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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1, 29th December, 1942.

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

To be an Additional Member of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order: —

Flight Lieutenant Thomas Henry Cullen, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (81303), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Reserve. A few days before the German invasion of Crete, this medical officer fell sick with dysentery at Maleme. When the heavy air attack on Maleme began, although too weak to walk properly, he immediately attended to the wounded and continued to do so under fire until his post was captured. Flight Lieutenant Cullen then established a first-aid post in a nearby village and worked alone and without sleep for the next three days, when he was joined by two doctors of the New Zealand forces. Over 1,000 wounded were passed through this medical post before it was finally taken over by an Australian Field Ambulance. Flight Lieutenant Cullen displayed devotion to duty and courage of the highest order.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1, 29th December, 1942.

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

Can/R.54093 Flight Sergeant Raoul de fontenay Jenner, Royal Canadian Air Force.

One night in September, 1942, Flight Sergeant Jenner was a member of the crew of an aircraft detailed to attack a target at Dusseldorf. The target was bombed successfully but, whilst still over the objective, the aircraft was repeatedly hit by anti-aircraft fire. The port inner propeller came off and, shortly afterwards, the port outer engine fell out; the petrol tanks were holed in many places. During the return journey the crew displayed coolness and skill, doing all they could to keep the crippled bomber in the air. Shortly after crossing the English coast the aircraft crashed in a field and immediately caught fire. All the crew, with the exception of the rear gunner, managed to extricate themselves. The whole aircraft was soon blazing fiercely. Knowing that the fuel tanks might explode at any moment two sergeants re-entered the aircraft in an attempt to rescue the rear gunner. They went right forward to reach the place where they thought he would have been thrown, but a petrol tank exploded and both were killed. Flight Sergeant Jenner, who had seen his two comrades killed and knew that a further petrol tank might explode, then re-entered the burning fuselage. He found the rear gunner who was severely burned, and succeeded in removing him to safety. Throughout, this airman displayed extreme courage, fortitude and devotion to duty in keeping with the highest traditions of the Royal Air Force.

1283824 Sergeant George Lynas Hosford, Royal Air Force.

Sergeant Hosford was in charge of a party which laid a flare path and loaded bombs on to a squadron of aircraft when they were operating from an airfield one night in June, 1942. The bombers had taken off from a nearby landing ground and, soon afterwards, enemy aircraft commenced to drop flares and bombs in the neighbourhood. The attack continued throughout the night. At 2300 hours our bombers commenced to arrive back, landing at the airfield, to be re-fuelled and reloaded for a second sortie. One of the aircraft, when taking off on its second operation, received a direct hit by an enemy bomb; a terrific explosion occurred and the aircraft burst into flames. Three members of the crew escaped through the pilot's escape hatch, whilst the rear gunner, who was badly injured but had managed to free himself from his turret, was assisted by Sergeant Hosford to get clear of the aircraft. The bombs on the aircraft began to explode but, despite the great danger, Sergeant Hosford returned to the blazing wreckage for the wireless operator, who was lying seriously injured close to it and dragged him to a nearby vehicle. The vehicle was badly damaged and, although Sergeant Hosford had not driven before, he succeeded in driving the whole of this time enemy aircraft were overhead bombing and machine gunning the blazing aircraft. Afterwards to enable our bombers to land when returning from operations, Sergeant Hosford helped to re-lay a flare path, which he manned for the rest of the night. He displayed courage and devotion to duty of a very high standard and undoubtedly saved two lives.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1, 29th December, 1942.

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

1253399 Flight Sergeant Bertie Couchman, Royal Air Force.

One night in September, 1942, Flight Sergeant Couchman was the navigator of an aircraft detailed