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TUESDAY, 27 NOVEMBER, 1945

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
27th November, 1945.

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

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

- Flying Officer John Aidan Hastings GOTT, G.M. (154963), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
- Flying Officer Courtenay Cecil GREBBY (133289), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Military Division).

- 918695 Corporal Raymond Graham FORSTER, Royal Air Force.
- 1184210 Corporal Leslie John Daniel FRISWELL, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
- 1863590 Leading Aircraftman Frederick Phillip BROWN, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
- 1037853 Leading Aircraftman William Edward THAXTON, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

On the evening of 17th April, 1945, an explosion occurred in an aircraft which was being prepared for operations on the airfield at East Kirkby. A number of airmen and soldiers working in the vicinity were injured, two of them fatally. Two, and eventually three, aircraft already fully bombed up on adjacent dispersal positions caught fire, and shortly afterwards the bombs on these aircraft started to explode. Flying Officers Gott and Grebby went to the scene immediately after the first explosion. They found a soldier lying near the blazing wreckage with his clothing on fire, put out the flames and rendered first aid to his wounds. These officers then proceeded to extinguish fires which had taken hold of the tyres of some loaded bomb trolleys. Next, in spite of further explosions of bombs, they helped to remove wounded men to places of safety. Explosions were now occurring at frequent intervals, causing further casualties, some fatal. Orders were given to evacuate the area but Flying Officer Grebby continued to help with the wounded and asked permission to remove a body lying by the burning wreckage of an aircraft. At that moment a further bomb exploded and Flying Officer Grebby sustained a deep wound in the thigh. When in great pain, and lying on a stretcher, he asked to be assured that no injured persons were being left in danger while he was being given a

place in the ambulance. Flying Officer Gott was the last to leave the scene, taking with him in his car the last of the injured men. Corporal Forster, who was in charge of the airmen engaged in servicing the aircraft in which the initial explosion occurred, was in a hut some 50 yards away. Although injured and severely shaken, he immediately went to the scene and assisted Flying Officers Gott and Grebby in their rescue work. After having removed one injured man to safety, Corporal Forster returned to the aircraft and continued to render assistance until he was instructed to leave the area. Corporal Friswell was in charge of a party of airmen engaged in servicing an aircraft a short distance away. When the explosion occurred he was thrown to the ground and sustained slight injuries. Before he could reach safety a further explosion occurred and several men sustained injuries. Corporal Friswell went to the scene of the accident, removed one man to safety and arranged for his conveyance to sick quarters. Corporal Friswell then returned to the aircraft and continued the rescue work until he was ordered to retire. Leading Aircraftman Brown was in a flight hut some 50 yards away when the first explosion occurred and was knocked down by the blast. Leading Aircraftman Brown quickly extricated himself from the wreckage of the hut, and then proceeded to the scene of the accident. Soon 4 aircraft were ablaze and, although further explosions and fires were occurring, Leading Aircraftman Brown made every endeavour to help the injured personnel and also assisted in extinguishing isolated fires. Leading Aircraftman Thaxton, a member of the Station fire party, was injured by the explosion of a bomb as he arrived on the scene; his corporal was thrown to the ground and severely injured. Leading Aircraftman Thaxton carried the corporal to safety and then returned to the scene of the explosion. Despite the intermittent explosions which were still occurring this airman assisted in the rescue work and was instrumental in evacuating many of the injured personnel. Throughout the incident these officers and airmen displayed outstanding courage and initiative which resulted in the saving of many lives.

517352 Acting Flight Sergeant Herbert SIMS, Royal Air Force.

This Flight Sergeant was Senior Technical non-commissioned officer in No. 819 Squadron from January, 1944, to March, 1945. During the period January to March, 1944, the squadron was on H.M.S. "Activity" engaged in convoy escort duties. Later the squadron was operating

from land bases, in England and on the Continent, against enemy naval forces. During this period, much of which was spent under trying conditions in the field, the serviceability rate of the squadron was maintained at a high level. Flight Sergeant Sims' tireless efforts, technical skill and organising ability were responsible in no small way for the many sorties flown.

1136218 Sergeant Ronald BAXTER, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

On 19th April, 1945, Sergeant Baxter, on his own initiative, led a small party to remove from a farmyard a police non-commissioned officer who had been badly wounded by German civilians firing from inside a house. Although under fire the party succeeded in rescuing the wounded man. Sergeant Baxter then obtained assistance including a tank, and arrested the armed civilians who were subsequently condemned to death. At all times Sergeant Baxter has displayed outstanding leadership, courage and devotion to duty.

1298006 Corporal Ronald Merlin HARRIS, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

1125326 Corporal Ernest WINSHIP, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

On the 1st May, 1945, whilst a 950 gallon petrol tender was being refuelled at Evere airfield, it burst into flames. Without thought for their own safety these two non-commissioned officers immediately disconnected the petrol tender and closed the safety valves, thus localising the fire and saving the installation from serious damage. On 11th May, 1945, another petrol tender burst into flames. Although covered in blazing petrol, Corporal Winship made a gallant effort to disconnect the tender, before being beaten back, severely burned about the head, arms and body. Corporal Harris raced from the Guard Room in time to drag Corporal Winship to safety, disconnect the tender and close its valves. He sustained burns to his hands in so doing. These airmen displayed high courage and disregard of their personal safety on these two occasions in preventing the spread of fire and in saving equipment.

1462437 Corporal Kenneth John PAVELIN, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

On 19th April, 1945, Corporal Pavelin, accompanied by another airman of the Royal Air Force Police, went to the assistance of some Russian ex-prisoners of war who were being fired on by some S.S. men hiding in a farmhouse. Armed with revolvers, Corporal Pavelin and his companion approached the farmhouse. Shots were fired. Corporal Pavelin being hit in the thigh and his companion seriously wounded. Although in great pain Corporal Pavelin rode ten miles on a motor-cycle to obtain assistance for the wounded man who subsequently died in hospital. Corporal Pavelin displayed considerable courage and great determination in his attempt to save his companion's life.

576138 Sergeant Paul MORRIS, Royal Air Force.

In recognition of distinguished service.

Air Ministry, 27th November, 1945.

The KING has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned decorations conferred upon the officers 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.

Degree of Commander.

Air Vice-Marshal.

Thomas James KELLY, C.B.E., M.C., R.A.F.

Degree of Officer.

Acting Air Vice-Marshal.

James Ambrose STONE, C.B., R.A.F.

Acting Air Commodore.

Frank WOOLLEY, O.B.E., D.F.C., R.A.F.

Acting Group Captain.

Harold Peter BROAD, D.F.C., R.A.F.

Wing Commanders.

Norman Harold SHARPE (85350), R.A.F.V.R.

Sinclair Charles WOOD (86802), R.A.F.V.R.

Acting Wing Commander.

Gordon William NEWMAN (80749), R.A.F.V.R.

Bronze Star Medal.

Group Captains.

Conroy Richdale RICHDALE, C.B.E., R.A.F.

Alexander Mitchell RODGERS, R.A.F.

*Office of the Minister of Defence, Wellington,
New Zealand.*

27th November, 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.

Degree of Commander.

Air Vice-Marshal.

Leonard Monk ISITT, C.B.E., R.N.Z.A.F., with effect from 18th October, 1945.

Air Commodore.

Maurice William BUCKLEY, R.N.Z.A.F., with effect from 18th October, 1945.

Degree of Legionnaire.

Air Commodore.

Geoffrey Newland ROBERTS, R.N.Z.A.F., with effect from 18th October, 1945

Air Medal.

Squadron Leader.

Michael James HERRICK, D.F.C. (33566), R.A.F. with effect from 14th June 1945 (since deceased).

Flying Officers.

Donald James FYFE, R.N.Z.A.F., with effect from 22nd July, 1945.

Ford Gillies MACKENZIE, R.N.Z.A.F., with effect from 28th July, 1945.

Alistair Richard MILLER, R.N.Z.A.F., with effect from 21st April, 1945.

Richard Lucas SHUTTLEWORTH, R.N.Z.A.F., with effect from 27th February, 1945.

Barnabas Wilder WILLIAMS, R.N.Z.A.F., with effect from 6th February, 1945.

Pilot Officers.

Haydn CLARK, R.N.Z.A.F., with effect from 28th July, 1945.

Charles Morgan O'NEIL, R.N.Z.A.F., with effect from 28th July, 1945.

Rex Alexander WEBER, R.N.Z.A.F., with effect from 18th May, 1944.

LONDON

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