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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF
KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1,

26th May, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, and for the following awards of the George Medal and the British Empire Medal:—

To be an Additional Officer of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

Acting Wing Commander Desmond James Scott, D.S.O., D.F.C. (N.Z.40779), Royal New Zealand Air Force.

In January, 1944, a Spitfire aircraft, which had been damaged by enemy action, crashed on an airfield and burst into flames. Wing Commander Scott, the Station Commander, immediately proceeded to the scene and ran straight to the cockpit, which was burning fiercely, to rescue the pilot who was severely injured with his clothing on fire. Despite the intense heat of the conflagration and exploding ammunition, Wing Commander Scott, after considerable difficulty, succeeded in extricating the pilot and carried him to a safe distance from the fire. Unfortunately the rescued airman died later. Wing Commander Scott displayed great gallantry and a complete disregard of his own safety. During the incident he sustained burns to his face and hands which would have been severe were it not for the foam which was sprayed over him from the fire tender.

To be an Additional Officer of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

Acting Squadron Leader Wilmot Reginald Pettit, D.F.C. (Can/J.15517), Royal Canadian Air Force.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Military Division):—

944525 Leading Aircraftman Joseph Therwell Wray, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

One night in February, 1944, Squadron Leader Pettit was the officer in charge of night flying at a Royal Air Force Station when an aircraft, whilst attempting an emergency landing, overshot the end of the runway and overturned. The aircraft immediately caught fire. Squadron Leader Pettit rushed to the spot and, with the assistance of the fire party led by Leading Aircraftman Wray, quickly released two members of the crew who had been trapped in the fuselage. Squadron Leader Pettit then found that the rear gunner was seriously injured and trapped upside down in his turret. By this time the aircraft was burning furiously and the petrol tanks had started to explode. In spite of this and of the further

danger from exploding ammunition and pyrotechnics, Squadron Leader Pettit decided to attempt the extremely difficult task of removing the rear turret completely from the fuselage as all other attempts to reach the trapped gunner had failed. By strenuous efforts he was ultimately able to get into the turret while a party, headed by Leading Aircraftman Wray, wrenched at it from outside. Eventually the gunner was extricated alive and without any addition to the severe injuries which he had sustained in the crash. Squadron Leader Pettit's coolness, courage and initiative and Leading Aircraftman Wray's determination and devotion to duty in dangerous circumstances were of a very high order and were instrumental in saving the lives of three members of the crew of the aircraft.

To be an Additional Member of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

Flying Officer Charlie Eddy (N.Z.39003), Royal New Zealand Air Force.

One night in July, 1943, this officer was the pilot and captain of an aircraft which crashed when attempting an emergency landing and burst into flames immediately. He received concussion and injuries to his scalp and spine. Despite his injuries, Flying Officer Eddy remained in the aircraft and assisted the bomb aimer from the overturned second pilot's seat. After getting clear of the aircraft, Flying Officer Eddy, on learning that one member of the crew was absent, re-entered the blazing wreckage and assisted a medical officer in a vain attempt to extricate the mid-upper gunner who was trapped in his turret. It was not until the heat, fumes and smoke had made a continuance of rescue work impossible that Flying Officer Eddy was persuaded to abandon his efforts. His face was scorched whilst he was attempting to rescue the gunner and he collapsed immediately after finally leaving the aircraft. Flying Officer Eddy showed gallantry in dangerous circumstances and his unselfishness was instrumental in saving the bomb aimer's life.

Awarded the George Medal.

Flying Officer John Maclaren Galbraith (129258), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

947962 Flight Sergeant Neil Donaldson Forbes, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

In January, 1944, this officer and airman were the pilot and flight engineer respectively of an aircraft which stalled and caught fire when attempting to land on return from an operational sortie. Although suffering from shock, cuts and bruises they both managed to get out of the wreckage. Realising that 3 members of the crew were missing they immediately re-entered the burning aircraft, which was carrying a full load