

*Air Ministry, 26th July, 1946.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following award.

*Distinguished Service Order.*

Flight Lieutenant Anthony Noel SNELL (119146), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

On 10th July, 1943, this officer's aircraft was shot down during a patrol over the beach head in Sicily, where allied landings were taking place. He was then engaged in attacking a force of Messerschmidts. The crash landing took place in territory controlled by the enemy, but Flight Lieutenant Snell was able to evade capture and, after dark, endeavoured to return to the beach head. He first encountered a number of Italians whom he bluffed into thinking him a Vichy Frenchman. On escaping from the Italians, he eventually found a road which he recognised from his map. Whilst following this road he was challenged by some Germans who ordered him to put his hands up. Without warning they rolled a grenade at him along the ground. Just in time, he jumped aside and ran back, followed by more grenades; he escaped by taking cover in the scrub. Shortly after this, he found himself in a minefield through which he picked his way for half an hour before reaching a track. Following this track, Flight Lieutenant Snell blundered on a German airfield, very near the battle area, where he was captured. The Germans decided to execute him as a spy. Flight Lieutenant Snell was marched out to a small open space and ordered to kneel down. Realising that he was to be shot in cold blood, he did not obey the order, but sprang away as the Germans fired. He was wounded in several places, his right shoulder being smashed. Despite this, Flight Lieutenant Snell evaded his captors, and hid for a time amongst boulders, before making a last attempt to reach the British lines. Owing to the extreme weakness and pain caused by his wounds, this attempt was not successful. Flight Lieutenant Snell was re-captured at dawn after he had collapsed from exhaustion. He was again threatened with execution for spying on the airfield, but finally managed to prove his identity to the satisfaction of the Germans. He was taken to a field hospital where his wounds received attention. Later, Flight Lieutenant Snell was transferred to Catania and thence to Lucca by sea. Here he was in hospital for about 2 months, until the Germans, who controlled the prisoners, decided to move them by train to Germany. Although not fully recovered from his wounds, Flight Lieutenant Snell determined to escape during the journey and made all possible preparations for this. In company with an American officer, he jumped from the train while it was passing through a junction, afterwards discovered to be Mantova. For the next week, they travelled south. During this journey, they had several narrow escapes from the Germans and were assisted by a number of Anti-Fascist Italians. With this help, the officers were able to reach Modena where they were sheltered by various friendly Italians for several months. It was eventually decided that Flight Lieutenant Snell and his companion should attempt to escape over the Alps to Switzerland. They made a long and risky train journey, accompanied by several of their Italian friends, to a small village near the frontier. There they were introduced to two guides who took them over the mountains. After a very long and steep climb, the frontier was reached and crossed. In Switzerland, Flight Lieutenant Snell was interned until October, 1944, when the American advance reached the Swiss border.

*Air Ministry, 26th July, 1946.*

The KING has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned decorations conferred upon the personnel indicated in recognition of valuable services rendered in connection with the war:—

CONFERRED BY THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT.

*The Order of the Crown.*

*Grand Officer.*

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Thomas Walker ELMHIRST, K.B.E., C.B., A.F.C., R.A.F.

*Military Cross, 1st Class.*

Squadron Leader Raymond Alfred Victor LEFORGEAIS (73886), R.A.F.V.R.

*Croix De Guerre 1940 with Palm.*

Acting Wing Commander Donald Wilfrid STEVENTON, D.S.O., D.F.C. (33477), R.A.F.

Squadron Leader John Hugh SAFFERY, D.F.C. (61457), R.A.F.V.R.

Acting Squadron Leader Edward Armytage FAIRHURST, D.F.C. (43547), R.A.F.

CONFERRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK REPUBLIC.

*Military Cross.*

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Brian Edmund BAKER, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C., A.F.C., R.A.F.

*Amendments.*

In notification of 14th June (page 3008, column 1) for Flight Lieutenant Laurence George Aggett BASTARD (142591), R.A.F.V.R., read Flight Lieutenant Laurence George Aggett BASTARD (142581), R.A.F.V.R.

In notification of 13th June 1946 (page 2780, column 1) C.B.E. for Acting Air Commodore Owen Washington DE PUTRON, Royal Air Force, read Acting Air Commodore Owen Washington DE PUTRON, A.D.C., Royal Air Force.

In notification of 13th June 1946 (page 2780, column 2) after Acting Group Captain Pierce McDIARMID, A.F.M., Royal Air Force, insert "Acting Group Captain Eric Gordon MOORE, Royal Air Force."

In notification of 13th June 1946 (page 2836, column 2) delete "Acting Group Captain Eric Gordon MOORE, Royal New Zealand Air Force."

In notification of 25th June 1946 (page 3219, column 1) Mentions in Despatches for Warrant Officer A. C. GIBSON, Aus.426743, amend number to read Aus.427315.

*Air Ministry, 26th July 1946.*

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

*Confirmation and promotion.*

Plt. Offs. (prob.) confmd. in appts. and to be Flg. Offs. (war subs.):—

M. DOBSON (57934). 3rd July 1946.

4th July 1946.

R. HODGE (57935).

E. E. B. LE VOI (57890).

*Promotion.*

Flg. Off. to Flt. Lt. (war subs.):—

G. W. HUNT (55812). 4th June 1946.

J. B. TIMONEY (55842). 27th June 1946.

E. D. BROCKHURST (55711). 28th June 1946.

30th June 1946.

L. R. FRADD (55663).

P. THOMSON (55703).

*Notification amended.*

12th Oct. 1945 (p. 5023, col. 2) for J. I. SIMPSON, D.F.M. (162944), read J. I. SIMPSON (162944).

TECHNICAL BRANCH.

*Promotion.*

Sqn. Ldr. (temp.) R. W. NICHOLSON (73316) is granted the rank of Sqn. Ldr. (war subs.). 3rd Feb 1946.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND SPECIAL DUTIES BRANCH.

*Confirmation.*

Flg. Off. (prob.) R. C. WILSON (57628). 23rd June 1946.

*Confirmation and promotion.*

Plt. Off. (prob.) J. G. WARD, M.C. (57669) confmd. in appt. and to be Flg. Off. (war subs.), 1st July 1946.