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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
27th July, 1943.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, and for the following awards of the George Medal and the British Empire Medal:—

To be an Additional Officer of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

Acting Wing Commander Joseph Farmer (35133), Royal Air Force.

While en-route from Singapore to Batavia, the ship on which he was travelling was torpedoed by an enemy submarine. The vessel carried explosives. Wing Commander Farmer, assisted by two of the ship's crew, organised personnel on board and improvised rafts. The vessel sank about an hour later, the submarine remaining in the vicinity until then. After about 18 hours in the water, the survivors were rescued by a naval vessel. Owing largely to Wing Commander Farmer's coolness, courage and initiative, many lives were saved.

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

Flying Officer John Verney (131568), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Military Division):—

628577 Sergeant Philip Gough, Royal Air Force.

One night in April, 1943, a Whitley aircraft crash-landed and burst into flames. Flying Officer Verney (navigator) was thrown clear, but received superficial wounds on the face, head and legs and suffered from shock. Sergeant Gough (air gunner) managed to extricate himself from the rear turret and proceeded to the front of the aircraft where he found the pilot and bomb aimer lying together in the wreckage. The bomb aimer was on fire, but was pulled to safety and passed to another member of the crew by Sergeant Gough. This airman then returned to assist the pilot who was pinned from the waist downwards. Ignoring his own safety, Sergeant Gough made heroic attempts to release the pilot, despite the flames and ammunition which was bursting in the front turret. He only desisted in his efforts when his harness, flying suit and hair were burning. Flying Officer Verney, who was suffering considerably, made several valiant attempts to go to the aid of Sergeant Gough, but became exhausted by his efforts and finally collapsed, being dragged away by another member of the crew. He was taken to a nearby residence,

where he displayed commendable coolness and fortitude in making his report of the accident and in attending to the needs of the other survivors.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Can./R.78103 Flight Sergeant David Mervin Coates, Royal Canadian Air Force.

In November, 1942, Flight Sergeant Coates was the wireless operator-air gunner of an aircraft which crashed into a petrol dump and a lorry when landing after an arduous sortie over the Bay of Biscay. The entire scene became an inferno of blazing petrol and exploding ammunition and there was imminent danger of the detonation of a torpedo which was in the aircraft. The navigator was pinned by the legs and unable to free himself. Displaying great persistence and complete disregard for his personal safety, Flight Sergeant Coates succeeded in extricating the navigator. He then went to the aid of the pilot, who was also pinned by the legs and unconscious, and endeavoured to release him until his own face and wrists were too severely burned to permit him to continue. Throughout his heroic endeavours to release the pilot, Flight Sergeant Coates faced the risk of sudden death. It was only when the intensity of the conflagration surpassed human endurance that he left the aircraft and, even then, he assisted the navigator whom he had rescued to move further away to safety.

Awarded the George Medal:—

1128327 Sergeant James Farquhar Clark, Royal Air Force.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Military Division):—

1197934 Leading Aircraftman Albert French, Royal Air Force.

One night in March, 1943, Sergeant Clark was the wireless operator/air gunner in a Fortress aircraft which crashed and caught fire on the top of a hill in conditions of poor visibility. Sergeant Clark and three other members of the crew escaped with minor injuries and Sergeant Clark realised that three further members of the crew were in the wreckage. Despite the blazing petrol tanks and the presence of explosives which he knew were in the aircraft, he immediately re-entered the fuselage and, with the assistance of Leading Aircraftman French, who had arrived at the scene after having seen the flames from his bedroom, dragged the three airmen from the wreckage. Some time afterwards an explosion occurred, shattering the aircraft and breaking glass a quarter of a mile away.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Military Division):—

1313503 Sergeant Alexander Barrie, Royal Air Force.

One night in April, 1943, a Blenheim aircraft crashed and burst into flames. The aircraft had been seen to dive by Sergeant Barrie, who hurried