



SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO

# The London Gazette

of Monday, 20th November 1995

Published by Authority

---

 Registered as a Newspaper at the Post Office
 

---

TUESDAY, 21st NOVEMBER 1995

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

HONOURS AND AWARDS

**AIR FORCE DEPARTMENT**Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB  
21st November 1995

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

*Air Force Cross*

Flight Lieutenant Arthur John STACEY (4232870) Royal Air Force.

On 16th May 1995, Flight Lieutenant Stacey of Number 51 Squadron, an experienced, well-above average pilot with over eight thousand flying hours, and his six-man crew flew a post major servicing air test on a Nimrod reconnaissance aircraft. When the aircraft was at 15,000 feet over the Moray Firth, the fire warning system activated for the starboard outer engine. The crew carried out the full engine fire drill, which used all fire extinguishant available for the two starboard engines. Despite this, the fire continued to rage and the adjacent starboard inner engine fire warning activated. Realising the fire could not be extinguished, Stacey immediately headed for the nearest airfield, at Royal Air Force Lossiemouth. Just after a crew member had reported that the starboard outer engine upper panels had burnt away and that the intake was glowing red hot, an explosion from the starboard wing was heard on the flight deck. Although Lossiemouth airfield was now only some five miles away, Stacey concluded that the aircraft was in imminent danger of breaking up and elected to undertake an immediate controlled

ditching. Whilst configuring the aircraft for this manoeuvre, Stacey discovered that the flaps could not be lowered. Despite the additional risk and added control problems that this presented, Stacey decided to continue the ditching. Reacting in a cool and professional manner to rapidly changing circumstances and a deteriorating situation, Stacey displayed exceptional courage and skill by making a perfect touchdown onto the sea—the first for a Nimrod aircraft. This highly dynamic incident lasted only four minutes, and only two crewmen sustained minor injuries. Subsequently, investigators discovered that the wing's rear spar had almost burnt through and the starboard aileron cable had already been destroyed; the aircraft was undoubtedly only seconds away from a catastrophic and irrecoverable failure. Throughout, Stacey remained totally calm, displaying outstanding airmanship and courage, and the entire crew undoubtedly owe their lives to his exceptional skill and judgement.

*Queen's Commendation for Bravery in the Air*

Flight Sergeant Stephen Derek HART (S8141427) Royal Air Force.

For his bravery and professionalism during and after the ditching of a Nimrod aircraft which was on fire and breaking up.

Master Aircrew William REID (Q8022897) Royal Air Force.

For his bravery, exceptional skill and professionalism during the evacuation of a casualty at sea in appalling weather conditions.

LONDON: HMSO

Printed in the United Kingdom and Published by HMSO  
Price 75p net

ISSN 0374-3721

ISBN 0-11-664220-3



9 780116 642202

