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TUESDAY, 16 MARCH, 1948

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD

St James's Palace, S W 1
16th March, 1948.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the George Medal to —

Flight Lieutenant Stephen Patrick CUNNINGHAM (51920), Royal Air Force, Marine Aircraft Experimental Establishment.

Flight Lieutenant Cunningham was a passenger in a Sunderland aircraft on 21st October, 1947, when a fire, originating in the starboard inner engine, rapidly became widespread, necessitating a crash landing on the water near Southend-on-Sea. When the aircraft struck the water, several of the crew were thrown clear, including the pilot. Flight Lieutenant Cunningham was trapped inside the inverted hull but managed to fight his way clear. He cannot swim and was now suffering from considerable injuries to his face, hands and legs. Despite these handicaps, supported by his lifesaving jacket, he paddled to the assistance of the pilot, who was not far from the blazing wreck, which, apart from the tailplane, was now enveloped in the burning fuel which lay on the surface of the water. By dogged persistence and disregarding his own suffering, Flight Lieutenant Cunningham succeeded in dragging the pilot further from the flames. He attempted to obtain some support from the tailplane but, by this time, it was incapable of bearing the weight of two men. Flight Lieutenant Cunningham then supported the pilot in the water for some ten minutes, until a rescue craft arrived. Continuing to display outstanding heroism and endurance, he insisted that the pilot should be taken from the water before him and, even when both were aboard the rescue craft, his attention was devoted firstly to the care and comfort of his companion. His untiring efforts to save the pilot's life were, unfortunately, of no avail as the pilot died before he could be put ashore. Flight Lieutenant Cunningham set a fine example of bravery, endurance and unselfishness throughout the incident. His action was rendered even more meritorious through the acute pain he was suffering from his own injuries.

Air Ministry, 16th March, 1948

The KING has been graciously pleased, on the advice of His Majesty's Australian Ministers, to approve the following award in recognition of distinguished services whilst in command of air operations in the Borneo Campaign during the period March to September, 1945 —

Distinguished Service Order

Air Vice-Marshal William Dowling BOSTOCK,
C B, O B E

Air Ministry, 16th March, 1948
ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH

Appointment to commission.

As Squadron Leader (permanent).—

John Seymour SHERWOOD, D S O, D F C.
(39132) 1st Sept 1945 (*seniority 1st June 1944*)

As Flight Lieutenant, short service (six years on the active list).—

Keith Henry LOHAN (123586). 25th Feb 1948
(*seniority 25th Oct 1945*)

As Flying Officers, short service (six years on the active list).—

Kenneth Arthur Walter BUTCHER (189479).
24th Feb 1948 (*seniority 6th Dec. 1945*)

1st Mar. 1948.

Frederick Edward SMITH (201018) (*seniority 19th July 1946*)

Raymond George HUDSON (201300) (*seniority 25th Sept. 1946*)

Charles Richard PALMER (202753) (*seniority 30th Dec 1946*)

As Flying Officer, short service. (five years on the active list).—

John Ansell REDPATH (57056) 1st Mar. 1948
(*seniority 29th Dec 1946*) (*and transferred to the Secretarial Branch on appointment*)

As Flight Lieutenant, short service (A M O A. 899/47).—

James Leonard SHARP, D F C, A F C (43374).
1st Mar 1948 (*seniority 1st Sept 1945*) (*and transferred to the Secretarial Branch on appointment*)

As Flying Officer, short service (A M O A. 899/47).—

Donald Evans SNAPE (55474). 1st Mar. 1948
(*seniority 10th Feb 1946*).

As Squadron Leader, extended service (A M O A. 775/45 scheme B).—

George Godfrey PETTY, D S O, D F C. (44357).
1st Jan 1947 (*seniority 1st Sept. 1945*) (*and transferred to the Aircraft Control Branch with effect from 5th Jan. 1947*) (substituted for notifications of 24th June 1947 (p 2840, col 1) and 3rd Feb 1948 (p 790, col 1))

As Flight Lieutenants, extended service (A M O A. 775/45 scheme B).—

1st Jan 1947 (*seniority 1st Sept. 1945*).

Ralph ALEXANDER, A F C. (43353) (*and transferred to the Secretarial Branch with effect from 13th Jan 1947*) (substituted for notifications of 22nd Apr 1947 (p 1767, col 2) and 3rd Feb. 1948 (p 791, col 2))