



THIRD SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 23rd of FEBRUARY, 1943

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

FRIDAY, 26 FEBRUARY, 1943

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1, 26th February, 1943.

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

Pilot Officer Arthur Gerald Graham RICHMOND (Aus.404037), Royal Australian Air Force.

Pilot Officer Richmond was a member of the crew of a Sunderland aircraft which crashed into the sea in September, 1942. He observed another member of the crew (the wireless operator air gunner) who was surrounded by a pool of burning petrol and unable to swim owing to a broken leg. Although suffering from lacerations of the scalp, right arm, left leg and left knee, Pilot Officer Richmond dived under the flames, pulled his comrade to safety and eventually succeeded in getting him on to a semi-inflated dinghy. He then supervised the rescue of 3 more of his companions and it was not until it became certain that no other survivors were in the vicinity that he abandoned the search and boarded a rescue boat. Pilot Officer Richmond displayed a very high standard of courage and devotion to duty and undoubtedly saved the wireless operator's life.

1316260 Sergeant Donald Benjamin GODFREY, Royal Air Force.

One night in December, 1942, Sergeant Godfrey was the rear gunner of a Wellington aircraft which crashed into some trees during a rain storm and bad visibility. The aircraft burst into flames instantly. After Sergeant Godfrey had extricated himself from his turret and fought his way clear of the wreckage, he observed the wireless operator, who was severely injured, lying near the fire. He dragged him clear of the burning wreckage and, having also assisted the pupil pilot to safety, Sergeant Godfrey realised that the pilot instructor was trapped in the blazing cockpit. He immediately dashed back into the fire in an endeavour to extricate the instructor. A petrol tank exploded and heavy pieces of the wreckage were hurled into the air but this did not deter Sergeant Godfrey and, in spite of the heat and flames, he hacked and pulled at the wreckage until finally he succeeded in releasing the instructor. He was pulling him clear when assistance arrived. Sergeant Godfrey sustained severe burns causing temporary blindness. He displayed courage and devotion to duty in keeping with the highest traditions of the Royal Air Force.

549179 Leading Aircraftman Edward James DRURY, Royal Air Force.

One night in December, 1942, a force of Wellington aircraft had been re-fuelled and loaded with bombs for a second operation when the airfield was

attacked by enemy aircraft. Several of our bombers, some carrying 4,000 lb. bombs, were hit and set on fire. Despite bombs bursting around him, Leading Aircraftman Drury started the engines of a Wellington and taxied it to safety, passing between 2 other aircraft which were enveloped in flames. He then returned and taxied to safety a second aircraft, one wing of which was on fire. Both aircraft were loaded with bombs. Leading Aircraftman Drury displayed supreme courage and a complete disregard for his own safety. By his exemplary conduct in the face of the gravest danger he saved 2 valuable aircraft from certain destruction.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1, 26th February, 1943.

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

1315955 Sergeant Richard Anthony SYMES, Royal Air Force.

Can/R.74646 Sergeant Arthur William NICHOLS, Royal Canadian Air Force.

One night in November, 1942, Sergeants Symes and Nichols were the pilot and engineer respectively of an aircraft engaged on anti-submarine patrol duties. On the return journey engine trouble developed and Sergeant Symes was compelled to make an emergency landing. In so doing the aircraft struck a hut and burst into flames. All the crew, with the exception of the wireless operator, who was trapped by the legs, managed to extricate themselves. Knowing that the petrol tanks might explode at any moment, Sergeants Symes and Nichols re-entered the blazing aircraft and succeeded in extricating the wireless operator; a few seconds later the petrol tanks exploded. The courage and devotion to duty displayed by these sergeants undoubtedly saved their comrade's life.

Air Ministry, 26th February, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:—

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader Arthur Percival CRAIGIE (76476), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 148 Squadron.

This officer completed numerous sorties in the Western Desert. In several determined attacks on Tobruk, he achieved much success despite heavy