

carrying out a flight to Larissa. Although attacked by an enemy fighter and encountering other difficulties, he successfully completed his mission. In April, 1941, whilst engaged in ferrying duties, Sergeant Hudson's aircraft was attacked by four Italian fighters. He eventually succeeded in shaking them off but later was compelled to alight on the sea owing to engine trouble. He was picked up by a passing enemy ammunition ship, which was heavily bombed, but before it exploded, Sergeant Hudson swam ashore and, although machine gunned whilst in the water, succeeded in making contact with our own forces. Throughout this airman has displayed great skill and courage.

N.Z.391331 Sergeant Geoffrey Edward MOORE, Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 148 Squadron.

One night in June, 1941, this airman was the rear gunner of an aircraft which attacked a target at Benghazi. During the run up, the aircraft was engaged by three Italian fighters, one of which was shot down and the other two driven off by the determined and accurate shooting of Sergeant Moore. Altogether this airman has completed 46 operational flights and has at all times displayed great courage and a high standard of gunnery.

1253402 Sergeant Jack Cyril SAICH, No. 9 Squadron.

CAN/R.60902 Sergeant Leslie SMITTEN, Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 9 Squadron.

Sergeants Saich and Smitten were captain and navigator of an aircraft engaged in an attack on a target at Bremen one night in July. When over Bremen the aircraft was caught and held by a large concentration of searchlights and immediately subjected to most intense and accurate fire from the ground defences. One shell burst wounded the rear gunner and cut the hydraulic controls of the turret, and a second set fire to the fabric of the fuselage. In a few seconds the fire spread backwards to the tail fin. Sergeant Smitten endeavoured to reach the rear gunner but being driven back by the fire he attacked it with an extinguisher and successfully subdued it. He then succeeded, with difficulty, in releasing the injured rear gunner who was trapped in his damaged turret. During this time another shell splinter ignited the forced landing flares in the port mainplane but these burnt through and fell away from the aircraft. Despite all these hazards, Sergeant Saich successfully extricated his aircraft from this area and set course for home. In spite of the damage sustained he succeeded, with the skilful navigation of Sergeant Smitten, in reaching the shores of this country where he made a forced landing without further injury to the crew. Both airmen displayed great courage, coolness and determination.

*Air Ministry,*  
15th July, 1941.

#### AWARDS OF A FOREIGN DECORATION.

##### ROYAL AIR FORCE.

His Majesty The KING has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned decoration conferred on the

officers indicated in recognition of valuable services rendered in connection with the War:—

CONFERRED BY THE PROVISIONAL  
CZECHOSLOVAK GOVERNMENT.

*Czechoslovak Military Cross of 1939.*

Wing Commander Geoffrey Nodun AMISON (32239).

Acting Squadron Leader Percy Charles PICKARD, D.S.O., D.F.C. (39392).

##### AMENDMENT.

In notification of 8th August, 1941 (p. 4571, Col. 1) regarding Acting Flight Lieutenant Colin Hamilton McFIE, for McFIE read MACFIE.

*Air Ministry,*  
15th August, 1941.

##### ROYAL AIR FORCE.

##### GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

The undermentioned Flight Lieutenants (Temporary Squadron Leaders) are granted permanent commissions in the substantive rank of Flight Lieutenant:—

28th Oct. 1939.

Richard Denis Barry MACFADDEN (37476).

15th Mar. 1941.

Robert Rossiter HOLDER (37099).

The undermentioned are granted commissions for the duration of hostilities as Pilot Officers on probation:—

Temporary Warrant Officer.

31st May 1941.

364477 John Edward ATKINS, A.F.M. (46163).

Flight Sergeants.

31st May 1941.

506743 Philip Francis O'KEEFE, A.F.M. (46164).

12th July 1941.

560827 Leonard Cecil JAMES (46165).

Temporary Flight Sergeants.

3rd July 1941.

565092 George William Thomas HOSSENT (46166).

643753 Charles WILCOCK (46167).

10th July 1941.

357922 Arnold HAWORTH (46168).

12th July 1941.

624359 Walter Joseph HURST (46169).

580633 Bernard BARDEGA, D.F.M. (46170).

17th July 1941.

625862 Henry COSSAR (46173).

24th July 1941.

543731 William Rupert CROFTS (46177).

Sergeants.

31st May 1941.

565341 Harold Frederick PAYNE (46171).

12th July 1941.

581134 Anthony Selwyn ALDRIDGE (46172).

17th July 1941.

522917 Richard SMITHSON (46174).

581131 Basil WOOD (46175).

20th July 1941.

581018 Percy William Gordon LESTER (46176).