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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

3rd November 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 Member of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.*

Acting Flight Lieutenant George Thomas Lipscombe (110655), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, Royal Air Force Regiment.

In June, 1944, Flight Lieutenant Lipscombe was supervising the throwing of live grenades under field conditions, using a fold in the ground as cover. A grenade thrown by an airman fell short and hit the ground between himself and the crest of the fold. It rested about 10 feet from where the airman and Flight Lieutenant Lipscombe were standing. Flight Lieutenant Lipscombe immediately threw the airman to the ground and lay on him to afford him protection, although this brought the officer to within 7 feet of the grenade; the latter exploded without injuring anyone. This officer then persisted in instructing the airman who threw another grenade which fell to the ground in a similar position. Flight Lieutenant Lipscombe unhesitatingly repeated his previous action to protect the airman. After the second grenade had exploded he at once continued to instruct the airman who finally threw a third grenade successfully. By his prompt action and unselfish conduct, Flight Lieutenant Lipscombe prevented what might have been a fatal accident, and he instilled a high degree of confidence into the whole class.

*To be an Additional Member of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.*

Acting Flight Lieutenant Harold Suffield Harboard (121833), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

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

1239442 Leading Aircraftman Charles Edward John Eason, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

In July, 1944, a Typhoon aircraft which had been damaged by enemy action crashed on to 8 aircraft in the marshalling area on an airfield. The Typhoon burst into flames and set fire to 3 of the other aircraft. Flight Lieutenant Harboard leapt on to the fire engine and, on arrival at the scene of the crash, unhesitatingly fought his way through the heat and flames. With the aid of Leading Aircraftman Eason, he succeeded in extricating the pilot from the cockpit of the Typhoon and in removing his burning clothing, despite the explosion of the petrol tanks. This officer and airman displayed high courage and undoubtedly saved the life of the pilot.

*Awarded the George Medal.*

Warrant Officer 1st Class (now Pilot Officer) Robert John Hooker (Can/R.107897), Royal Canadian Air Force.

This airman was wireless operator air gunner of a bomber aircraft which crashed and caught fire immediately after taking off on an operational flight in July, 1944. As he was leaving the wreckage Warrant Officer Hooker saw movement in the front of the aircraft. He went forward and, finding the flight engineer wounded and unconscious, he dragged him from the burning aircraft and left him some distance away. Warrant Officer Hooker returned to the wreckage and extricated the bomb aimer who was also wounded and unconscious. He then dragged both airmen further away from the crash. While returning to the scene a third time in order to ascertain whether all members of the crew were accounted for, one of the bombs in the aircraft exploded and Warrant Officer Hooker was thrown to the ground. By his prompt action and total disregard of danger this airman saved the lives of two members of the crew.

115625 Leading Aircraftman William James Clarke, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

This airman has been employed as an ambulance driver for 12 months. These duties have led him into dangerous experiences during which he has acted with great coolness and disregard of his own safety. In November, 1943, Leading Aircraftman Clarke took his ambulance right up to an aircraft which had crashed and caught fire. Disregarding the probability of bombs and ammunition exploding, he rescued a member of the crew who was lying beside the aircraft seriously injured. In April, 1944, he again drove his ambulance up to a blazing aircraft which was loaded with bombs and, with the assistance of a nursing orderly, extinguished flames on the clothes of 3 members of the crew by rolling the airmen in blankets. He then got them away from the scene just before the bombs exploded.

1500759 Leading Aircraftman Robert Emrys Williams, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

This nursing orderly has been employed on ambulance duties for 18 months and has displayed considerable gallantry and devotion to duty. In June, 1943, an aircraft, on taking off, crashed into another aircraft, and both caught fire. Just before the ambulance reached the scene, some of the bombs in the first aircraft exploded. Despite the danger of further bombs detonating, this airman went direct into the wreckage and rescued one member of the crew and undoubtedly saved his life. In February, 1944, an aircraft, fully loaded with bombs, crashed in flames. When the ambulance arrived at the accident many bombs had not exploded. With great gallantry, Leading Aircraftman Williams searched all round the blazing wreckage for members of the crew, knowing full well that bombs might explode at any moment.