

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