

AIR FORCE DEPARTMENT

Whitehall, London S.W.1.
9th May 1967.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following award in recognition of gallant and distinguished service in the South Arabian Federation:

Distinguished Flying Cross

Flight Lieutenant John Michael EVANS (3510871),
Royal Air Force.

Flight Lieutenant Evans was one of a small group of pilots selected and posted at very short notice to Middle East Command in mid-1965 to build up the Wessex Helicopter Squadron. Immediately on arrival, before being able to acclimatise to the hot season and totally strange terrain, he was flying in support of the ground forces in the forbidding environment of the Radfan mountains, showing great determination to meet the full and exacting demands of the Forward Commander. Flight Lieutenant Evans, who is the Senior Flight Commander of No. 78 Squadron, has now flown in more than 200 operations, comprising over one thousand individual sorties into the more remote and inaccessible mountain outposts within the Federation of South Arabia, deploying troops, delivering urgently awaited ammunition to places under attack, and other supplies, without which these outposts could not for long retain their dominant position. During 1965 and 1966, he successfully recovered many civilian, Federal Army and British casualties, by day and by night. During September 1965, whilst operating in support of Federal troops who were engaged in conflict with dissidents at Awabil and Jebel Khuder, Flight Lieutenant Evans remained in the area under fire, while another Squadron aircraft which had been hit had to be withdrawn from the operation; he was instrumental in re-deploying the ground troops involved in this action to other locations on his own. Then, later in the same month, whilst searching for Federal Army casualties in the Am Shudayf area, his own aircraft sustained bullet damage from the same dissidents who had caused the casualties; he displayed great tenacity of purpose by continuing with his search until he had located the injured troops and recovered them from the area under attack. Between February and December 1966, whilst engaged on special missions in the 7,000 foot mountains adjacent to the Yemen border, he flew many successful sorties under the most exacting and demanding conditions. Operating as a singleton he has several times been called upon to re-deploy troops tactically in the last few minutes of dusk and before complete darkness obliterated the sheer mountain sides. In so doing, in areas from which dissident fire is always more than a probability, he exploited his skill to the limits, thus safeguarding his aircraft, his crew and the troops carried; his courage and coolness in these conditions inspired all who served and flew with him. Flight Lieutenant Evans has displayed determination, resourcefulness and professional ability of the highest order throughout his tour of duty in Aden and, through his efforts and endeavour, has played a most significant part in helicopter operations in the area. He has demonstrated and upheld the best traditions of the Royal Air Force under fire.

9th May 1967.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH

*Appointment to Commission (Permanent)**As Flight Lieutenants (General List):*

1st Oct. 1966

Richard FELIX (4230075).

Ian Harvey GRINDON (4230181).

As Pilot Officer (General List):

Flight Cadet Alan David DENISON (608580). 3rd Mar. 1967.

Appointment to Commission (Short Service)

As Acting Pilot Officer (Supplementary List) (six years on the Active List and four years on the Reserve):

Bernard Martin LIMBREY (4335411) (Since re-graded Pilot Officer). 17th Dec. 1964. (Substituted for Notification 26th Jan. 1965 (p. 921, col. 1).

*Promotion**Flying Officer to Flight Lieutenant:*

S. J. VENTON (577148). 7th May 1967.

Pilot Officer to Flying Officer:

A. J. HETHERINGTON, B.A. (508156). 9th Nov. 1966 (seniority 9th Aug. 1965).

D. J. HEMMINGS (687618). 5th Feb. 1967.

B. J. TITCHEN (4232625). 28th Apr. 1967.

Half-Pay

Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Thomas PIKE, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.F.C. 8th May 1967.

*Regrading**Acting Pilot Officer to Pilot Officer:*

6th May 1967

B. K. APPLEBY (4233032).

J. S. BEARD (4233033).

J. D. BOARDMAN (4233004).

P. A. BRANTHWAITE (4232990).

S. BURNS (4233017).

I. A. CAMERON (4233008).

A. D. CHAPMAN (4233025).

P. COOPER (4233016).

R. V. DAVIS (4232982).

J. A. DUCKWORTH (4233007).

R. J. DUNCAN (4232963).

C. HILLIKER (4232967).

R. C. HIRONS (4233014).

P. G. HITCHCOCK (4232957).

D. HORTON (4232958).

P. S. HUETT (4233034).

R. JONES (4233031).

P. W. KEEBLE (4232897).

J. F. LANE (4233022).

J. H. F. MCNEIL-MATTHEWS (4233006).

I. C. MARTINDALE (4232949).

A. R. MATTHEWS (4232980).

R. J. MATTHEWSON (4233027).

D. L. MILNE (4232866).

P. H. MILWARD (4232972).

B. MONTGOMERY (4233029).

R. J. NICOLAU (4232934).

A. J. PILKINGTON (4233011).

S. J. PULL (4232974).

J. M. B. RITCHIE (4232944).

M. F. SEELY (4233012).

G. C. SMITH (5200231).

S. J. SPOOR (4233024).

V. F. STRACHAN (4232992).

R. S. TAYLOR (4233009).

G. A. J. TULL (4233036).

I. D. TUPPER (4232993).

C. L. WASHINGTON (4233028).

P. G. WELLS (4233021).

C. T. WILLSDON (4232907).

Antedate of Seniority

Flight Lieutenant M. S. J. MCKINLEY (608162) is awarded an Antedate of Seniority of 14th Feb. 1966 from 25th July 1966.

Transfer to Reserve

Flight Lieutenant G. A. PEARCE (4230559). 5th May 1967.

Flying Officers:

D. JENKINS (4230556). 10th Apr. 1967.

G. A. BRADLEY (4230581). 8th May 1967.

Transfer between Branches

Acting Pilot Officer P. A. NORTON (2797433) W.R.A.F. is transferred to the Secretarial Branch (Supplementary List) retaining her existing rank and seniority. 16th Apr. 1967.

Retirement

Wing Commander H. GRANT, A.F.C. (67668) (at own request). 6th Apr. 1967.

Flight Lieutenants:

W. J. C. GREEN, D.F.C. (190909). 14th Apr. 1967.

F. W. RICHARDSON (3510036). 17th Apr. 1967.

T. G. SHELLEY (3001625). 1st May 1967.

G. WYNNE (150933). 2nd May 1967.

H. M. DIXON (1318545). 7th May 1967.

F. W. RICKARD (57350). 10th May 1967.

Flying Officer P. C. C. LENNON (4231074) (on account of medical unfit for Air Force service). 5th May 1967.

*Commission terminated**Acting Pilot Officers:*

M. E. CONSTABLE (4233038). 6th Apr. 1967.

J. S. GELLATLY (4232947). 27th Apr. 1967.