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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
6th July, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of distinguished service:—

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

Captain Miss D. HUSSEY (F.46713V), South African Women's Auxiliary Air Force, attached South African Corps of Signals, Central Mediterranean Force.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
6th July, 1945.

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

Ind/r6228 Aircraftman 1st Class Leonard John SALDANHA, Royal Indian Air Force.

One evening in November, 1944, Aircraftman 1st Class Saldanha and a colleague were the first two people to arrive at the scene of an aircraft which had crashed and was burning fiercely. With complete disregard for their personal safety, these two airmen entered the flames and succeeded in rescuing one member of the crew. Although by this time the fire had considerably increased and the heat was intense, Aircraftman 1st Class Saldanha went back for the remaining passenger but was unable to reach him. This airman showed bravery and gallantry of a very high order in re-entering the burning aircraft and attempting a further rescue after having already sustained burns on his hands and forearms.

630677 Leading Aircraftman Thomas Shaw FERGUS, Royal Air Force.

In December, 1944, an American Curtis Commando aircraft carrying a total of 34 passengers and crew, crashed on landing at an Royal Air Force Station in South-East Asia Air Command and burst into flames. Leading Aircraftman Fergus, who was about 100 yards away, seized an axe from a nearby vehicle and immediately ran to the burning aircraft. The crew, who had got clear, warned him to keep away as the petrol tanks were liable to explode at any moment. Leading Aircraftman Fergus, however, noticed some passengers trying to get out of the aircraft and, ignoring the warning of the crew, he ran along the

blazing wing to the fuselage and, with complete disregard for his own safety, commenced to hack a hole in the side of the aircraft. Five Indian other ranks, although in a very dazed condition, succeeded in getting out through the aperture made by Leading Aircraftman Fergus. He then looked inside the fuselage to see if any one remained and was almost overcome by fumes. Nevertheless he made certain there were no passengers left inside the aircraft and then ran back along the burning mainplane and jumped clear just as the main petrol tank exploded, scorching his arms and legs. By his prompt and heroic action, Leading Aircraftman Fergus was undoubtedly responsible for saving the lives of the five persons who had been trapped in the burning aircraft.

Air Ministry, 6th July, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations:—

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Squadron Leader John Davidson MITCHNER, D.F.C. (Can/J.16799), R.C.A.F., 416 Sqn.

This officer has completed many sorties against the enemy since being awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He has consistently displayed a high degree of skill and determination and has been responsible for the destruction of 10 enemy aircraft. One day in April, 1945, Squadron Leader Mitchner led two armed reconnaissances, resulting in the destruction of 45 motor transport, whilst more than another 100 were damaged. His devotion to duty has been most commendable.

Acting Squadron Leader Charles Maurice RAMSEY, D.F.C. (106078), R.A.F.V.R., 264 Sqn.

Squadron Leader Ramsey has displayed great skill and gallantry in air operations. His keenness and determination to engage the enemy has always been apparent and he has destroyed eight hostile aircraft at night. This officer has completed a very large number of sorties and throughout his devotion to duty has been highly commendable.

Flight Lieutenant Rayne Dennis SCHULTZ, D.F.C. (Can/J.16359), R.C.A.F., 410 (R.C.A.F.) Sqn.

This officer has at all times displayed great skill and courage in air operations. He has completed a large number of sorties and has invariably pressed home his attacks with much success. Flight Lieutenant Schultz has been responsible for the destruction of 8 enemy aircraft at night, two of them during a patrol in April, 1945. This officer has set a splendid example of keenness, ability and gallantry.