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TUESDAY, 8 APRIL, 1941

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1, 8th April, 1941.

Acting Flight Lieutenant John Wyness Sim (73397), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. This officer has shown keen devotion to duty and has courageously dealt with unexploded bombs. As he lacked special training and experience in dealing with bombs, he displayed outstanding courage and initiative.

358920 Acting Sergeant Sidney Boys, Royal Air Force.

This airman is in charge of the station fire tender. During a night in September, 1940, he was ordered to proceed to an aircraft which had crashed in flames. Although the aircraft was known to be loaded with bombs, and enemy aircraft were overhead, this airman drove his fire tender up to the crash and manned the hose himself and succeeded in extinguishing the fire. The crew had descended by parachute. In October, 1940, he again proceeded to the scene of a crash, and although he did not know if the air-craft was loaded with bombs, he manned the hose himself and succeeded in extricating one member of the crew alive; the other two were killed. In November, 1940, he drove his fire tender through thick fog to the scene of another crash, and knowing that there were bombs in the wreckage (one having already exploded), he once more manned the hose himself and put out the fire. By his prompt and courageous action on this occasion he saved the lives of two of the crew.

He has displayed a complete disregard for his personal safety and by his courageous actions has saved the lives of three people and set a magnificent example to the men under his control.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.I,

8th April, 1941.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following Awards: —

The Medal of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for Meritorious Service.

14505 Corporal William Gazeley, Royal Air Force.

In spite of lack of special training and experience, this airman assisted in locating and dealing with three unexploded bombs one night in October, 1940. Corporal Gazeley showed outstanding courage and disregard of danger.

907748 Aircraftman 1st Class Arthur Leslie Watkins, Royal Air Force.

In December, 1940, an aircraft crashed on an aerodrome and immediately burst into flames. Without hesitation Aircraftman Watkins jumped on to the blazing aircraft, assisted the pilot clear of the wreckage and put out his burning clothing. The presence of mind and courage of this airman undoubtedly saved the pilot from being severely burned and possibly from being killed. The aircraft contained ammunition, which started to explode shortly after the pilot was clear of the wreckage.