



FOURTH SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 25th of APRIL, 1944

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

FRIDAY, 28 APRIL, 1944

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
28th April, 1944.

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 Squadron Leader Robert Clare Scott (Can/C.646), Royal Canadian Air Force.

One night in December, 1943, a Halifax aircraft crashed in the vicinity of an airfield and burst into flames. Squadron Leader Scott, the station engineer officer, was one of the first to arrive at the scene of the accident and immediately took charge of the rescue party in a cool and efficient manner. Seeing one member of the crew trapped inside the rear turret, he entered the blazing fuselage from the front and walked towards the rear in an endeavour to rescue the airman. Squadron Leader Scott was at first driven back by the heat and smoke but, displaying great determination, he repeated his effort and succeeded in reaching the turret and in passing the injured airman to safety through a hole in the rear. He then ensured that there were no further members of the crew left before he made his way out. Squadron Leader Scott displayed courage and devotion to duty in the face of fire and of the further danger that the petrol tanks might have exploded whilst he was engaged in the rescue. He was undoubtedly responsible for saving the airman's life.

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

Flying Officer Roderick Maton Mackenzie (Aus. 413242), Royal Australian Air Force.

In very harassing circumstances Flying Officer Mackenzie displayed great determination, courage and devotion to duty.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
28th April, 1944.

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

Flight Lieutenant George Clayton Abel (Can./J.7526), Royal Canadian Air Force.

In November, 1943, Flight Lieutenant Abel was a member of the crew of an aircraft detailed for an operational sortie. Shortly after taking off the pilot was compelled to make an emergency

landing and, on touching the ground, the aircraft burst into flames. The crew, who had taken crash positions proceeded to leave the aircraft through the emergency exits. Flight Lieutenant Abel, with his companions, had travelled a distance of approximately 60 yards before he realised that one member of the crew, the rear gunner, was missing. The aircraft was blazing furiously and ammunition was exploding; there was also the grave risk of the petrol tanks and the bombs exploding. Flight Lieutenant Abel, ignoring the imminent danger, returned to the aircraft, calling on the other members of the crew to follow him. The rear gunner was discovered trapped in his turret which, together with the exits, had become jammed. Efforts were made to turn the turret but this the rescuers found to be impossible. Flight Lieutenant Abel then smashed the perspex with his bare hands and succeeded in dragging the rear gunner clear of the wreckage. When all were about 20 yards from the aircraft the first bomb exploded, and the aircraft was soon completely destroyed. By his courage and leadership Flight Lieutenant Abel undoubtedly saved his comrade's life at the risk of his own.

1332060 Flight Sergeant Bernard McDonagh, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

In January, 1944, an aircraft caught fire in the air. Flight Sergeant McDonagh, an air gunner (under training), was instructed by the captain to come forward from the rear gun position but, whilst so doing, the aircraft crashed; he was rendered unconscious and thrown up into the fuselage. The aircraft was blazing furiously. Flight Sergeant McDonagh regained consciousness and was able to extricate himself from the blazing wreckage. Although badly dazed and suffering from abrasions to his legs and body, he immediately went to the front of the bomber where he found the pilot who was unconscious in the flames and still strapped in his seat. Flight Sergeant McDonagh succeeded in releasing the pilot and in dragging him to safety. He then returned to the aircraft on two more occasions and rescued the navigator and the air bomber. The latter was unfortunately dead. Flight Sergeant McDonagh's outstanding courage and complete disregard for danger undoubtedly saved two lives.

1399275 Sergeant Leslie William Preston, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

One morning in January, 1944, Sergeant Preston was the navigator of an aircraft which crashed into an electrical transformer and burst into flames. Sergeant Preston sustained facial burns but was thrown clear of the aircraft. The pilot, who was left in the cockpit sustained a broken leg and, although he had released his straps, he was unable