarded the Distinguished Service Order, gained this distinction while commanding a Hurricane Fighter Reconnaissance Squadron of the Indian Air Force on the Burma Front during the battles of the Arakan when he personally completed 82 operational sorties in just under three months. He now fills the post of Group Captain in charge of Flying Training at Air Headquarters, India.

Group Captain Narendra, who also has a distinguished flying career, was the first officer of the Royal Indian Air Force to qualify as an operational parachutist, having carried out at least eight 'jumps' from high flying aircraft. He has now taken up the appointment of Senior Officer in charge of Administration at No. 2 Indian Group Headquarters at Bangalore.