



**SUPPLEMENT**

TO

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**MONDAY, 5 MAY, 1941**

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD**

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,  
5th May, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the George Medal to the undermentioned:—

Flying Officer Digby Vawdre Cartmel Cotes-Preedy (41987), Royal Air Force.

This officer was the pilot of an aircraft which crashed shortly after taking off, just before dawn one day in January, 1941. The aircraft burst into flames on impact, and the observer was thrown out. Flying Officer Cotes-Preedy forced his way out and found the observer lying in burning petrol. He dragged the observer clear, rolled him in the grass to extinguish his burning clothing, and then returned to the aircraft to search for the air gunner. Finding the gunner's escape hatch jammed, Flying Officer Cotes-Preedy ripped the side of the fuselage and succeeded in dragging the air gunner out by his head. Although injured and suffering from burns, Flying Officer Cotes-Preedy displayed great gallantry and initiative. He undoubtedly saved the life of the air gunner, and was of great assistance to the observer.

Flying Officer Richard Garwood Robinson (83668), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.  
1165459 Corporal John Taylor, Royal Air Force.

One day in February, 1941, an aircraft crashed just beyond the boundary of an aerodrome. Flying Officer Robinson, medical officer at the station, was at the scene of the accident almost immediately and was first seen crawling through heavy smoke and fumes but, when he had nearly reached the wreckage, he was forced back owing to an explosion of one of the main petrol tanks. Undeterred, however, he returned to the seat of the fire, which was around the pilot's cockpit, where he was joined by Corporal Taylor who had been playing football and had run to the crash clad only in his football attire. Together they attempted to extricate the only remaining member of the aircraft. To assist them in their efforts, a foam apparatus was turned directly on them. Although petrol and oil tanks, ammunition and very lights were exploding Flying Officer Robinson and Corporal Taylor persisted in their efforts and finally extricated the body. Both displayed great courage and a complete disregard for their own safety and although both suffered from the effects of the foam

sprayed on them, it undoubtedly saved them from being gravely burned. On a previous occasion, Flying Officer Robinson displayed the greatest courage in attempting to rescue the members of a burning aircraft, in spite of exploding bombs and ammunition.

1252290 Leading Aircraftman George Arthur Hutchinson, Royal Air Force.

During a fire in a top storey room at a Royal Air Force Station one day in February, 1941, Leading Aircraftman Hutchinson succeeded in getting on to the roof and then climbed along the side of the wall, getting down on to a stack-pipe, from which he assisted a number of occupants to safety. Thinking the room was clear, he had started to get down himself when another airman appeared at the window, badly burned and with his clothing on fire. This airman got on to the window ledge and locked his arms round the window frame but, owing to his dazed condition, he could not, or would not, let go. Leading Aircraftman Hutchinson, realising the airman's position, and showing complete disregard for his own safety, climbed back on to the window ledge and tried to beat out the flames on the airman's tunic but he was unsuccessful in doing this. He managed to get the airman away, however, by forcing him to release his grip on the window-frame; by this time the room was a mass of flames. Leading Aircraftman Hutchinson faced great danger from burning and from the collapse of the building, and exhibited bravery of a high order in returning for the final rescue. Unfortunately, the airman whom he rescued has since died.

## CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,  
5th May, 1941.*

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

507022 Flight Sergeant Alfred Sydney Joseph Curtis, Royal Air Force.

747046 Corporal Walter Hogg, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Flight Sergeant Curtis was engaged in supervising the unloading of live bombs from a lorry, unaware that they had previously formed part of the bomb load of a damaged aircraft. During the process a bomb exploded, immediately killing a number of airmen and setting fire to the vehicle. Flight Sergeant Curtis and Corporal Hogg unhesitatingly approached the blazing vehicle, and, with great personal courage, removed the bodies of the dead airmen.

575382 Leading Aircraftman Charles James Kiss, Royal Air Force.

521482 Aircraftman 1st Class George Gill, Royal Air Force.

535669 Aircraftman 1st Class Frank Hindley, Royal Air Force.

One day in December, 1940, a training aircraft crashed, burst into flames and was burnt out in a few minutes. The passenger was thrown clear but died from his injuries. The pilot, who was badly injured, was pinned in the burning wreckage but was extricated by the gallant efforts of these three airmen who in so doing undoubtedly saved his life.

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