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TUESDAY, 5 AUGUST, 1941

## CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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

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

Pilot Officer John Cyril Brice (60529), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

One night in April, 1941, this officer was the pilot of an aircraft which crashed on landing and burst into flames. When the aircraft came to rest it was burning fiercely. Pilot Officer Brice removed his flying helmet, harness and parachute and attempted to open the top hatch. This was jammed however, so he went forward to get the hatchet. By this time the whole perspex nose of the aircraft was on fire and the heat intense. Failing to find the hatchet, Pilot Officer Brice returned and made further efforts with the sliding roof which he managed to get open, severely burning his left hand in the attempt. After getting clear he noticed that the rear hatch was still closed and, in spite of his burns and the fact that the wind was blowing the flames over this hatch, he returned to the aircraft and tried, with his undamaged hand, to open the hatch and release the gunner. Unable to do so, Pilot Officer Brice climbed on top of the fuselage and, holding the catch with his right hand, he jumped on to the hatch and succeeded in bursting it open. Although he had received further burns to his hand and face he remained there until the gunner was clear of the aircraft. This officer displayed great coolness and bravery throughout.

1063679 Leading Aircraftman Thomas John Clarke, Royal Air Force.

In May, 1941, this airman was undergoing night flying instruction in an aircraft which was attacked by an enemy aircraft as it was approaching to land. Leading Aircraftman Clarke received a bullet wound which caused a compound fracture of the right humerus rending the arm useless, while his instructor was hit in the stomach which paralysed both legs. The aircraft was crash landed but burst into flames on impact. With great determination Leading Aircraftman Clarke succeeded in opening the emergency roof exit and, in spite of his wound, managed to extricate his instructor, who was helpless, and remove him to a safe distance. Although greatly handicapped throughout, this airman displayed great determination, gallantry and presence of mind and undoubtedly saved his instructor from being burned alive. Unfortunately the instructor has since died of his wounds.

1014345 Aircraftman 1st Class Albert Jones, Royal Air Force

One morning in May, 1941, this airman drove his tender out on to the aerodrome to pick up the crew of an aircraft returning from operations. Whilst waiting in his tender a loud explosion occurred and the aircraft, which was only 10 yards away, burst into flames. Aircraftman Jones immediately drove his vehicle about 50 yards away to avoid its destruction and then ran back to the burning aircraft. With complete indifference to danger he dragged a badly wounded airman from the aircraft to a place of safety. Whilst so doing three more bombs