



SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO  
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TUESDAY, 3RD MAY 1966

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF  
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.  
3rd May 1966.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the George Medal to the under-mentioned:

R4164067 Flight Sergeant John REESON, Royal Air Force.

Sergeant (now Flight Sergeant) Reeson, a winchman of No. 202 Squadron, Leconfield, was a member of the crew of a search and rescue helicopter called to the assistance of the British Petroleum Company's oil drilling rig, "Sea Gem," which had collapsed in heavy seas forty miles off the Lincolnshire coast on 27th December 1965. The air temperature at the time was below freezing, with gale-force winds and heavy seas with waves up to twenty feet high. A thick layer of oil covered the sea, the surface of which was strewn with debris. On arrival in the area three survivors were seen by the crew of the helicopter and Sergeant Reeson was immediately lowered to one of them. Despite the appalling conditions and the struggles of the survivor, the Sergeant managed to secure him to the winch hook and together they were lifted to the helicopter. Whilst the helicopter then hovered over a nearby ship, both were lowered to the deck. At the time the ship was heaving and pitching wildly and, during the latter part of the descent, Sergeant Reeson was struck on the head whilst protecting the survivor from the ship's rigging. When winched back to the helicopter the Sergeant was in a state of exhaustion and had swallowed both sea water and oil, but, despite his condition, he insisted on being lowered to the second survivor. After a prolonged struggle, and with mounting fatigue, he managed to secure the second survivor and, partially supporting him with his legs, they were winched up to the helicopter, taken to the nearby ship and lowered to the deck. When he returned to the helicopter after this second rescue, Sergeant Reeson was in a state of collapse and the navigator insisted on taking his place for the rescue of the third survivor. Despite his state of exhaustion, the Sergeant continued to take part in the rescue by manning the winch control and, by his commentary, guided the pilot during the prolonged operation. During the return flight to base, although in pain himself and sick from swallowing oil and sea water, Sergeant Reeson helped to give first aid and artificial respiration to the third survivor, continuing to do so until the rescued man was taken over by a doctor. In the prevailing circumstances Sergeant Reeson would have known immediately that any rescue attempt necessitating a descent into the

water would seriously endanger his life. His total disregard of the hazards confronting him during both rescues and particularly during the second, when he was himself injured and nearing exhaustion, was an act of the greatest valour. His exploit stands out as one of the most courageous and determined rescues carried out by Coastal Command in recent years.

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

Whitehall, London S.W.1.  
3rd May 1966.

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

*Air Force Cross*

Flight Lieutenant John Raymond HILL (4030995), Royal Air Force.

Flight Lieutenant Hill of No. 202 Squadron, Leconfield, was navigator of the helicopter called to the assistance of the British Petroleum Company's oil drilling rig, "Sea Gem," which had collapsed in heavy seas forty miles off the Lincolnshire coast on 27th December 1965. On arrival at the scene the helicopter crew saw three survivors amongst the debris and wreckage, and by his commentary, Flight Lieutenant Hill guided the pilot whilst the winchman made two difficult rescues from the sea. On completion of the second rescue the winchman was so exhausted, injured and unfit to make a third descent, that Flight Lieutenant Hill instantly volunteered to take his place for the third rescue attempt. He did this with complete disregard for his own safety, well knowing the appalling conditions and risk involved. The third survivor was heavily built and in too exhausted a condition to assist in his own rescue. He was entangled in floating debris and his life jacket hampered the rescue operation. Flight Lieutenant Hill struggled to secure the drowning man whilst icy seas broke over them and the presence of oil made a firm grasp impossible. He was able to secure the survivor only partially to the winch hook before they were both recovered to the helicopter. In the process of being lifted, he retained the heavy man on the winch hook by his own strength although still entangled in debris. During the return flight to base, despite intense fatigue, Flight Lieutenant Hill not only navigated the aircraft but also helped to administer first aid to the rescued man. Having witnessed the manner in which the winchman became injured and exhausted during two hazardous descents into the water, and being unfamiliar with the task, Flight Lieutenant Hill was under no illusions as to the difficulties facing him when he decided to undertake the rescue of the

almost helpless third survivor. His refusal to be deterred in the face of such odds and his subsequent handling of the rescue attempt was an act of the greatest fortitude.

*Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air*

DO684179 Sergeant Leon George SMITH, Royal Air Force.

For his action as pilot of the helicopter which was called to the assistance of the survivors of the capsized oil drilling rig, "Sea Gem," in the North Sea, on 27th December 1965. Although he had completed only the minimum of training since his recent return to flying duties and despite extremely adverse conditions, Sergeant Smith maintained an accurate hover for prolonged periods whilst his crewmen effected the rescues. During the latter part of the operation he received diminishing assistance from his crew as they in turn became exhausted and this called for added resourcefulness on his part.

3rd May 1966.

**ROYAL AIR FORCE**

**GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH**

*Promotion*

*Flying Officer to Flight Lieutenant :*

27th Apr. 1966

L. T. CHAMBERLAIN (3507288).

D. B. KINGHORN (4037881).

A. F. BAMPTON (2756440). 28th Apr. 1966.

29th Apr. 1966

P. CARR (4230382).

R. M. COOPER (4230913).

J. M. P. HOUGH (4230914).

J. LAMB (3136523).

J. K. WALDING (4230909).

R. O. H. HONEY (4249185). 3rd May 1966.

*Pilot Officer to Flying Officer :*

P. W. STANNARD, B.Sc. (2618900). 15th Apr. 1966 (seniority 15th Jan. 1965).

30th Apr. 1966

J. A. S. LAIRD (608470).

P. G. MAGILL (4232095).

J. M. SHACKLETON (4232065).

M. J. GILLET (4232259). 3rd May 1966.

*Regrading*

*Acting Pilot Officer to Pilot Officer :*

K. A. SCHUSSLER, B.Eng. (4232864). 27th Apr. 1966.

28th Apr. 1966.

D. R. ALDEN (4332626).

R. G. BARNES (4232630).

P. J. BYRNE-BURNS (4232439).

J. CABLE (4232643).

T. J. COCKARILL (4232628).

D. J. C. CROMBIE (4232631).

J. S. DICKENS (687880).

M. J. DUNNE (4232673).

A. K. FLETCHER (687798).

L. HATCHER (4232629).

D. C. HIDE (4232639).

P. B. HUGHES (4232638).

G. C. JONES (4232473).

T. O. LEWIS (4232591).

K. W. MAER (4232621).

I. MALLIN (4232644).

R. R. MCGREGOR (2619806).

G. W. MCKAY (4232514).

K. R. QUINNEY (4232622).

R. S. RYOTT (4232633).

B. J. TITCHEN (4232625).

A. J. THORPE (4232636).

D. G. M. TRUSLER (4232599).

J. VINALES (4232624).

J. WARREN (4232642).

D. A. WILLIAMS (4232127).

P. R. WOOD (4232645).

A. A. DALE (687728). 29th Apr. 1966.

A. C. GUTTERIDGE (687886). 1st May 1966.

*Retirement*

Group Captain F. J. ROBINSON, C.B.E., D.F.C. 30th Apr. 1966.

Wing Commander R. F. T. DOE, D.S.O., D.F.C. (41908) (at own request). 1st Apr. 1966.

Squadron Leader R. H. MORLEY (198968). 11th Apr. 1966.

Flight Lieutenant R. P. NELMS, D.F.C. (39750) (at own request), retaining the rank of Wing Commander. 2nd Apr. 1966.

*Commission Terminated*

Pilot Officer C. T. HAYMAN (4232450). 18th Apr. 1966.

*Dismissal by sentence of Court Martial*

Flying Officer D. M. T. EVANS (5030605). 22nd Feb. 1966.

**TECHNICAL BRANCH**

*Promotion*

*Flying Officer to Flight Lieutenant :*

27th Apr. 1966

P. E. CARN (570735).

D. A. SMITH (571740).

L. WATSON (641954).

*Pilot Officer to Flying Officer :*

T. A. RAMSBOTTOM (507784). 28th Apr. 1966.

*Commission Resigned*

Pilot Officer A. E. J. BOND (508115). 26th Mar. 1966.

**EQUIPMENT BRANCH**

*Promotion*

*Flying Officer to Flight Lieutenant :*

B. W. U. ROBINSON (4335025). 28th Apr. 1966.

**SECRETARIAL BRANCH**

*Appointment to Commission (Permanent)*

*As Flying Officer (General List) (since promoted Flight Lieutenant) :*

Arthur George HANNAFORD (506545). 1st Oct. 1965.

*Promotion*

*Flying Officer to Flight Lieutenant :*

K. T. McDERMOTT, B.A. (506328). 14th Feb. 1966.

B. H. ROBERTS, B.E.M. (591262). 27th Apr. 1966.

28th Apr. 1966

R. C. BLAKEMORE (4335035).

M. T. B. DODD (4335032).

*Regrading*

*Acting Pilot Officer to Pilot Officer W.R.A.F. :*

19th Mar. 1966

S. CUMNER-PRICE (2797352).

G. C. HARVEY (2797354).

M. S. MACKAY (2797373).

*Retirement*

Group Captain E. D. LEVIEN, D.S.O., D.F.C. 29th Apr. 1966.

Wing Commander R. R. PRESLAND, D.F.C. (45118) (at own request). 5th Apr. 1966.

**ROYAL AIR FORCE REGIMENT**

*Appointment to Commission (Permanent)*

*As Flying Officers (General List) :*

1st Oct. 1965

Peter Edward BRICE (4335148).

Michael John FAREY (4335137).

**AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION BRANCH**

*Transfer between Branches*

Flying Officer K. F. IRVINE (4014777) is transferred to the Technical Branch (Supplementary List), retaining his existing rank and seniority. 18th Apr. 1966.

*Retirement*

Squadron Leader J. F. C. ASPREY (4093458) (at own request). 2nd Apr. 1966.

*Commission Relinquished*

Wing Commander R. E. B. PINCHARD, O.B.E. (59990), retaining his rank. 29th Apr. 1966.

**MEDICAL BRANCH**

*Appointment to Commission (Short Service)*

*Notification amended*

3rd Sept. 1963 (p. 7365, col. 1) concerning Derek Lionel PRICE, M.B., Ch.B. (502995) for (seniority 10th July 1962) read (seniority 8th July 1959).

**Promotion***Wing Commander to Group Captain :*

J. N. C. COOKE, O.B.E., M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S.,  
M.R.C.P., M.R.C.P.(E) (201232), 1st May 1966.

**Retirement**

Air Vice-Marshal Sir Peter DIXON, K.B.E.,  
Q.H.S., M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.S.(Edin),  
D.O.(Oxon.), (at own request). 6th Apr. 1966.

Group Captain J. W. PATRICK, M.B., B.Ch.,  
D.P.H. 23rd Apr. 1966.

**MEDICAL TECHNICIAN BRANCH**

(Medical Section)

**Promotion***Flying Officer to Flight Lieutenant :*

C. GILLOWAY (1904742). 2nd May 1966.

**EDUCATION BRANCH****Promotion***Flight Lieutenant to Squadron Leader :*

28th Apr. 1966

E. BARRETT, B.Sc. (2600805).

E. E. COX, M.A. (2608225).

M. O. THOMAS, B.Sc. (505010). 1st May 1966.

D. B. BRYETT, B.Sc. (505142). 2nd May 1966.

*Flying Officer to Flight Lieutenant :*

A. K. PICKLES, B.Sc.(Econ.) (2575495). 27th  
Apr. 1966.

**PROVOST BRANCH***Appointment to Commission (Permanent)*

*As Flying Officer (General List) W.R.A.F. 1st  
Oct. 1965 :*

Jennifer Elizabeth DAVIES (2827710) (since pro-  
moted Flight Officer and transferred to the Sec-  
retarial Branch in the rank of Flight Officer. 17th  
Apr. 1966 (seniority 1st Apr. 1966).

**CATERING BRANCH****Promotion***Flying Officer to Flight Officer W.R.A.F. :*

A. LINDLEY (8810). 14th Feb. 1966.

**ROYAL AUXILIARY AIR FORCE  
RESERVE OF OFFICERS****SECRETARIAL BRANCH***Commission relinquished*

Flight Lieutenant A. P. ELLIOT (55991). 1st  
May 1966.

**ROYAL AIR FORCE VOLUNTEER  
RESERVE**

(Reconstituted Section)

**SECRETARIAL BRANCH***Extension of service*

The period of service of Flight Lieutenant I.  
LANCASTER (2602510) is extended by two years  
from 3rd May 1966.

The period of service of Flying Officer I. D.  
MCCLELLAND (2549214) is extended by two years  
from 4th May 1966.

**METEOROLOGICAL BRANCH***Extension of service*

The period of service of Flight Lieutenant G. S.  
WALLACE-WILLIAMS (195158) is extended by two  
years from 29th Apr. 1966.

**ROYAL AIR FORCE VOLUNTEER  
RESERVE**

(TRAINING BRANCH)

*Extension of service*

The period of service of Flying Officer D. E.  
THOMPSON, B.Sc., A.R.C.S. (2326499), is extended  
by eight years from 26th Sept. 1961.

*The period of service of the undermentioned Flying  
Officers is extended by four years from the dates  
stated :*

28th Apr. 1966

W. R. DIXON (1126686).

D. H. GILES, M.A. (2590350).

29th Apr. 1966

R. P. GOWING (808396).

J. D. LEVERIDGE (137249).

G. H. LIDDLE (1217880).

R. MILLWARD-WEARS (1001453).

F. G. NEWTON (994377).

The period of service of Flying Officer A. J.  
DYER (1608758) is extended by one year from 30th  
Apr. 1966.

*Commission resigned**Flying Officers :*

S. COWANS (131798). 16th Dec. 1965.

P. J. WROR (5064221). 24th Feb. 1966.

G. C. CLARKE (51552). 14th Mar. 1966.

*Pilot Officers :*

R. M. WILSON (207676). 9th Feb. 1966.

L. G. N. BRUFORD, B.A. (207540). 21st Mar.  
1966.

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