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FRIDAY, 18 OCTOBER, 1929.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W. 1,

18th October, 1929.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the Award of the Medal of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire to the under-mentioned:—

For Gallantry.

Flight Cadet William Neil McKechnie, Royal Air Force.

On the 20th June, 1929, an aeroplane piloted by Flight Cadet C. J. Giles crashed on landing at Cranwell Aerodrome and burst into flames. The pilot was stunned but managed to release his safety belt and fall out of the machine in a dazed condition. Flight Cadet McKechnie, who had landed in another aeroplane about the same time some two hundred yards away, left his machine and ran at full speed towards the scene of the accident. The petrol had spread over an area of about ten yards diameter in full blaze, with Giles lying in it, semi-conscious. McKechnie, without hesitation, ran into the flames and pulled out Giles, who was badly burned about the legs and face, with his Sidcot suit and clothes

actually burning. After dragging him clear of the flames, during the process of which he was scorched and superficially burned, McKechnie proceeded to extinguish the flames of Giles' burning clothing.

By this time, the machine was in full blaze, with the petrol spreading along the ground so that without McKechnie's assistance, there is no doubt Giles would have been burned to death, as he was quite incapable of moving himself.

Ultimately the machine was entirely destroyed by fire and the ground for some distance around was completely burned up by the spread of the ignited petrol.

*Crown Office,
House of Lords, S.W. 1.
17th October, 1929.*

The KING has been pleased by Letters Patent under the Great Seal, bearing date the 11th day of October, 1929, to grant unto Sir John Meir Astbury, Knight, late one of the Justices of His Majesty's High Court of Justice, an annuity of £3,500 for life commencing from the 7th day of October, 1929, inclusive.