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FRIDAY, 31 OCTOBER, 1941

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

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
31st October, 1941.*

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

Pilot Officer Alexander John Nicholson (86708), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

In August, 1941, this officer was a passenger in an aircraft which was involved in a collision when taking off and crashed. The aircraft immediately caught fire but Pilot Officer Nicholson managed to get clear. He remembered that when the plane crashed someone in the wireless compartment had been thrown across him. Ammunition and pyrotechnics were exploding and the whole front of the aircraft was in flames but Pilot Officer Nicholson, with complete disregard for his own safety, re-entered and, making his way forward, found the wireless operator, whom he managed to drag to the door, when an explosion occurred which blew Pilot Officer Nicholson a distance of 20 yards. The wireless operator was finally extricated by others but, without doubt, his life was saved by Pilot Officer Nicholson's gallantry in the first instance.

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

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
31st October, 1941.*

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

904071 Sergeant Douglas Clarence Arthur Wilkinson, Royal Air Force.

One night in June, 1941, this airman was the wireless operator of an aircraft which, in the course of an operation, was compelled to descend on to the sea off the Dutch coast. Although Sergeant Wilkinson had had trouble with his wireless set he had managed to maintain wireless contact with a home station until the aircraft crashed, thus enabling an accurate fix to be obtained of the aircraft's position. After the crash he released his captain who was strapped in and assisted him through the front top hatch. Sergeant Wilkinson was about to leave the aircraft, which by this time was half full of water, when he observed the navigator lying unconscious in the tunnel. Sergeant Wilkinson immediately went to the navigator's assistance, and dragging him into the cockpit, managed to revive him and then assisted him to climb out through the top

hatch. Following him through the hatch, Sergeant Wilkinson saw the dinghy had not yet been launched so, dropping down on to the port wing, he jumped into the sea, swam round to the door and, opening it fully, enabled the rear gunner to throw out the dinghy. It failed to open but Sergeant Wilkinson pulled on the cord until it eventually opened but upside down. Eventually, however, the dinghy was righted and all the crew were able to jump into it except the navigator who fell in the water. Sergeant Wilkinson grasped him and with the assistance of the rear gunner was able to pull the navigator into the dinghy. Within the next few minutes the aircraft sank. Sergeant Wilkinson showed great presence of mind and devotion to duty and undoubtedly was instrumental in saving the life of the navigator besides contributing largely to the successful launching of the dinghy which led to the eventual rescue of the entire crew.

*Air Ministry,
31st October, 1941.*

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

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

Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Andrew William FLETCHER, D.F.C. (37280), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 272 Squadron.

Squadron Leader Alexander Coultate RABAGLIATI, D.F.C. (37209), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 46 Squadron.

Squadron Leader Thomas Stephen RIVETT-CARNAC, D.F.C. (33281), No. 37 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Robert Alexander BARTON, D.F.C. (37664), No. 249 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Wing Commander Paul Davie HOLDER (36054).
Acting Squadron Leader Robert Carleton BEAMAN (39367) (deceased), *awarded with effect from 28th December, 1940.*

Flight Lieutenant Daniel Edward CREMIN (36128).

Flight Lieutenant William RILEY (37422), No. 252 Squadron.

Flying Officer James Cresey DAVIDSON (42700), No. 252 Squadron.

Flying Officer Donald Wilfrid STEVENTON (33477).

Flying Officer William TREGGER (81024), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 148 Squadron.

Pilot Officer Alfred George Ernest DIXON (45803), No. 55 Squadron.

Pilot Officer William James Kitchingham GLADWELL (82741), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 37 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

566091 Flight Sergeant Eric BALDWIN, No. 70 Squadron.

522270 Sergeant David BOWIE, No. 252 Squadron.

524514 Sergeant Ernest BUCKLEY, No. 252 Squadron.

942483 Sergeant Donald DIGGLES, No. 53 Squadron.

551858 Sergeant Clayton Edward HARGEST, No. 148 Squadron.

751774 Sergeant David Lloyd LEWIS, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 59 Squadron.

550572 Sergeant John Anderson PATTERSON (deceased), *awarded with effect from 20th February, 1941.*

509364 Sergeant Henry ROBSON (deceased), *awarded with effect from 28th December, 1940.*

631154 Sergeant Norman Trevor Hamilton WILSON, No. 98 Squadron.

542765 Leading Aircraftman Edward Harry MARTIN.

546009 Aircraftman 2nd Class Isaac Alexander TAYLOR.

The above awards are for gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations.

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