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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
12th January, 1954.

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

4049985 Leading Aircraftman James Joseph FLANAGAN, Royal Air Force, Royal Air Force Station, Abu Sueir.

On 12th August, 1953, Leading Aircraftman Flanagan was the central figure in an incident which resulted in the interception and successful recovery of an Army lorry that had been stolen by four armed Egyptians. This airman was the driver of an Austin lorry proceeding along the road from Nifisha to Abu Sueir. He was followed by an escort Landrover. Shortly after reaching the Nifisha bridge, he saw an unescorted Army lorry draw away from the side of the road ahead of him. As he passed the place where the lorry had been halted, some natives shouted to him but he could not understand them. Leading Aircraftman Flanagan decided that all was not in order and gave chase. He succeeded in passing the Army vehicle, which was then observed to contain four natives, and signalled it to halt but, instead, it accelerated and attempted to pass him. As the stolen vehicle drew level with the Austin, the native driver tried to force the Royal Air Force lorry off the road. A contest ensued between the two vehicles along the raised and tree-lined road at a speed of some fifty miles an hour. Leading Aircraftman Flanagan could have broken off from this extremely dangerous engagement at any time but he persisted in his efforts to overtake the thieves with considerable skill and courage. At this stage, one of Leading Aircraftman Flanagan's armed escort opened fire. He wounded the Egyptian driver but, at the same instant, he himself was shot in the stomach. Leading Aircraftman Flanagan then succeeded in forcing the stolen lorry off the side of the road. Narrowly missing the trees, it crashed down on to the cultivated strip alongside the canal and came to rest on its right hand side with its front almost overhanging the water. The alertness and the high degree of initiative displayed by Leading Aircraftman Flanagan were an excellent example to all and the successful outcome of his action has been an encouragement to local morale. The skill and courage of this junior driver, in a high-speed contest on an extremely dangerous road, were most praiseworthy.

Air Ministry, 12th January, 1954.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Appointment to commission (permanent).

As Squadron Leader:—

James Joseph O'MEARA, D.S.O., D.F.C. (40844).
1st Oct. 1953.

Appointment to commission (permanent) under A.M.O. A.499/52.

As Flight Lieutenants:—

Alfred Outram PULLMAN (117412). 27th Mar. 1953.

1st Oct. 1953.

Robert Henry Benjamin COLLARD (153359).

Norman JERVIS (573776).

Spencer Ramsey KENDAL (40624).

As Flying Officer:—

John Kenneth WILLIAMS (591750). 6th Nov. 1953.

Appointment to commission (short service).

As Pilot Officers (eight years on the active list and four years on the reserve):—

Thomas Anthony ROBINSON (1680408). 11th Jan. 1951 (since promoted to the rank of Flying Officer) (substituted for notification of 20th Feb. 1951 (p. 915, col. 1)).

Bryan Ernest SHORT (4034406). 25th June 1953 (substituted for notification of 28th July 1953 (p. 4121, col. 2)).

1422399 Sergeant Ralph Cyril MORING (1422399). 17th Dec. 1953 (period of service to count from 17th Aug. 1951).

Adjustment of period of service on transfer between branches.

The period of service of Pilot Officer F. J. HAYDEN (4063837) is adjusted to six years on the active list and four years on the reserve (on transfer to the Fighter Control Branch) with effect from 13th Sept. 1951.

Extension of service.

The period of service on the active list of the undermentioned is extended to eight years with effect from the dates stated:—

Flight Lieutenant A. JOHNSON (154730). 1st Jan. 1948.

Flying Officer H. TAYLOR (3130227). 6th Nov. 1950.

Promotion.

Flying Officer to Flight Lieutenant:—

19th Nov. 1953.

K. B. FITTON (501007).

T. K. G. FORSHAW (577457).

R. E. GAMBLE (607113).

W. A. HOWE (202766).