



SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO  
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TUESDAY, 27 MAY, 1958

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
 OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

27th May, 1958.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the George Medal to the undermentioned:—

4181202 Sergeant Leonard George BIRNIE, Royal Air Force, Maritime Operational Training Unit, Kinloss.

On the night of 10th January, 1958, Sergeant Birnie was detailed to fly as a member of the crew of a Shackleton aircraft on a night training exercise. The aircraft returned from this exercise at about 11 p.m., when bad weather conditions led to its crashing into the top of a thickly wooded hill, where it burst into flames. Two members of the crew of nine were killed and others were injured. At the time of the crash Sergeant Birnie was occupying his routine position and looking forward he saw that the whole of the front of the aircraft was a sheet of flame. He went aft and, with three others, escaped through a hole in the fuselage. He then realised that two members of the crew were not accounted for and at once went back to the wreckage to look for them. He eventually found one of them lying severely injured and burned on the mainplane between Nos. 3 and 4 engines. Both of these engines and the mainplane were on fire and the risk of fuel tank explosion pressed closely. Completely disregarding his own safety, Sergeant Birnie secured the injured man and dragged him through a tangle of broken trees and wreckage clear of the flames. Soon after this the petrol tanks exploded. There is no doubt that Sergeant Birnie's gallant action, which critically endangered his own life, saved the life of his comrade.

Air Ministry, 27th May, 1958.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Appointment to commission (permanent).

As Flight Lieutenants (General List):—

1st Oct. 1957.

(Maurice Bertram BUTLER (4054401).

Anthony Edgar RADNOR (2513091).

As Flying Officers (General List):—

1st Oct. 1957.

David Trevor COURT (4036136) (since promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant).

James HUGILL (2491612).

David Eric WARREN (2725653) (for subsequent transfer to the Secretarial Branch) (substituted for notification of 29th Apr. 1958 (p. 2681, col. 1)).

As Flight Lieutenant (Supplementary List):—

Derek Harry CROUCHEN, D.F.C. (62310). 1st Dec. 1957 (substituted for notification of 15th Apr. 1958 (p. 2365, col. 1)).

Appointment to a permanent direct commission (scheme A).

As Acting Pilot Officer (Supplementary List):—

Malcolm Joyner MAULE (607928). 8th Apr. 1958.

Transfer to a permanent direct commission (scheme A).

As Flight Lieutenants (Supplementary List):—

Kenneth William RABY (583095). 2nd Dec. 1957 (substituted for notification of 22nd Apr. 1958 (p. 2535, col. 1)).

Stuart Luff PIERCE (4094714). 6th Feb. 1958.

Geoffrey Leo SMITH (3120687). 10th Feb. 1958.

Francis William Gordon MEADOWS (181428). 13th Feb. 1958.

Gerald Herbert MANN (1591506). 3rd Mar. 1958.

As Flying Officers (Supplementary List):—

Donald Pickering WRIGHT (4070116). 11th Nov. 1957.

Colin Alwyn READ (579841). 7th Jan. 1958

(since promoted to the rank of Flight Lieutenant).

John Terence MILES (2530480). 3rd Feb. 1958.

Peter Bryan TOBIN (4108269). 12th Mar. 1958.

Appointment to a direct commission (scheme B).

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

Rex Anthony George BREARLEY (2772999). 14th Apr. 1958.

Transfer to a direct commission (scheme B).

As Flight Lieutenant (Supplementary List) (twelve years on the active list and four years on the reserve):—

Kenneth KENRY (3122318). 14th Mar. 1957 (period of service to count from 1st Nov. 1950).

As Flying Officer (Supplementary List) (twelve years on the active list and four years on the reserve):—

John Stephen MERREDEW (4102813). 7th Mar. 1956 (period of service to count from 24th June 1952).

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

John Charles DILWORTH (4176212). 3rd Feb. 1958 (period of service to count from 30th Nov. 1955).