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TUESDAY, 15TH JUNE 1965

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Whitehall, London S.W.1.
15th June 1965.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following award:

AIR FORCE CROSS

Flight Lieutenant Donald Frederick HUGGETT (2554094) Royal Air Force.

On 3rd March 1965, a call for assistance was received at Royal Air Force Valley, from the Motor Vessel "ROLFE" which had on board a seaman suffering from acute appendicitis and requiring urgent medical attention. Flight Lieutenant Huggett immediately took off with his crew in a Whirlwind Mark 10 helicopter. The exact position of the vessel was not known but he set off to find it in spite of a blizzard with gale force winds, visibility down to 400 yards and conditions in which there was a severe risk of icing. After take off Flight Lieutenant Huggett lost sight of the ground above 100 feet and thereafter was restricted to carrying out his flight below this height. The vessel was sighted after 15 minutes but with a sea running at State 8, a pitching vessel and no horizon to guide him he was committed to a high hover to avoid the masts and had to rely entirely on the directions of his navigator to lower the winchman to the deck and eventually hoist the seaman on board. On the return flight to Bangor hospital Flight Lieutenant Huggett had to follow the coastline at a very low height and eventually landed in a foot of snow. The patient was handed over and the helicopter returned to base. On landing it was found that so much damage had been caused to the engine due to icing that it is doubtful whether the helicopter could have remained airborne for many more minutes. The seaman was operated on within one hour of being picked up while the lifeboat which had been launched had to spend several hours trying vainly to regain the harbour in the blizzard. During the whole of this operation Flight Lieutenant Huggett showed calmness, determination and courage of the highest order. His prompt action and complete disregard for personal safety possibly saved the life of the seaman.

15th June 1965.

**ROYAL AIR FORCE
GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH**

Appointment to commission (permanent)

As Flight Lieutenants (General List) :

1st Oct. 1964

Fenton ALLEN (2536108).
Gordon James BLACKBURN (506615).
Peter Jack PHILLIPS (4230006).
Donald Christopher READ (2765825).

As Flying Officers (General List):
1st Oct. 1964

Oliver John Alexander KNIGHT (609157) (since promoted to Flight Lieutenant).
Alan Reginald HIGGS (4230741).

Appointment to commission (permanent) (D.E.C.(A))

As Flight Lieutenants (Supplementary List) :

John Edmund TAYLOR (3134561). 24th Mar. 1965.
Jeffrey Leonard WHITEHEAD (3519411). 26th Apr. 1965.

As Flying Officers (Supplementary List) :

Lionel Russell OVERY (2548824). 1st Oct. 1964.

Cadet Pilots

28th Apr. 1965

Michael John CARVER (4232610) (seniority 19th Nov. 1962).

Victor George BUNTING (3527264) (seniority 8th Feb. 1964).

Bryan Alfred WILSON (3528280) (seniority 26th July 1964).

John Patrick BRUNSDEN (685638) (seniority 14th Mar. 1965).

Henry William HALL (4220164) (seniority 23rd Apr. 1965).

Air Electronics Cadet James Francis BRAZIER (593340). 28th Apr. 1965 (seniority 25th Sept. 1963).

As Pilot Officer (Supplementary List) :

Cadet Pilot Ian Gordon Langley ORD (4268778). 28th Apr. 1965 (seniority 14th Feb. 1965).

As Acting Pilot Officers (Supplementary List) :

Cadet Pilots

28th Apr. 1965

Cyril Christopher FERRIS (688029) (seniority 31st Dec. 1963).

Andrew Charles GUTTERIDGE (687886) (seniority 29th Jan. 1964).

John Richard WEBBER (687998) (seniority 4th Nov. 1963).

Derek Robert ALDEN (4332626).

Richard Guy BARTLETT (4232569).

John CABLE (4232643).

Douglas Adrian CHISHOLM (4232425).

Trevor John COCKARILL (4232628).

Leslie HATCHER (4232629).

Thomas Owen LEWIS (4232591).

Robert Reid MCGREGOR (2619806).

Graham Walter MCKAY (4232514).

Kenneth William MAHER (4232621).

Alan John THORPE (4232636).

David Guy Milner TRUSLER (4232599).

Denys Andrew WILLIAMS (4232127).