

immediately ran to the blazing wreckage where he observed the instructor in the aircraft lying seriously injured under the main plane. Warrant Officer Crimp promptly dragged him to a safe distance and administered morphia. Throughout the incident this Warrant Officer displayed a high standard of courage, initiative and tenacity of purpose. He undoubtedly saved the injured man's life.

Warrant Officer Derek Bert THROWER (904944) Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 405 Squadron.

Warrant Officer Thrower was shot down over Holland on 15th July, 1941, and captured. On 28th July, 1941, whilst in transit to Stalag IXC, he escaped from the train by squeezing through a fanlight in a lavatory, the screws of which had been removed with the help of other prisoners. He landed safely and hid in some bushes for a while before setting out to walk across country in the hope of reaching the Swiss frontier. For four days he walked, living mainly on turnips. On the evening of the fourth day he was observed but managed to elude his pursuers. During a storm Warrant Officer Thrower sheltered in the wash-house of a farm where he was discovered. Owing to weakness, he was unable to get clear again and he was taken to the barracks at Saalfeld. In April, 1942, Warrant Officer Thrower made a further attempt to escape by crawling through a window, the iron bars of which he had sawn through with hack-saw blades he had secreted. He walked 40 km. and reached the Autobahn running to Munich, but was arrested soon by the civil police. His last and successful escape was made during a march to Lubeck when, owing to weakness, he and two others lagged behind. Although threatened with shooting if they did not keep up with the party they managed to elude their captors and took shelter in the loft of a barn, in which they hid for six days whilst enemy troops were sheltering below. They eventually made contact with British Forces in April, 1945, and they then led the British troops to the barn in search of some S.S. troops.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
9th April, 1946.

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

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

Flight Lieutenant Edward Solomon Adolph SNIDERS (106028), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 139 (Jamaica) Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Sniders was the pilot of a Mosquito aircraft engaged on a bombing sortie on 27th July, 1943, when engine trouble developed on the way to the target. He continued, however, and completed his mission. During the return journey he had to abandon his aircraft, being unable to maintain height. He landed in a field in Holland, hid his parachute harness and lay in a ditch until dark. His method of avoiding capture was to hide by day and travel by night, living on food given him by friendly Dutch folk. Flight Lieutenant Sniders evaded being taken prisoner until 22nd August, 1943, when he was arrested by the Germans at the moment he was making his way across the Belgian-French frontier. He was taken to Stalag Luft III at Sagan where, on 14th October, 1943, he dressed as a Luftwaffe airman and crossed the warning and outer fences, pretending that he was working on them. As he walked away he was recognised by a German and arrested, receiving a sentence of 10 days in the cells. In November, 1943, he made another attempt to escape, by tunnelling, but the tunnel was discovered before the escape materialised. He eventually escaped on 21st April, 1945, from Stalag VIIA when, dressed as an airman, he left with a working party bound for Moorsburg. Here he and others hid until contact was made with the Allied Armies. He returned to the United Kingdom on 12th May, 1945.

Air Ministry, 9th April, 1946.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Appointment to commission.

As Sqn. Ldr. (permanent):—*

John Anthony O'NEILL, D.F.C. (37117). 29th Dec. 1945.

As Plt. Offs. on prob. short service (four years on the active list). 22nd Feb. 1946:—
Acm. 2nd Cl.

3035163 Charles Leonard Alfred BORLEY (57720).
3012460 Walter ORMROD (57743).
3032973 Ronald Dennis THORNTON (57748).
3032909 David Hugh ALEXANDER (57718).
1899401 Patrick FAWKES (57731).
3051830 Frederick MANDEVILLE (57739).
3023019 Geoffrey Crear CAIRNS (57721).
3001527 John Richard HARGREAVES (57733).
3012783 William Horace DALGLEISH (57726).
3013592 Eric Ernest REYNOLDS (57744).
3012753 John Victor Eric Patrick CARTER (57722).
3051850 Philip John DIGHT (57727).
3033473 Neville Owen CORNWALL (57725).
3225120 George Robert BAXTER (57719).
3032884 Herbert George Peter HINE (57734).
3225060 Herbert MINNIS (57740).
3034412 Leslie Alan Jolliffe MACLEAN (57738).
1819998 Peter Anthony LATRAM (57736).
3052089 Mervyn James FORTUNE (57732).
3225147 Donald Joseph MITCHELL (57741).
3023161 John Raymond LEASK (57737).
3034768 Dennis Aitchison DUNLOP (57728).
3038598 Dion Arthur Raymond EDWARDS (57729).
3031618 Michael Owen SEARLE (57746).
3035177 Gordon Harold Hunter ROBINSON (57745).
3001815 David LANGFORD (57735).
3034198 Patrick Michael Knox ELLERTON (57730).
3023330 Donald William Fraser MUIR (57742).
3042112 Roy COLBECK (57723).
3002151 Arthur Edward SHEPARD (57747).

As Plt. Offs. on prob. (emergency):—

576844 Flt. Sgt. Raymond HODGE (57935). 4th Jan. 1946.
654682 Sgt. John Keith HUDSON (57610). 24th Feb. 1945.

Retirement.

Gp. Capt. (temp. Air Cdre.) J. L. KIRBY, C.B., C.B.E. (at own request), retaining the rank of Air Cdre. 4th Mar. 1946.

Gp. Capts.:—

J. OLIVER, A.F.C., retaining the rank of Air Cdre. 26th Mar. 1946.
R. H. G. NEVILLE, 15th Mar. 1946.
24th Mar. 1946.
G. W. BENTLEY, D.F.C.
E. BURTON.

Wg. Cdrs. (temp. Gp. Capts.) retaining the rank of Gp. Capt.:—

J. L. M. de C. HUGHES-CHAMBERLAIN. 6th Mar. 1946.
F. H. WOOLLIAMS. 14th Mar. 1946.
H. S. BROUGHALL, M.C., D.F.C. 15th Mar. 1946.
T. H. FRENCH, D.F.C. 19th Mar. 1946.
Flt. Lt. retaining the rank of Sqn. Ldr.:—
A. J. SMITH (21352) (at own request). 14th Mar. 1946.

Notification amended.

29th Jan. 1946 (p. 712, col. 2) concerning Wg. Cdr. W. J. MILLEN (04134) for 26th Nov. 1945, read 27th Nov. 1945.
5th Mar. 1946 (p. 1235, col. 1) concerning Flt. Lt. D. A. FRENCH-MULLEN (33245) for 17th Feb. 1946 read 8th Apr. 1946.

Reversion to retired list.

Gp. Capts., retaining the rank of Air Cdre.:—
H. J. F. HUNTER, C.B.E., M.C. 11th Jan. 1946.
I. T. LLOYD, C.B., C.B.E. 29th Mar. 1946.
Wg. Cdrs., retaining the rank of Gp. Capt.:—
R. J. MONTGOMERY-MOORE (04138). 25th Mar. 1946.
A. P. MAURICE, D.F.C. (02242). 31st Mar. 1946.

* Retaining his existing rank under wartime rules. Relative seny. in permanent rank will be determined later.