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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF
KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
10th April, 1945.

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

Flight Lieutenant Harold John SHUTTLEWORTH (51452), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Awarded the George Medal:

Acting Wing Commander Donald Leslie KINGS (72222), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
Flight Lieutenant John Preston LEWIN (31337), Reserve Air Force Officers.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Military Division):

1071150 Corporal Sidney Benjamin ROCK, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
1202817 Corporal James Sim PETERS, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

On Monday, November 27th, 1944, an explosion on an immense scale occurred in a mine forming the R.A.F. bomb storage depot near Burton-on-Trent. The depot, which consisted of tunnelled workings into low hills, was divided into two parts, known as the Old and New Mines, by a solid wall partly of native rock and partly of artificial construction. The explosion occurred in the small New Mine where some 4,000 tons of bombs and other explosives were stored, including over 1,500 four-thousand pound bombs. This part of the depot was completely obliterated, a crater 350 yards by 600 yards being formed with an enormous open rent in continuation to the north-west. Serious damage was also done to the Old Mine, alongside where some 8,000 to 10,000 tons of bombs were stored. Here blast caused dangerous roof falls and cracks and scattered bombs and other explosives over the floors whilst poisonous fumes generated by the explosion percolated from the New Mine. Apart from the damage to the depot, a nearby commercial mine was completely wrecked by huge quantities of rock and sodden earth thrown up by the explosion and by the escaping waters of a small lake which had burst open. Over 60 people lost their lives.

Wing Commander Kings was temporarily commanding the R.A.F. Unit on the spot. He was the first to enter the mine, some 10 minutes after

the explosion had occurred. All the lights had been extinguished but with the help of a hand-lamp operating intermittently, Wing Commander Kings made as full a search of the underground area as was possible before he was affected by dangerous fumes and had to retire. He then took control of the emergency work above ground, including the control of stacks of incendiary bombs which had been set alight outside the mine entrance. He arranged for further help and took steps to determine the extent of the casualties and damage. On arrival of the National Fire Service with oxygen apparatus, Wing Commander Kings, with Foreman Salt and three National Fire Service men, again searched the mine, concentrating particularly on the areas where the roof had fallen. He continued this search until for the second time he was forced to retire by the effects of noxious fumes. Thereafter Wing Commander Kings made every effort to keep the situation under control, accepting and co-ordinating offers of assistance as they came to hand. Throughout, he acted with conspicuous gallantry and resource, and showed fine leadership.

Flight Lieutenant Lewin on his own initiative, and alone, entered the mine some 20 minutes after the explosion and carried out a prolonged search in the underground workings. He later entered a second time with Foreman Coker and remained underground for about an hour searching most of the roads in an endeavour to find the missing persons. The fumes had by this time become more dangerous and while Foreman Coker persisted as long as he could, he had in the end to be carried out by Flight Lieutenant Lewin who then re-entered the mine alone to continue his endeavours. He did not abandon his search until the arrival of teams of the Mines Rescue Organisation with oxygen apparatus. Flight Lieutenant Lewin then went to the nearby commercial Mine and descended the airshaft several times to a dangerous gas-filled area to remove casualties. Finally he assisted Wing Commander Kings in organising overground relief measures. Throughout he acted with gallantry, initiative and complete disregard for his own safety.

Flight Lieutenant Shuttleworth accompanied Foreman Salt into the mine on his first re-entry, some half-hour after the explosion when conditions underground were still unknown and there were all manner of possible risks—further explosions, fire, roof falls, noxious fumes. With Foreman Salt he helped rescue an injured man. Later Flight Lieutenant Shuttleworth played an important part in maintaining control and, by his fine example, greatly encouraged other rescue workers.

Whilst these rescue operations were developing in the Old Mine, Corporal Rock and Corporal Peters made their way to an airshaft in the New Mine, which they reached about an hour and a quarter after the explosion. They had found twenty workmen cut off in this part of the mine. They had endeavoured to make their way out by a road passing the ventilating shaft, but ran into noxious fumes and five of them died. The remainder retraced their steps to the ventilating shaft. Their calls for help were heard by Corporals Rock and Peters. Both repeatedly went down the iron ladder in the shaft into the gas-filled chamber, rescued the men who were still alive, and recovered a number of dead.

Air Ministry, 10th April, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:—

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leaders.

Kenneth Jack FOSTER, D.F.C. (77915), R.A.F.V.R., 97 Sqn., with effect from 23rd September, 1943 (since deceased).
Robert Alexander MCKINNA, D.F.C. (69440), R.A.F.V.R., 97 Sqn., with effect from 23rd September, 1943 (since deceased).

Flight Lieutenants.

Geoffrey Robert CRAKANTHORP, D.F.C. (67057), R.A.F.V.R., 542 Sqn.
Guy CRIBB, D.F.C. (138108), R.A.F.V.R., 16 Sqn.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Wing Commander.

William Joseph Herepath TUCKER (65994), R.A.F.V.R., 18 Sqn., with effect from 18th January, 1943 (since deceased).

Acting Squadron Leaders.

William Radclyffe ASSHETON (41979), R.A.F.O., 540 Sqn.
John Isaac PENGELLY (60295), R.A.F.V.R., 605 Sqn.

Flight Lieutenants.

Alexander Shelley BAKER (89788), R.A.F.V.R.
Alan William BOWER (80435), R.A.F.V.R., 33 Sqn.
Arthur James EVANS (141401), R.A.F.V.R., 502 Sqn.
Charles Henry Llewelyn FOSTER (143455), R.A.F.V.R., 464 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.
Frank Ernest George MELENER (119805), R.A.F.V.R., 220 Sqn.
Francis Mellard READE (103040), R.A.F.V.R., 613 Sqn.
Frank Harry SILK (111979), R.A.F.V.R., 4 Sqn.
George Warwick TOPLISS (31167), R.A.F., 613 Sqn.
Ronald Geoffrey WEST (49625), R.A.F. (Lieutenant, Royal Regiment of Artillery), 2 Sqn.

Acting Flight Lieutenants.

Stephen Clifford Paul GODFREY (130595), R.A.F.V.R., 156 Sqn., with effect from 3rd October, 1943 (since deceased).
Canal Brendan Thomas MCSWEENEY (144212), R.A.F.V.R., 156 Sqn., with effect from 3rd October, 1943 (since deceased).
Horace Percival WOODWARD (52719), R.A.F., 464 (R.A.A.F.) Sqn.

Flying Officers.

Frank CHADWICK (177964), R.A.F.V.R., 58 Sqn.
James DUNN, D.F.M. (171076), R.A.F.V.R., 139 Sqn., with effect from 26th July, 1944 (since deceased).
Ronald Stanley FLIGHT (159876), R.A.F.V.R., 140 Sqn.
Norman John FURLONG (142880), R.A.F.V.R., 10 Sqn., with effect from 8th October, 1943 (since deceased).
Ernest Samuel GATES (146596), R.A.F.V.R., 613 Sqn.
Arnold LIVESEY (155091), R.A.F.V.R., 405 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn., with effect from 27th September, 1943.
Brian Douglas MACKINS (170604), R.A.F.V.R., 140 Sqn.

Frederick James PILE (102299), R.A.F.V.R., 47 Sqn., with effect from 13th January, 1943 (since deceased).

Henry James PRINGLE (118900), R.A.F.V.R., 196 Sqn., with effect from 15th September, 1943 (since deceased).

Eric Charles STANYARD (144460), R.A.F.V.R., 98 Sqn.

Ralph Charles WILLIAMS (145345), R.A.F.V.R., 2 Sqn.

Pilot Officers.

John Dennis BRADFORD (156591), R.A.F.V.R., 97 Sqn., with effect from 23rd September, 1943 (since deceased).

George Desmond EVERSON (190266), R.A.F.V.R., 613 Sqn.

John Alan Dyce MEECHAN (185731), R.A.F.V.R., 247 Sqn.

James HAMILTON (56162), R.A.F., 86 Sqn.

Robert Joseph Shaw ROBERTSON (188732), R.A.F.V.R., 540 Sqn.

Jack WHITE (184793), R.A.F.V.R., 613 Sqn.

Warrant Officers.

Sydney CROFT (1375859), R.A.F.V.R., 247 Sqn.

Francis Harold MOSELEY (1576862), R.A.F.V.R., 544 Sqn.

Louis STEVENSON (1349576) (later Pilot Officer), R.A.F.V.R., 97 Sqn., with effect from 23rd September, 1943 (since deceased).

Distinguished Flying Medal.

Flight Sergeants.

751451 George Edward ANDREWS (later Pilot Officer), R.A.F.V.R., 57 Sqn., with effect from 8th November, 1942 (since deceased).

1021538 James CURRY, R.A.F.V.R., 97 Sqn., with effect from 3rd October, 1943 (since deceased).

746829 John Henry DWYER, R.A.F.V.R., 57 Sqn., with effect from 10th November, 1942 (since deceased).

1382045 Albert Victor FORSYTH, R.A.F.V.R., 35 Sqn., with effect from 27th September, 1943 (since deceased).

1095194 Frederick Gerard METCALFE (later Pilot Officer), R.A.F.V.R., 619 Sqn., with effect from 27th August, 1943 (since deceased).

656624 Edward MILLING, R.A.F., 103 Sqn., with effect from 26th September, 1943 (since deceased).

1271268 Kenneth Herbert MUDE, R.A.F.V.R., 502 Sqn.

1383995 Terence Michael TWOMEY, R.A.F.V.R., 97 Sqn., with effect from 16th August, 1944 (since deceased).

Acting Flight Sergeants.

1100777 Richard Munro HOGG (later Pilot Officer), R.A.F.V.R., 196 Sqn., with effect from 3rd October, 1943 (since deceased).

1395407 John Timothy SULLIVAN, R.A.F.V.R., 97 Sqn., with effect from 3rd October, 1943 (since deceased).

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenants.

Colin LEAGH-MURRAY (Aus.404616), 16 Sqn.
Roderick Maton MACKENZIE, M.B.E. (Aus.413242), 168 Sqn.

Flying Officer.

Robert Eyre MACKIE (Aus.409562), 541 Sqn.

ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FORCE.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight Lieutenants.

John BENDIXSEN (Can/J.13401), 541 Sqn.
Malcolm James GORDON (Can/J.7908), 421 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.
Douglas Irving HALL (Can/J.12193), 414 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Acting Flight Lieutenant.

John CARR (Can/J.37846), 439 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

Flying Officers.

Clifford Carlyle HAZLETT (Can/J.28382), 422 Sqn.
Frederick Charles LANSDALL (Can/J.18447), 407 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

John William David PUDNEY (Can/J.37039), 98 Sqn.

Ralph Wilbert TULLY (Can/J.18180), 35 Sqn., with effect from 24th September, 1943.

*Distinguished Flying Medal.**Flight Sergeant.*

Robert Gunn CHRISTIE (Can/R.133381) (now Pilot Officer), 97 Sqn., with effect from 22nd September, 1943.

Acting Flight Sergeant.

James KANELAKOS (Can/J.18792) (now Flying Officer), 7 Sqn., with effect from 26th September, 1943.

ROYAL NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.**Flight Lieutenant.*

Ronald Henry FOSTER (N.Z.421695), 544 Sqn.

Flying Officer.

Colin Leo Malcolm FORSYTH (N.Z.40607), 98 Sqn., with effect from 7th May, 1944 (since deceased).

Lieutenant (A).

Lloyd John RAPSON, R.N.Z.N.V.R., 819 Naval Air Sqn.

SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.**Lieutenant.*

George Douglas SILVA (328735V); 33 Sqn.

The above awards are in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations.

LONDON

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