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TUESDAY, 13 DECEMBER, 1955

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

13th December, 1955.

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

3512756 Leading Aircraftman Raymond Robert WARRIOR, Royal Air Force, Royal Air Force Station, Eindhoven.

1912372 Leading Aircraftman Francis Patrick REID, Royal Air Force, Royal Air Force Station, Eindhoven.

On Sunday, 26th June, 1955, at 14.30 hours, an F86 Sabre crashed through the perimeter wire into the explosive area at Eindhoven and caught fire.

Leading Aircraftman Warrior was not on duty when the accident occurred. Immediately the alarm was given, however, he manned the Fire Tender, which he normally drove, and with two Firemen and two Fire Picquets was moving out of the Section within a few seconds of the alarm being given. He reached the scene of the crash, which was nearly two miles from the Fire Section, in less than three minutes after the first call—a most creditable performance. As soon as he arrived he saw that the Dutch Airfield Tender and R.A.F. Crash Tender from the detachment wing were concentrating on the aircraft. Well knowing that within 30 yards of the aircraft there was a hut containing high explosive, he immediately concentrated on extinguishing the fires which had started in the dry undergrowth and trees around the crash where a large quantity of fuel from the crashed aircraft's drop tanks had spilled. As soon as his tender was empty he refilled it and continued to fight the fire, rallying the crew and by his example inspiring others to give assistance at a critical moment. It was largely due to his prompt action in fighting the burning brushwood that the fire was prevented from spreading to a building containing high explosives although at one time it was within ten feet of that building. From the moment of his arrival at 14.30 hours until 15.00 hours, this airman was acting on his own initiative with no further direction from the Fire Officer than an order to carry on as he was doing, which could not be bettered. In every way this airman was acting in the highest traditions of the Fire Services. He displayed qualities of initiative and courage beyond his experience when, by his good work and persistence, in face of a very serious situation when the flames were extremely close to the high explosive hut, he ensured the rapid extinguishing of a dangerous fire.

Leading Aircraftman Reid, an Admin. Orderly, although off duty at the time, made directly for

the scene of the accident to give assistance. During a particularly critical period when a warning was given that bombs were in danger of exploding and that the aircraft was about to explode, difficulty was experienced in rallying sufficient volunteers to assist in getting the fire under control or to search for the pilot. Realizing the seriousness of the situation, Leading Aircraftman Reid on his own initiative encouraged the other airmen to disregard the danger and showed a complete disregard for his personal safety. By his example he encouraged other airmen to assist in fighting the fire, thus permitting a search party to get behind the burning area to search for the pilot, who was later found, downwind of the aircraft with the seat almost on top of him, but still alive.

Air Ministry, 13th December, 1955.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH.

Appointment to commission (permanent).

As Flying Officer:—

David Norman JONES (2607467). 19th Aug. 1955 (seniority 9th Aug. 1953).

Appointment to commission (national service).

As Acting Pilot Officer:—

Gerald Jordan WILLIAMS (2608632). 1st Nov. 1955.

Transfer to a direct commission.

As Flying Officers (twelve years on the active list and four years on the reserve):—

George Geoffrey DAVIES (3501382). 8th Oct. 1954 (period of service to count from 27th Feb. 1952).

Jack Roland BANKS (1864143). 23rd Nov. 1954 (period of service to count from 10th Feb. 1949).

Lionel Leslie TURNBULL (4092679). 3rd Feb. 1955 (period of service to count from 27th Feb. 1952).

John Robert JACKSON (4034407). 11th Feb. 1955 (period of service to count from 7th Dec. 1948).

Ian FULTON (3510942). 3rd Mar. 1955 (period of service to count from 29th Aug. 1951).

10th Mar. 1955.

Alastair Duncan BEATON (2385271) (period of service to count from 8th Apr. 1952).

Toni Richard GURR (4039592) (period of service to count from 17th Oct. 1949).

Eric SIMS (3509237). 24th Mar. 1955 (period of service to count from 14th Feb. 1951).