



SECOND SUPPLEMENT  
TO  
**The London Gazette**

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TUESDAY, 16 OCTOBER, 1945

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD.**

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
16th October, 1945.*

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

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

Group Captain Ronald Charles STORRAR (21124),  
Royal Air Force.

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

Flying Officer Joseph Wilfred SOLOMON (140989),  
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

On 27th November, 1944, an explosion on an immense scale occurred in a mine forming the R.A.F. bomb storage depot near Burton-on-Trent. The explosion occurred in a part of the mine, known as the small New Mine, where some 4,000 tons of bombs and other explosives were stored, including over 1,500 four thousand pound bombs. This part of the depot was completely obliterated and serious damage was done to another part of the depot alongside, known as the Old Mine, where some 8,000 to 10,000 tons of bombs were stored. Here blast caused dangerous roof falls and cracks and scattered bombs and other explosives over the floors and poisonous fumes percolated in from the New Mine. A plan for the evacuation of the remaining explosives from the damaged area was made and some 22,000 tons of explosive stores were removed, a considerable proportion of which was in dangerous areas. The handling of some of the bombs was particularly dangerous as, owing to the blast and debris their safety devices had become ineffective. Group Captain Storrar, Commanding Officer of No. 21 Maintenance Unit and Flying Officer Solomon, the officer normally in charge of the mine area, were both absent on leave at the time of the explosion. Both returned immediately. Group Captain Storrar enthusiastically tackled the difficult task of re-organising the general work of the unit and matters affecting the clearance of the mine. He did not spare himself throughout the whole time that the removal of the bombs and other explosives was being undertaken. He was constantly in the mine, particularly when aware that difficult and dangerous work was in progress. Flying Officer Solomon was prominent in leading search

parties for bodies of the missing. In charge of a party of volunteers, he also concentrated on clearing the underground rail tracks to facilitate the removal of the explosives from the mine. These two officers accepted very considerable personal risks in order to remove the danger which threatened the neighbouring towns and villages.

*Air Ministry, 16th October, 1945.*

The KING has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned decorations conferred upon the personnel indicated, in recognition of valuable services rendered in connection with the war:—

CONFERRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
OF AMERICA.

*Legion of Merit.*

**COMMANDER.**

*Air Vice-Marshal.*

George Brindley Aufrere BAKER, C.B., C.B.E., M.C.,  
R.A.F.

**OFFICER.**

*Air Commodore.*

Thomas Geoffrey PIKE, C.B.E., D.F.C., R.A.F.

*Air Ministry, 16th October, 1945.*

**ROYAL AIR FORCE.**

**GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.**

*Appointment to commission.*

*As Plt. Offs. on prob. (emergency):—  
Wt. Off.*

624424 Maurice Martyn DUGGAN (57483). 9th  
Aug. 1945.

Flt. Sgt.  
576458 Douglas Edgar SHARPE (57442). 27th  
Feb. 1944.

Sgts.  
574796 John Jerrett GREGORY (57088). 13th  
July 1945.

536389 James Jamieson HENDERSON (57104).  
4th Aug. 1945.

364883 Clifford Bromley LINDOP (57482). 7th  
Aug. 1945.

Cpl.  
578367 Geoffrey Leslie BONNY (55185). 26th  
Aug. 1945.