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TUESDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER 1964

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Department of National Defence, Ottawa.
29th September 1964.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's Canadian Ministers, to approve the following award to an officer of the Royal Canadian Air Force:

(To be dated 5th September 1964)

Air Force Cross

Flight Lieutenant Raymond William Cass, C.D. (14930), Royal Canadian Air Force.

On the morning of 20th February 1964, Flight Lieutenant Cass was the captain of an Albatross Aircraft assigned a search and rescue mission to locate a missing seal-hunter in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. After a search in constantly deteriorating weather conditions, the hunter was found stranded on a small ice pan which was breaking up in floe ice on the edge of an open lead of water. Determining that no other means of rescue could arrive in time to save the hunter's life and that dropping of survival equipment was inadvisable, Flight Lieutenant Cass decided to land his aircraft in the narrow open water lead and effect the rescue by using a small rubber boat aboard the aircraft. Appreciating the dangers in landing in floe ice conditions, Flight Lieutenant Cass coolly and deliberately made at least twelve inspection runs to select the safest landing path. He informed his crew fully regarding his decision to land, sought their advice and, in his composed manner and genuine concern with the safety of all aboard, demonstrated leadership of a high order which engendered the unstinting, unanimous support of his whole crew. He landed the aircraft and subsequently manoeuvred it during the actual rescue with great skill and precision. After the rescue was accomplished, in shifting winds and waves as high as four feet with a heavy chop, Flight Lieutenant Cass took the aircraft off expertly and returned to base. The officer's calm, professional approach, exceptionally fine airmanship and devotion to duty in an extremely critical situation were major factors in saving a man's life.

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
29th September 1964.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's Canadian Ministers, to approve the

award of the British Empire Medal for Gallantry (Military Division) to the undermentioned:

(To be dated 5th September 1964)

203738 Corporal Philip Edmund BLANK, Royal Canadian Air Force.

On the morning of 20th February 1964, Corporal Blank was the jump-master of a three-man para-rescue team aboard an Albatross Aircraft engaged in a search for a missing seal-hunter in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. When the hunter was sighted, it was determined that his only hope of rescue was by landing the aircraft and evacuation by a small rubber boat which was aboard. The aircraft was landed in perilous conditions, amidst floe ice, and Corporal Blank, after the boat was launched by his para-rescue team, immediately stepped into it and set out to rescue the hunter, who was stranded on a small ice pan some fifty feet behind the aircraft. The weather was deteriorating, temperature was at freezing point and the sea was running in three to four foot waves with a heavy chop. Corporal Blank, well aware that his flimsy craft might be torn by the jagged ice, might easily capsize, or that the life-line attached to the aircraft might tear free and leave him adrift, pressed on with the rescue. The boat's outboard motor was quickly swamped and Corporal Blank had to drift, paddle and fend off floe ice to reach the hunter's position. When the boat came close enough the hunter jumped towards it and was pulled aboard by Corporal Blank. With a difficult and dangerous return to the aircraft, the rescue was completed. Demonstrating devotion to duty of a high order, Corporal Blank, without regard for his own safety, performed an act of bravery under extremely hazardous circumstances which was instrumental in saving a man's life.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Whitehall, London S.W.1.
29th September 1964.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of distinguished services in the Borneo Territories:

Distinguished Flying Cross

Flight Lieutenant Branzby Roland OLIVER (505137), Royal Air Force.

Mentioned in Despatches

Flight Lieutenant Albert Victor Henry STURMAN (198919), Royal Air Force.

Flight Lieutenant Alan Claud TOLHURST (607984), Royal Air Force.