



SUPPLEMENT

TO

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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD**

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
5th May, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the George Medal to the undermentioned:—

Flying Officer Digby Vawdre Cartmel Cotes-Preedy (41987), Royal Air Force.

This officer was the pilot of an aircraft which crashed shortly after taking off, just before dawn one day in January, 1941. The aircraft burst into flames on impact, and the observer was thrown out. Flying Officer Cotes-Preedy forced his way out and found the observer lying in burning petrol. He dragged the observer clear, rolled him in the grass to extinguish his burning clothing, and then returned to the aircraft to search for the air gunner. Finding the gunner's escape hatch jammed, Flying Officer Cotes-Preedy ripped the side of the fuselage and succeeded in dragging the air gunner out by his head. Although injured and suffering from burns, Flying Officer Cotes-Preedy displayed great gallantry and initiative. He undoubtedly saved the life of the air gunner, and was of great assistance to the observer.

Flying Officer Richard Garwood Robinson (83668), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
1165459 Corporal John Taylor, Royal Air Force.

One day in February, 1941, an aircraft crashed just beyond the boundary of an aerodrome. Flying Officer Robinson, medical officer at the station, was at the scene of the accident almost immediately and was first seen crawling through heavy smoke and fumes but, when he had nearly reached the wreckage, he was forced back owing to an explosion of one of the main petrol tanks. Undeterred, however, he returned to the seat of the fire, which was around the pilot's cockpit, where he was joined by Corporal Taylor who had been playing football and had run to the crash clad only in his football attire. Together they attempted to extricate the only remaining member of the aircraft. To assist them in their efforts, a foam apparatus was turned directly on them. Although petrol and oil tanks, ammunition and very lights were exploding Flying Officer Robinson and Corporal Taylor persisted in their efforts and finally extricated the body. Both displayed great courage and a complete disregard for their own safety and although both suffered from the effects of the foam