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TUESDAY, 2ND AUGUST 1966

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
2nd August 1966.

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

E4025384 Chief Technician Eric MCGREGOR,
Royal Air Force.

On the 26th February 1966, Chief Technician McGregor, an Aircraft Servicing Chief of the Flight Line Squadron, Royal Air Force, Wittering, was the crew chief of a Victor Mk. 2 aircraft in transit from the Far East to the United Kingdom via Gan. Shortly after landing at Gan the ground handling party saw smoke coming from the forward part of the bomb bay and asked for the bomb doors to be opened to enable the fire to be located, but due to a hydraulic malfunction it proved impossible to open the doors by normal means. The only possible alternative was the use of the manual system which required the resetting of a hydraulic protection unit located in the bomb bay near to the seat of the fire. Without regard for his own safety, Chief Technician McGregor entered the bomb bay through a servicing hatch to reset the protection unit, but whilst he was doing this the fire was increased by a burst of flame due to the ignition of hydraulic fluid spray, his hair was singed and he was overcome by toxic fumes. He had to be dragged out of the bomb bay but after a short rest he volunteered to re-enter and open another servicing panel to allow the firemen access to the fire, which by this time had spread dangerously close to the fuselage fuel tanks. With Chief Technician McGregor's direction and assistance, the fire was finally extinguished by the Station Fire/Crash crew. But for his prompt action it is probable that a most valuable aircraft would have been totally destroyed and, had the fuel tanks exploded, lives lost. He undoubtedly prevented what may well have turned out to be a major catastrophe. Chief Technician McGregor's courage, determination and disregard for his own safety were in the highest traditions of the Royal Air Force.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

2nd August 1966.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Air Marshal Sir Charles BROUGHTON, K.B.E., C.B., is appointed Air Member for Supply and Organisation in succession to Air Marshal Sir John DAVIS, K.C.B., O.B.E., M.A., 2nd Aug. 1966.

GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH

Appointment to commission (permanent)

As Flying Officer (General List) Ground Branch:
Derek James LONGSTAFF (4192269) (since promoted Flight Lieutenant). 1st Oct. 1965.

Appointment to commission (permanent)

As Flight Lieutenant (Supplementary List) Ground Branch:

Peter EKE (4116865). 14th Mar. 1966.

Transfer to Supplementary List conditions of service
Flight Lieutenant G. G. SLINGSBY (582235) is transferred to the Supplementary List retaining his existing rank and seniority. 24th July 1966.

Promotion

Flying Officer to Flight Lieutenant:

27th July 1966

P. V. BICKNELLE (4230936).

K. G. BLATCHFORD (4230964).

M. R. BUXEY (4230933).

L. C. F. CLAYTON (4230991).

K. C. FOSTER (4230980).

M. W. HANDS (4230924).

L. HURST (4230983).

P. D. SKINNER (4230974).

G. STEWART (4230916).

J. R. WILLSON (4230966).

K. E. AUSTEN (2759624). 28th July 1966.

M. W. B. BRADFORD (681982). 31st July 1966.

Pilot Officer to Flying Officer:

G. C. WHEELER, B.Sc. (4232422). 1st Jan. 1966
(seniority 4th Mar. 1964).

S. W. KARWOWSKI (507837). 27th July 1966.

Adjustment of period of service

The period of service on the Active List of Flying Officer P. J. HILL (4230534) is adjusted to eight years from 11th Mar. 1959.

Antedate of seniority

Flight Lieutenant J. K. WALDING, B.A. (4230909) has been awarded an antedate of seniority of 29th July 1962 from 1st Jan. 1966.

Retirement

Group Captain H. D. NEWMAN, O.B.E. 29th July 1966.

Squadron Leaders:

C. J. LOFTHOUSE, O.B.E., D.F.C. (67052) (at own request). 1st July 1966.

E. C. GOUGH (152110). 29th July 1966.

Flight Lieutenants:

T. W. MORRIS (582343). 9th July 1966.

B. G. E. CASS, B.Sc. (2481185). 19th July 1966.

G. HESLOP (181150). 21st July 1966.

W. M. CASEY (4016220). 23rd July 1966.

L. J. LAWLESS (191394). 24th July 1966.