



SECOND SUPPLEMENT  
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TUESDAY, 26 FEBRUARY, 1946

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,  
26th February, 1946.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, and to approve the following awards of the George Medal and the British Empire Medal (Military Division):—

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

Acting Squadron Leader James Frederick AFFLECK (84589), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, Royal Air Force Station, Burnham.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Wing Comander Thomas Edwin Hunter GROVE, D.S.C. (90716), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, Royal Air Force Station, Burnham.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Military Division):—*

910592 Flight Sergeant Donald Albert EVANS, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, Royal Air Force Station, Burnham.

939047 Flight Sergeant Robert Joseph HODGES, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, Royal Air Force Station, Burnham.

1006854 Sergeant Leslie William Garland COATES, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, Royal Air Force Station, Burnham.

At about 1700 hours, on 5th March, 1945, at York, an aircraft was seen to explode in the air and disintegrate. It crashed on to two houses in Nunthorpe Grove, and set them on fire. The fire spread to other houses. Some 500 lb. bombs were lying in the roadway, others were in the blazing wreckage, and a large crowd of people quickly gathered near to the aircraft. A number of persons were suffering from injuries and shock. Immediately following the explosion, Wing Commander Grove collected a party and proceeded to the scene in cars. On arrival at the scene he organised his party for rescue work and summoned the fire brigade and other essential services. Knowing other bombs were in the blazing wreckage Wing Commander Grove twice endeavoured to rescue any members of the aircraft crew who might have been in or under the wreckage. Rescues being impossible, Wing Commander Grove, taking up a central position, directed the operations of his party in searching the ground and houses in

the danger zone, and rescuing occupants and giving first aid. Whilst so doing, a bomb exploded nearby, killing an Army officer and wounding Wing Commander Grove and some of his party. Several houses were also wrecked by this explosion. Squadron Leader Affleck organised a cordon and moved the crowd back to a safe distance. He then joined Wing Commander Grove in an unsuccessful attempt to rescue any member of the crew in the wreckage. Afterwards Squadron Leader Affleck, with some airmen, entered burning houses and rescued occupants who were injured. During these operations a bomb exploded and Squadron Leader Affleck was blown some distance and rendered unconscious. When he came to, he continued to render assistance until ordered to hospital. Flight Sergeants Evans and Hodges and Sergeant Coates, after carrying out orders to move the crowd to a safe distance, were required to search and clear the houses in the danger zone. Flight Sergeant Hodges and Sergeant Coates entered the burning house nearest to the wreckage and brought out one of the occupants. When about to re-enter an explosion occurred which seriously injured Sergeant Coates who was taken to hospital. Flight Sergeant Hodges was rendered unconscious but on recovery continued to assist in the rescue work until he was ordered to hospital with lacerations of the scalp, hand and knee. Flight Sergeant Evans was seriously injured in the arm by the bomb explosion but despite this, he carried Squadron Leader Affleck to a place of safety and then returned to continue rendering assistance in the vicinity of other unexploded bombs.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Military Division):—*

1505228 Flight Sergeant George William SIDMONS, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, Royal Air Force Station, Metheringham.

On the night of 16th April, 1945, a Lancaster aircraft, loaded with one 4,000 lb. bomb and thirteen 500 lb. bombs, crashed whilst taking off for operations and burst into flames. Flight Sergeant Siddons was in charge of the Crash Tender and within 30 seconds he and his crew were at the scene of the fire. Showing complete disregard for his personal safety, he made an immediate search around the burning aircraft for members of the crew. They had, however, dispersed to a safe distance, expecting the aircraft to blow up. Flight Sergeant Siddons and his party continued to fight the flames for ten