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Air Ministry, 1st March, 1955.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following award in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty:—

Air Force Cross.

Flight Lieutenant John de Milt SEVERNE (57556),
 Royal Air Force.

On the 1st November, 1954, Flight Lieutenant Severne took off in an aircraft for a practice flight at Wunstorf. After this was completed, he flew back to Fassberg carrying out various aerobatics en route. When some ten miles from Fassberg, at a height of 8,000 feet, he completed a loop, at the top of which he held the aircraft inverted. After five seconds of inverted flight, Flight Lieutenant Severne smelt strong fumes of burning and he saw that the fire warning light was on. He righted the aircraft and took the usual fire precautions. Shortly afterwards, he jettisoned the tip tanks. A few days earlier on the same Squadron, there had been a similar case and due to the complete destruction of the aircraft, the Court of Inquiry was faced with an almost impossible task to ascertain the origin of the cause of the fire. Flight Lieutenant Severne therefore decided that he would bring his aircraft back to the airfield to aid investigations. He accordingly informed Fassberg over the R/T of his predicament and of his decision to make a forced landing on the airfield. With complete disregard for his own safety, and well aware of the implications, Flight Lieutenant Severne then made a perfectly judged forced landing on the crash strip on the airfield. He purposely left the undercarriage retracted so that he could land and leave the cockpit more quickly once he was on the ground. After landing he personally removed the cowlings with the aid of an axe and found a fire smouldering. He directed the C.O.2 extinguisher on to the fire and prevented the crash crew from smothering the aircraft in foam. Throughout this hazardous operation, Flight Lieutenant Severne remained calm and collected and displayed an extremely high standard of both airmanship and personal courage.

Air Ministry, 1st March, 1955.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Appointment to commission (permanent).

As Flight Lieutenants:—

1st Oct. 1954.

David John RHODES, A.F.M. (193276).
 Dennis William SWART (502199).

As Flying Officers:—

1st Oct. 1954.

Leo Anthony BARBER (582443) (since promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant).
 John Stanborough BATES (3110026).
 Michael Spencer GOODFELLOW (4043437).
 Donald Seeley SMITH (3124168) (since promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant).

Appointment to commission (permanent) under A.M.O. A.499/52.

As Flight Lieutenant (Branch List):—

Leighton Courtney PALMER (204922). 11th Aug. 1954 (substituted for notification of 19th Nov. 1954 (p. 6545, col. 1)).

Appointment to commission (permanent) under A.M.O. A.628/51.

As Flight Lieutenants (Branch List):—

James Henry Patrick KENEFFICK (174232). 1st June 1954 (and transferred to the Secretarial Branch, 29th Dec. 1954 (seniority 27th Feb. 1950)).

Harold James CHITTENDEN, D.F.C. (179376). 9th Dec. 1954 (for subsequent transfer to the Fighter Control Branch).

Appointment to a direct commission.

As Pilot Officer (twelve years on the active list and four years on the reserve):—

Terence Francis MOORE (2576717). 7th Sept. 1954 (seniority 29th Jan. 1954).

As Acting Pilot Officers on probation (twelve years on the active list and four years on the reserve):—

Derek Arthur BELL (2620033). 29th Dec. 1954.
 Dennis KEYS (504110). 12th Jan. 1955.

Cadet Pilots.

7th Dec. 1954.

3519187 David Astley BROWN (3519187). (period of service to count from 1st Sept. 1954).
 4157382 Paul Michael CROOK (4157382) (period of service to count from 15th Sept. 1954).
 4157379 John Brian GOODALL (4157379) (period of service to count from 15th Sept. 1954).
 3519294 Peter David JARVIS (3519294) (period of service to count from 15th Sept. 1954).
 2591482 Brian Lewis ROBINSON (2591482) (period of service to count from 9th Nov. 1954).
 4157373 Gerald Victor SHIPLEY (4157373) (period of service to count from 15th Sept. 1954).
 2614691 Graham Stuart TURNER (2614691) (period of service to count from 15th Sept. 1954).
 3519295 Ian Reginald WHITFORD (3519295) (period of service to count from 15th Sept. 1954).