



**THIRD SUPPLEMENT**

TO

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TUESDAY, 21 JANUARY, 1941

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.**

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
21st January, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the GEORGE CROSS to the undermentioned:—

Wing Commander Laurence Frank SINCLAIR.  
D.S.O. (26066).

During a night in September, 1940, an aircraft burst into flames while taking off. Wing Commander Sinclair immediately went to the scene to render assistance, but two 250 lb. bombs exploded before he reached it. Undeterred, and knowing that two more bombs were in the aircraft, he pressed on and dashing into the fire he succeeded in dragging the air gunner to a safe distance. In this act this officer displayed the most complete disregard for his own safety. Unfortunately the rescued air gunner has since died of his injuries.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Wilson Hodgson CHARLTON (44837).

Flight Lieutenant Charlton is responsible for all work in connection with enemy bombs in an area comprising the greater part of two counties. Both by day and night, during recent months, he has dealt with some 200

unexploded bombs. He has successfully undertaken many dangerous missions with undaunted and unflinching courage.

935282 Aircraftman First Class Vivian HOLLOWDAY.

One night in July, 1940, when returning to camp, this airman observed an aircraft crash and burst into flames. He immediately proceeded to the wreckage and made his way through the burning debris which was scattered over a wide area by the force of the impact. He found the pilot whose clothing was on fire, and put out the flames with his bare hands. Had the pilot not been killed instantly in the crash this action would in all probability have saved his life. During August, 1940, this airman was again returning to the camp when an aircraft suddenly spun to the ground and exploded. He immediately went to the crash and a second explosion occurred. Ammunition was exploding all the time but despite this, he borrowed a gas mask, wrapped two sacks over himself and spent some time in the flames, making four attempts before he succeeded in releasing the first occupant. He then re-entered the burning wreckage and successfully removed the second. All three occupants, however, were already dead. Aircraftman Hollowday displayed amazing courage and initiative on both occasions.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
21st January, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

*To be Additional Members of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:—*

Flying Officer John Hamilton LAUGHLIN (39995).

Pilot Officer John COGGINS (44458).

In September, 1940, an aircraft carrying a full load of bombs, crashed among other aircraft and burst into flames. Flying Officer Laughlin, Pilot Officer Coggins and another officer immediately ran to these aircraft, started the engines and taxied them away. During this time two bombs on the burning plane had exploded. The action showed complete disregard for personal safety in the face of the greatest danger and owing to the officers' promptness three aircraft were taken to safety without damage and a fourth with only minor damage.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
21st January, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the following Awards:—

*Awarded the George Medal.*

Pilot Officer James Joseph Patrick DUDLEY (87563), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

One morning in October, 1940, a hangar had been badly damaged by incendiary bombs. Although he knew that there were unexploded bombs in the hangar, Pilot Officer Dudley led the fire fighting party with such skill and gallantry that the fire was prevented from spreading and three aircraft were saved. When this station was again attacked one evening later in the month, he rallied the fire fighters, removed an aircraft from a burning Bessoneau, and then fought the fire which he brought under control with amazing speed.

Warrant Officer Edward George ALFORD (335383).

This warrant officer has displayed great gallantry and skill in disposing of a large number of unexploded bombs, never hesitating to deal with them immediately if he considered their presence was affecting the operational efficiency of the station.

Warrant Officer Edmund George HUNT (359883).

This warrant officer has dealt with unexploded bombs after six enemy bombing attacks on the aerodrome. On one occasion, while assisting an officer he was blown 20 yards; but in spite of this he has continued to show a complete disregard for his own safety and his gallant actions have been instrumental in keeping the aerodrome operationally serviceable.

Warrant Officer James Victor SAUNDERS (201690).

This warrant officer has been in charge of parties dealing with the many unexploded bombs which have fallen on the aerodrome. He has carried out his duties often in very difficult circumstances, and has shown high courage and devotion to duty.

968365 Sergeant Dudley Farquhar ALLEN.

In September, 1940, this airman was the turret gunner of an aircraft which crashed in dense mist; he was dazed by a heavy blow on the head and his parachute harness was entangled with the seat. Although the compartment door was jammed, Sergeant Allen succeeded in forcing his way out of the wreckage and, in spite of the fact that the aircraft was on fire, he proceeded with great energy and resolution to extricate the unconscious bodies of three of the crew at the risk of his own life. Undeterred by the increasing intensity of the heat and fumes from the burning wreckage, and amid exploding ammunition, he then endeavoured to find the pilot, but was unsuccessful. Unaware, owing to the dense mist, that the crash had occurred on the aerodrome, Sergeant Allen removed the unconscious man to a safe distance from the flames before assistance arrived. It was due to his efforts that the three members of the crew were not burned with the aircraft, though unfortunately they subsequently died from injuries sustained during the crash.

515738 Sergeant Kenneth LYTHGOE.

1300504 Aircraftman 2nd Class Richard NICHOLSON.

998918 Aircraftman 2nd Class Arthur SIMPSON.

These airmen, as members of a demolition party, have handled enemy bombs with great courage and disregard for their personal safety, on various dates during July, August and September, 1940.

158305 Leading Aircraftman Richard John FARLEY.

820067 Aircraftman 1st Class Thomas William COOP.

In September, 1940, an aircraft crashed on an aerodrome and immediately burst into flames. Aircraftman Coop promptly ran to the burning aircraft and endeavoured to extricate the pilot. In spite of the flames, and regardless of the additional danger from exploding ammunition, Leading Aircraftman Farley unhesitatingly ran to his assistance and, plunging his arms into the blazing cockpit, released the legs of the pilot, who was apparently stunned and whose clothes were in flames. Between them the airmen carried him to a safe distance, thereby saving him from certain death. In spite of superficial burns on arms and legs Leading Aircraftman Farley returned to his normal duties. By their action these two airmen showed great courage and complete disregard for their personal safety. Unfortunately the pilot later succumbed to his injuries.

548427 Leading Aircraftman Ronald Sidney PRIOR.

In August, 1940, this airman, while on leave in London, showed conspicuous bravery by entering an aircraft which had crashed and

caught fire in a street of houses after the pilot had descended by parachute. One gun was firing to the danger of the people in the vicinity, and ammunition in the aircraft was exploding. Despite the danger of the petrol tank exploding at any moment and the fact that he sustained burns to his hands and arms in the process, which necessitated subsequent medical attention. Leading Aircraftman Prior succeeded in gaining access to the gun and removing the back plate in an endeavour to arrest the continued functioning of the gun.

567944 Corporal Joseph Graham Michael DAVIS.

619213 Aircraftman 1st Class Thomas McCANN.

During September, 1940, these airmen approached a burning aircraft and succeeded in detaching Vickers guns and magazines of ammunition and removing them to a place of safety. Both displayed conspicuous gallantry in disregarding imminent personal danger from exploding ammunition and the likelihood that the petrol tanks might explode.

335107 Corporal Harry SPENCER.

1001638 Aircraftman 2nd Class Stanley WARD.

During a night in September, 1940, these airmen were members of the fire tender crew on duty when an aircraft crashed on taking off and burst into flames. Though fully aware that the aircraft was carrying a full load of bombs and ammunition, Corporal Spencer rushed into the fire and endeavoured to extricate the injured observer who was lying under the port wing. Aircraftman Ward, also knowing the aircraft was loaded, went to his assistance and they were able to carry the injured man to safety. Corporal Spencer then returned to the fire in an attempt to rescue other members of the crew. One of the two 250 lb. bombs exploded and threw him to the ground ten yards away but without causing him serious injury. Both these airmen displayed a complete disregard for their personal safety, and the injured observer undoubtedly owes his life to their gallantry.

#### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
21st January, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following Awards:—

*The Medal of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for Meritorious Service:—*

547794 Sergeant Francis John BLACKWOOD.

This airman has displayed courage of a high order in ten successive enemy raids and has energetically assisted in raising the morale of the station by his example.

#### LONDON

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