

operator and navigator safe and finding no sign of the air gunner, he asked for boats to be sent out to search for the missing man, at the same time giving clear instructions where to look for him. He would not leave the beach until he had seen that boats were searching for the air gunner who, it was subsequently found, must have succumbed to his wounds shortly after striking out for the shore. Sergeant Flint then walked for over a mile to a waiting ambulance and was taken to hospital. This airman displayed great gallantry, fortitude and disregard of personal safety in his efforts to save the helpless navigator who, unfortunately, has since died of his wounds.

983121 Aircraftman 1st Class John Wilkie
Royal Air Force.

1220956 Aircraftman 2nd Class William Foley,
Royal Air Force.

An aircraft, which had just taken off, struck another aircraft on the ground, crashed near the aerodrome boundary and burst into flames. Aircraftmen Hartle, Wilkie and Foley at once rushed to the burning wreckage and endeavoured to rescue the trapped pilot and passenger. Aircraftmen Hartle and Wilkie succeeded in loosening the pilot from the cockpit but whilst trying to carry him out of the aircraft, his tunic came apart causing Aircraftman Wilkie to tumble backwards. Aircraftman Foley immediately took his place. On loosening the pilot, the passenger, who was unconscious, fell backwards towards the door of the cockpit and was removed by Aircraftmen Hartle and Foley. All three rescuers then succeeded in extricating the severely injured pilot a few moments before the main petrol tanks exploded and the fire became an inferno. These airmen displayed gallantry and initiative. Although, unfortunately, the pilot died the next day, their prompt action undoubtedly saved the life of the passenger who was severely burned.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
7th November, 1941.*

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

1060787 Aircraftman 1st Class Frederick
Hartle, Royal Air Force.

LONDON

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