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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1, 1st December, 1942.

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

Flying Officer John Amsden Elliott, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (104768), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

In May, 1942, a Boston aircraft crashed shortly after taking off from an aerodrome and burst into flames. An airman who was on duty nearby hastened to the scene where he was joined by 5 soldiers. Although the fire was intense and ammunition was exploding in all directions one member of the crew (the air gunner, who was seen to be hanging out of the turret) was dragged from the wreckage by one of the soldiers and then, with the assistance of the remainder of the party, carried on a stretcher to an ambulance which had arrived. The party was returning to the aircraft, which was then being approached by the station engineer officer and Flying Officer Elliott, a medical officer, when a bomb exploded. The engineer officer was thrown to the ground bleeding from the chest. Flying Officer Elliott, although also knocked down, was uninjured and immediately went to the aid of the engineer officer. He gave him morphia and at the time was fully aware that other bombs were in the aircraft only 8 yards away. A second bomb exploded which wounded Flying Officer Elliott but he valiantly attempted to remove his injured comrade. Eventually Flying Officer Elliott was assisted away by one of the soldiers, whilst the remaining men of the party removed the engineer officer who was found to be dead. Throughout, Flying Officer Elliott displayed great determination and complete disregard for his own safety.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1, 1st December, 1942.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the British Empire Medal (Military Division) to the undermentioned:—

1002805 Sergeant Albert Hill, Royal Air Force. Sergeant Hill was the rear gunner of a Wellington aircraft which crashed and caught fire during an afternoon in July, 1942. Although injured in the crash this airman managed to free himself from the wreckage. He then ran immediately to the front of the aircraft to assist other members of the crew to escape. All entrances to the aircraft were obstructed but, with the assistance of a civilian who had arrived on the scene, parts

of the wreckage were removed and he was able to pull an injured and unconscious member of the crew out of the wreckage before he himself collapsed. During this operation the aircraft was blazing furiously and the petrol tanks exploded very soon after Sergeant Hill had effected the rescue. This airman displayed gallantry and initiative of a high order.

1162788 Leading Aircraftman William George Laker, Royal Air Force.

One night in May, 1942, a Beaufighter aircraft crashed in an upside down position on an aerodrome and burst into flames. Leading Aircraftman Laker, an ambulance driver, and another airman were the first to arrive on the scene. The pilot's cockpit was so badly damaged that nothing could be done to extricate the pilot. Leading Aircraftman Laker proceeded to rescue the observer but found that the observer's hatch was jammed. The heat was intense and ammunition was exploding but, with the aid of foam which was sprayed over him from the fire tender, Leading Aircraftman Laker was eventually able to open the hatch. He entered the aircraft, removed the unconscious observer's entangled parachute and other safety appliances, and passed him out to safety. By his prompt and gallant action Leading Aircraftman Laker saved the observer's life.

1243376 Aircraftman 1st Class James John McCarthy, Royal Air Force.

One day in March, 1942, a Master aircraft crashed on an aerodrome and immediately burst into flames. With only his tunic over his head to act as a protection, Aircraftman McCarthy dashed into the flames in an effort to rescue the pilot but was forced to withdraw when his tunic caught fire. He then seized a fireman's asbestos headpiece and made a second attempt to effect a rescue. Showing complete disregard of the flames which enveloped the unprotected part of his body, and ignoring the danger which would arise if the petrol tanks exploded, he succeeded in extricating the unconscious pilot from the cockpit of the fiercely burning wreckage. Throughout Aircraftman McCarthy showed great courage and determination. Unfortunately the pilot died two days later.

Air Ministry, 1st December, 1942.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of distinguished services:—

Military Cross.

Flight Lieutenant Raë WALTON (43117).
Pilot Officer Terence John CORRAN (Aus.404078),
Royal Australian Air Force.