

Flight Lieutenant James Edwin THOMPSON (78536),
Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 58
Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Thompson was a member of the crew of an aircraft which failed to return from an operational sortie over Germany on 11th September, 1940. He was captured by the Germans when he landed on the shores of the Baltic near Lubeck. A few weeks after capture, Flight Lieutenant Thompson escaped from a train at Stralsund station, while being transferred from Oberursel to Barth. He climbed out of the window, while the guard's attention was distracted, and crawled along the railway track. His absence was discovered however and he was recaptured after a very short time. In January, 1942, whilst at Stalag Luft I at Barth, this officer made his second attempt to escape, after studying the movements of the guards and the general layout of the camp for a period of months. He gained admission to the non-commissioned officers' compound to take part in a football match and remained in hiding in the barracks when the other officers left. Later that night he crawled under the double gate leading to the football field and climbed over the perimeter fence. The whole operation took nine hours, and, when he was eventually free, he made his way towards Stralsund. There he was recaptured three days later while waiting for a boat to Sweden. Subsequently, Flight Lieutenant Thompson took an active part in several tunnel digging operations, but all of these were discovered before completion. He was eventually repatriated in September, 1944. Throughout his captivity, this officer showed great determination in his efforts to escape and his enthusiasm was never shaken by his failures.

Warrant Officer Victor Rodney Jacob SLAUGHTER (958689), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 405 Squadron.

The aircraft in which this warrant officer was flying was shot down during an operational mission on 1st July, 1941, and he was forced to abandon it by parachute. He landed about 45 miles south east of Zwolle. Having disposed of his parachute, he immediately started walking in a south westerly direction but, shortly afterwards, was seen by a German sentry whom he shot and threw into a canal. Later in the day, he made contact with a Dutch farmer who offered him assistance. About 24 hours later, he was arrested by Dutch police. On 1st August, 1941, Warrant officer Slaughter jumped from a slowly moving train, whilst in transit from Frankfurt-am-Main to Bad Sulza. He then boarded a goods train travelling in the opposite direction, but was recaptured at Stuttgart, five days later, when the truck in which he was hiding was being shunted in the marshalling yard. On 20th March, 1942, this warrant officer, with a companion, hid in the wash rooms of the German officers' quarters at the camp and at nightfall walked out of the buildings and climbed over a ditch and wire fence which was not patrolled. Being equipped with civilian clothes, travel warrants and German money, they managed to reach Aachen before being recaptured by the German Field Police. On another occasion, in September, 1942, while imprisoned at Sagan, Warrant Officer Slaughter made a further effort to escape but was discovered in the process of cutting the wire fence. While at Heydekrug, a year later, in September, 1945, he helped in the digging of a tunnel and was the seventh to leave the camp by it. Equipped with passport, maps and civilian clothes, he was at liberty for 6 days before being recaptured south of Libau. In April, 1945, Warrant Officer Slaughter broke away from a marching column near Lunenburg but was recaptured two days later. In the same month he escaped from his billet at a farm with two companions but, as one of his friends developed malaria, all were forced to return to the farm. Finally, on the 26th April, 1945, Warrant Officer Slaughter, with two others, escaped from a stationary railway truck in which they were hiding and, with the aid of a Dutch family remained for four days before making contact with the 6th Airborne division at Schwannheide. Throughout his captivity, this warrant officer displayed unflinching determination to escape and set a fine example to his fellow prisoners.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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

10th December, 1946.

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

(To be dated 14th June, 1945.)

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

V.A.D. Grade 1 Nursing Member Doris Louise BOYD, A.R.R.C. (W.505012).

This award is substituted for the award of the Royal Red Cross Class II, announced in the London Gazette dated 14th June, 1945, Page 2986, Col. 2.

Air Ministry,

10th December, 1946.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the publication of the names of the following personnel who have been mentioned in despatches:—

Flight Lieutenants.

N. BOWKER, D.F.C. (80773), R.A.F.V.R.

G. J. CORNISH (43282), R.A.F.

W. J. SNOW (84678), R.A.F.V.R.

M. H. G. WILSON (47278), R.A.F.V.R. (Now Captain, Royal Regiment of Artillery).

AMENDMENTS.

In notification of 1st January 1945 (Page 103, Column 2) for "Acting Group Captain D. J. SCOTT, D.S.O., O.B.E., D.S.C." amend decorations to read "D.S.O., O.B.E., D.F.C."

In notification of 1st January 1945 (Page 63, Column 2) delete "W. G. HORLEY (77935) R.A.F.V.R."

In notification of 2nd October 1945 (Page Column) D.S.O. for Acting Squadron Leader Neill CAMERON, D.F.C. (102585) R.A.F.V.R." amend name to read "Neil CAMERON."

Air Ministry, 10th December, 1946.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Appointment to commission.

As Squadron Leaders (permanent)*:—

1st Sept. 1945.

Stanley George BAGGOTT, D.F.C. (40975).

Thomas Leigh BINGHAM-HALL, D.S.O., D.F.C. (39848).

Anthony Malcolm BROWN, D.F.C. (37717).

Leonard John Maxwell BUNCE (43093).

Charles Beresford Eaton BURT-ANDREWS (37379).

Robert Edward CRAVEN, D.F.C. (39859).

William Vernon CRAWFORD-COMPTON, D.S.O., D.F.C. (65500).

Charles McKenzie DUNNICLIFFE, D.S.O., D.F.C. (49010).

Anthony Wilkinson HEWARD, D.F.C., A.F.C. (39044).

Alexander Vallance Riddell JOHNSTONE, D.F.C. (90163).

Bryce Gilmore MEHARG, A.F.C. (39941).

Denis Graham SMALLWOOD, D.S.O., D.F.C. (40645).

William Arthur TOYNE, D.F.C. (39140).

As Flight Lieutenants (permanent)*:—

1st Sept. 1945.

Robert Neil Greig ALLEN, D.F.C. (63484).

Harry BURTON, D.S.O., M.B.E. (39965).

Charles Cranston CALDER, D.S.O., D.F.C. (62699).

Hubert Howard HENDERSON (45325).

Kenneth Gilbert HUBBARD, D.F.C. (66539).

Alec INGLE, D.F.C., A.F.C. (83980).

Melville Neil McFadyen KENNEDY (37474).

Kenneth Walter Thomas PUGH, A.F.C. (46924).

Nevil Everard REEVES, D.S.O., D.F.C. (110797).

* Retaining their existing ranks under wartime rules. Relative seniority in permanent rank will be determined later.