



THIRD SUPPLEMENT  
TO  
**The London Gazette**

Of FRIDAY, the 29th of JUNE, 1945

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

TUESDAY, 3 JULY, 1945

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
3rd July, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, and the following awards of the George Medal and the British Empire Medal:—

*To be an Additional Officer of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—*

Acting Squadron Leader Frederick Charles BATTEN (106782), R.A.F.V.R.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Military Division).*

1109300 Acting Flight Sergeant Harold BAXTER, R.A.F.V.R.

The demolition of a partially blasted German munition dump was in progress near San Severo airfield, Italy, when, in July, 1944, an explosion occurred, killing 7 airmen. Considerable quantities of shells, mines and bombs were scattered over an area of about 20 acres. Many of these missiles had been damaged by the force of the explosion and had become extremely sensitive and highly dangerous to handle. It was, however, necessary to proceed with the demolition owing to the proximity of San Severo airfield which was seriously endangered. The task was undertaken by Squadron Leader Batten, the Commanding Officer of No. 5136 (B/D) Squadron, assisted by Flight Sergeant Baxter and another non-commissioned officer. Work commenced on 17th August, 1944, and was completed on 18th August, resulting in the demolition of 7,550 88 m.m. shells, 1,140 40 m.m. shells, 2 H.E. Bombs of 250 kgs. and 6 Tellermine. The condition of many of these dangerous objects, of a varying and uncertain degree of sensitiveness, was such that detonation at the slightest touch was probable if they were improperly handled. There was also the added risk of possible spontaneous explosions. Squadron Leader Batten was largely responsible for the complete success of the operations and he showed courage and fine leadership in circumstances of great danger. Flight Sergeant Baxter showed similar courage in handling and examining dangerous missiles and he contributed much to the result.

*Awarded the George Medal.*

Acting Flight Lieutenant William Cross FITCH, D.F.C. (143764), R.A.F.V.R. (Since deceased.)

One night in February, 1945, a Mosquito aircraft crashed into some farm buildings at New York, Lincs, setting them on fire. Flight Lieutenant Fitch was one of the first to arrive at the scene of the crash and started searching the blazing buildings despite the fact that cannon and machine gun ammunition and signal cartridges were exploding. On hearing cries coming from a corner where the flames were fiercest, he went into the inferno, crawling over fallen masonry, and found the farmer inside, trapped by fallen brickwork and beams. He quickly freed him and commenced to carry him away before further assistance arrived. Unfortunately the farmer died in hospital some hours later. Flight Lieutenant Fitch showed complete disregard for his own safety and his gallant but unavailing efforts to save a civilian's life, in conditions of great danger, are worthy of the highest praise.

*Awarded the George Medal.*

1056093 Leading Aircraftman James Hughes ROBB, R.A.F.V.R.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Military Division).*

1523183 Leading Aircraftman George Edward BANNISTER, R.A.F.V.R.

1670252 Leading Aircraftman Horace FOX, R.A.F.V.R.

One night in November, 1944, an aircraft crashed on to the roof of a farm house adjoining an R.A.F. airfield, setting the house and the surrounding farm buildings on fire. Leading Aircraftmen Robb and Fox at once ran to the scene. Leading Aircraftman Robb entered the house by the front door, which had been broken open by a civilian, with whom he went up the partly wrecked staircase. They found a girl trying to help an elderly man, who was slightly injured, out of bed. Leading Aircraftman Robb and the civilian assisted the pair down the stairs into the open. On being informed that 2 old people were still upstairs, Leading Aircraftmen Robb and Fox and other helpers managed to get through the window of the bedroom by scaling up the outside wall of the house. They were driven back by smoke and fire, but after a hose had been played into the window, they were able