



# SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO The London Gazette

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## CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1, 16th February, 1943.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the British Empire Medal (Military Division) to:—

Aus.410106 Sergeant Ernest George Thompson, Royal Australian Air Force.

On the 8th September, 1942, Sergeant Thompson was gunner of an aircraft performing air exercises at a bombing and gunnery school. After completing the exercises the aircraft stalled, crashed and burst into flames. As it struck the ground, Sergeant Thompson leapt clear and went to the assistance of the pilot, who was trapped in the blazing aircraft. He was unable to release the pilot from the starboard side and ran to the port side. The wreckage was burning fiercely but Sergeant Thompson went without hesitation into the midst of the flames in a further attempt to extricate the pilot. He struggled violently with the wreckage but could not effect the release of the pilot, who was burned to death. Sergeant Thompson had received second degree burns to the face and third degree burns to the hands and had continued his courageous efforts until ordered to the ambulance even then he expressed a desire to return to the wreckage and resume the attempt to release the pilot.

1071522 Corporal Oscar Skelton, Royal Air Force.

During an attack on a Royal Air Force Station by 2 enemy aircraft one morning in July, 1942, four bombs fell in residential quarters. Corporal Skelton was billeted in a house nearly opposite to the place where the first bomb exploded and immediately went to the spot and brought out two injured civilians from demolished houses. He subsequently displayed outstanding courage in extinguishing a fire beneath the rubble. To achieve this he twice crawled through a hole in the wreckage and in so doing showed complete disregard for his own safety in view of the overhanging debris which was likely to collapse and bury him. Corporal Skelton received minor injuries and finally collapsed after his strenuous efforts; he was removed to hospital for treatment. He displayed high courage and determination throughout.

Air Ministry, 16th February, 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:—

On the 30th January, 1943, two forces of bombers were detailed to attack Berlin, one during the morning and the other during the afternoon. To reach the German capital necessitated a

flight of more than 500 miles, mostly over heavily defended territory. Close co-ordination and precise timing were essential but, such was the skill exhibited, that the target was reached and the attacks delivered within seconds of the specified time. That complete success was achieved, despite opposition from the ground defences, is a high tribute to the calm courage, resolution and endurance displayed by the following officers and airmen who, in various capacities, acted as members of the aircraft crews:—

### Distinguished Service Order.

Squadron Leader Reginald Wilfred REYNOLDS, D.F.C. (40259), No. 105 Squadron.

### Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenant John GORDON (86721), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 105 Squadron.

Flying Officer Ralph Gamble HAYES (120087), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 105 Squadron.

Flying Officer Reginald Charles MORRIS (119221), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 139 Squadron.

Flying Officer Antony Trelawney WICKHAM (103011), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 105 Squadron.

Pilot Officer William Edward Dennis MAKIN (124936), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 105 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Edward Barnes SISMORE (130208), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 105 Squadron.

### Distinguished Flying Medal.

N.Z.411989 Flight Sergeant Peter John Dickson MCGEEHAN, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 139 Squadron.

1382236 Sergeant Richard Charles FLETCHER, No. 139 Squadron.

1087498 Sergeant Joseph MASSEY, No. 139 Squadron.

Air Ministry, 16th February, 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:—

### Bar to Distinguished Service Order.

Group Captain Laurence Frank SINCLAIR, G.C., C.B.E., D.S.O.

This officer commands a light bomber wing which commenced operations in North Africa in November, 1942. He has led his squadrons on numerous sorties, involving low level attacks on enemy targets in the face of heavy anti-aircraft fire and fighter opposition. His inspiring leadership and courageous example have been reflected in the fine fighting spirit of the squadrons he commands.