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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF
KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
22nd August, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following 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:—

Squadron Leader Ernest Reginald Brown (78224),
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal
(Military Division):—*

1444303 Corporal George Greenwood, Royal Air
Force Volunteer Reserve.

In February, 1944, a Mosquito aircraft crashed and caught fire when approaching to land. The pilot was killed instantly but the observer was alive and rescue parties tried in turn to extricate him from the blazing wreckage. Party after party failed and each attempt became more difficult owing to the increasing heat of the fire in the cockpit area of the wreckage. Eventually, Squadron Leader Brown, the Station medical officer, and Corporal Greenwood made a final and desperate effort as the situation had become critical because the supplies of foam were exhausted temporarily and the fire remained unchecked for some minutes. If their effort failed it was clear that immediate amputation of the observer's leg was the only way by which he could be released. Displaying extreme courage, Squadron Leader Brown and Corporal Greenwood withstood the intense heat of the flames and, by the skilful use of the tools at their disposal, succeeded in breaking away the wreckage which was trapping the observer's leg. They then removed the airman to the ambulance. While first aid was being rendered, Squadron Leader Brown returned to the wreckage to make certain that the pilot was not alive. This officer and airman displayed outstanding courage and determination.

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

Sister Miss Vera Kathleen Stone, (5683), Princess
Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Service.

One night in April, 1944, Sister Stone was in her quarters when a Halifax aircraft crashed through 3 huts in which W.A.A.F. personnel were billeted. Although she had completed 12 hours continuous duty, Sister Stone was soon at the scene of the accident where she immediately took control of the situation and undoubtedly quelled

what might have been a serious panic. Small fires from lighted stoves began to spring up but in spite of these and the risk of falling debris, and ignoring the fact that the aircraft was lying beside one of the huts, Sister Stone extricated many of the wounded and administered aid to those in distress. Although the aircraft carried only smoke bombs this was not known at the time. After the arrival of the medical officers, Sister Stone went immediately to the operating theatre where she spent the rest of the night attending to the wounded; she reported for her normal duties at 8 the next morning. She displayed great efficiency and devotion to duty.

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

Warrant Officer, 1st Class, Andrew Cecil Mackinnon
Coats (95886V), South African Air Force.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Lieutenant Alexander Donald Brown (126464V),
South African Air Force.

59575V Flight Sergeant William Du Preez, South
African Air Force.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal
(Military Division):—*

P.4890V Flight Sergeant Alan James Alfred
Templeman, South African Air Force.

326745V Acting Sergeant Joseph Russell Mitchell,
South African Air Force.

One day in April, 1944, during the loading of bombs into aircraft which were being prepared for an operational flight, one of the fully laden bombers exploded and was destroyed. Fire broke out and spread to an adjacent petrol dump. The blazing petrol endangered a dump of fragmentation bombs and most serious consequences would have followed if the refuelling bowser in the vicinity had caught fire. A second aircraft, with its full bomb load, also caught fire and, after blazing fiercely, exploded. The above-named officers and airmen rushed to the scene on hearing the first explosion. Although warned that the second aircraft was liable to explode at any moment, Lieutenant Brown and Flight Sergeant Du Preez went forward and carried a seriously injured airman to safety. Following this they returned and each drove away a petrol bowser just before the second explosion. Having summoned medical aid, Warrant Officer Coats climbed into a refuelling bowser and drove it to a safe distance. He then returned and was removing bombs from the aircraft dispersal area when the second explosion occurred causing injuries which necessitated his removal to hospital. Flight Sergeant Templeman tried unsuccessfully to start up the engine of a petrol bowser and then drove