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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
24th December, 1943.*

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

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

Acting Group Captain Morgan Brownson Edwards (26157), Royal Air Force.

One morning in September, 1943, a Beaufighter aircraft crashed on an airfield and immediately burst into flames. Group Captain Edwards, the station commander, proceeded to the scene of the accident and, ignoring the danger from exploding ammunition and air bottles, entered the aircraft to rescue the trapped pilot. He released the pilot's harness and then helped him out of the aircraft, at the same time giving directions and inspiration to others who had come to assist. Thirty seconds after the pilot had been dragged clear of the wreckage the oil tanks exploded. Group Captain Edwards showed courage of a high order and set a fine example to all personnel at the station. His action was all the more commendable as, during the night, two other aircraft had crashed and caught fire within sight of the airfield and Group Captain Edwards had had a disturbed and trying time as a result.

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

Flight Lieutenant Simon Theodore WINTER, M.B., Ch.B. (107807), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

When returning from an operational sortie one night in July, 1943, a Stirling aircraft crashed whilst attempting an emergency landing. The bomber burst into flames. Flight Lieutenant Winter, who was the medical officer on duty, immediately proceeded to the scene. Regardless of his own safety he assisted the crew to escape and entered the burning fuselage in a vain endeavour to release the mid-upper gunner who was trapped upside down in his turret. Despite burns to his head and face, Flight Lieutenant Winter then attended to the needs of the injured members of the crew. Throughout he displayed high courage and devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Horace TAYLOR (133833), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

This officer, a Seafire pilot on a merchant ship, was sailing in convoy to North Africa in May, 1943, when the ship in which he was travelling was torpedoed and sunk. The starboard accommodation was wrecked by the explosion of the torpedo and Flying Officer Taylor, missing a

brother officer, went to the latter's cabin. He found the cabin door jammed by debris, but broke it open and saw the officer lying unconscious. Flying Officer Taylor, with complete disregard for his own safety, attempted to drag him on deck but was unable to do so owing to his weight. He obtained the assistance of one of the crew and between them they were able to take the unconscious officer on deck. This gallant action, undertaken with the knowledge that the ship was sinking, undoubtedly saved the life of his companion.

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24th December, 1943.*

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

Squadron Leader Samuel Leonard THOMPSON (43564), Royal Air Force.

1239396 Leading Aircraftman Donald William SETCHELL, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Early one morning in June, 1943, a 250 lb. bomb exploded in a bomb dump and set fire to a store containing target illuminators. Squadron Leader Thompson, an armament officer, immediately proceeded to the scene. The steel doors of the store containing the target illuminators which were exploding and burning furiously, were partially closed. Although the heat was intense and a number of fused bombs were lying nearby, Squadron Leader Thompson and Leading Aircraftman Setchell, who worked under the officer's instructions, forced open the doors sufficiently to enable water to be played on the fire which was eventually got under control. It was then necessary to remove the unexploded bombs to a place of safety. Three of the bombs were fused; they had suffered a severe jar from the first explosion and there was a grave risk of detonation. Nevertheless, this officer and airman, ignoring the danger, loaded the bombs on a trolley and moved them to a safe area. Their prompt and courageous action prevented further very severe damage being caused.

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

NZ.414350 Flight Sergeant Reginald Morris SIMPSON, Royal New Zealand Air Force.

In September, 1943, Flight Sergeant Simpson was captain of an aircraft detailed to attack