

## AIR FORCE DEPARTMENT

Whitehall, London S.W.1.  
22nd June 1971.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:

*Air Force Cross*

Flight Lieutenant Garth Robert ALCOCK (685907),  
Royal Air Force.

Flight Lieutenant Alcock joined No. 44 Squadron, Royal Air Force, Waddington in November 1970. On 8th January 1971, he was tasked to fly his first solo sortie as a Vulcan captain on a low level exercise. Shortly after his descent to low level the weather deteriorated, and Flight Lieutenant Alcock decided to climb away. As he increased power to gain height, a loud explosion occurred and a fire warning light indicated that the number one engine was on fire. Flight Lieutenant Alcock immediately took action to extinguish it but within seconds the number two engine also caught fire, and once again he took the proper corrective action. The fires then appeared to have been successfully extinguished and, in accordance with operating procedures, both engines were closed down. Flight Lieutenant Alcock continued to climb using the two remaining engines, but when he had reached six thousand feet the Air Electronics Officer reported that part of the underside of the port wing was burning fiercely. Flight Lieutenant Alcock flew on until he was clear of cloud and over open country and then ordered his rear crew to abandon the aircraft. Despite the obvious personal risk involved, he still considered that there was a slim chance of landing the Vulcan safely before the wing burned away, and he accordingly set course towards a suitable airfield. The aircraft then became progressively more difficult to control at low speed and he realised that it must be abandoned. However, although the underside of the port wing and the rear fuselage were by now well alight and the aircraft might have broken up at any moment, Flight Lieutenant Alcock elected to remain at the controls for a further twelve minutes in order to clear the densely populated Tyne area and, if possible, head the stricken Vulcan out to sea. Pieces of debris were observed falling from it and Flight Lieutenant Alcock could feel the fuel tanks exploding one after another. Not until he felt reasonably sure that the aircraft would crash in open country did he finally eject, having first ensured that his co-pilot had safely left the aircraft. Throughout this major emergency, Flight Lieutenant Alcock showed devotion to duty and behaved in a most exemplary manner and the calm and sensible way in which his crew faced up to crisis was due in large measure to his inspiration and leadership. Despite inexperience as a Vulcan captain, his standard of airmanship was a magnificent example to others and his courage in remaining with his crippled aircraft in a gallant attempt to save it was no less creditable. Flight Lieutenant Alcock's actions to safeguard his crew and the lives of the civilian population were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Royal Air Force.

*Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service  
in the Air*

Flight Lieutenant James POWER (4164426), Royal Air Force.

Flight Lieutenant James VINALES (4232624), Royal Air Force.

Flying Officer Rodger BARKER (4282420), Royal Air Force.

Flying Officer Peter John HOSKINS (608913), Royal Air Force.

For their action on 8th January 1971, as members of the crew of a Vulcan aircraft, on a low level exercise, when 2 engines and then the port wing caught fire. They each showed calmness in the face of danger and professionalism in their respective duties, Flight Lieutenant Power as air electronics officer, Flight Lieutenant Vinales as navigator plotter, Flying Officer Barker as navigator radar and Flying Officer Hoskins as co-pilot. They continued to give support to their captain until ordered by him to leave the crippled aircraft.

Flight Lieutenant Michael Alan PALEY (4230703), Royal Air Force.

In recognition of his courage and skill, on 23rd February 1971, in landing his Vulcan aircraft safely,

after an explosion and fire in the wing area of No. 3 engine immediately after take-off. With burning parts of the wing falling away, Flight Lieutenant Paley managed to retain full control of his heavily laden aircraft and complete an immaculate asymmetric landing.

22nd June 1971.

## ROYAL AIR FORCE

Group Captain J. M. AYRE, C.B.E., is appointed Aide-de-Camp to The QUEEN in succession to Group Captain W. E. WOLSEY, F.C.A., on the latter's retirement from the Royal Air Force. 23rd Jun. 1971.

## GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH

*Appointment to Commission (Permanent)**As Flying Officers :*

Flight Sergeant David Philip LINTOTT (4246341).  
29th Apr. 1971 (*Seniority 31st Jan. 1966*).

*Sergeants*

29th Apr. 1971

Stephen George HOLGATE (4220287) (*Seniority 18th Feb. 1969*).

Lester Charles JACKMAN (690090) (*Seniority 28th Jan. 1970*).

Stuart John SMITH (687060) (*Seniority 10th Jul. 1968*).

Leonard Terence SPRINGATE, A.F.M. (684644) (*Seniority 7th Feb. 1967*).

Graham Anthony WILLOUGHBY-CRISP (1945597) (*Seniority 1st Oct. 1968*).

Corporal Colin Duncan McLEA (1942264). 29th Apr. 1971 (*Seniority 14th Nov. 1968*).

*As Acting Pilot Officers :*

Cadet Pilot R.N.Z.A.F. Ian Mclean GLIDDON (5201656). 14th Apr. 1971.

5th May 1971

Paul HAYTON (2622156).

Raymond HAMILL (2623028).

John MORRIS (2622145).

Richard Myers ANDREWS (2624799).

Michael Maxwell MANN (2616842).

*Aircraftmen*

29th Apr. 1971

Timothy John AARON (8025678).

William John ALEXANDER (8025570).

John Arthur BARTRAM (8025661).

Stephen Henry BATES (8025659).

David Alexander BEVERIDGE (8025627).

Dan Cunningham Byron BRAMWELL (8025622).

Bruce Arnell Brooke BROOKE-SMITH (8025664).

Kenneth George CARVOSSE (8025673).

Charles Leonardo DAWSON (8025681).

Roger Stanton DEW (8025672).

Geoffrey Maxwell DOBSON (8025590).

Henry John DOUGLAS (8025674).

Michael John FRANKLAND (8025566).

Gordon Ian HANNAM (8025665).

Michael Charles HURRELL (8025676).

Christopher JELLISS (8025603).

Steven John KEATING (8025689).

Russell Edward LEAVISS (8025617).

Neil McLEAN (8025582).

Lawrence Charles William PLAYLE (8025662).

Martin Richard SHARMAN (8025602).

Richard John SLADE (8025648).

David Michael TERRY (8025658).

Paul Andrew VERNON (8025593).

Michael Allen WOOD (8025680).

*Appointment to Commission (Permanent) (On Branch Officer Terms) :**As Flying Officer :*

Master Engineer Gordon BARLOW (1922099).  
29th Apr. 1971 (*Seniority 29th Apr. 1968*).

*Notification Amended*

25th May 1971 *Concerning* Alan George William DRY (520138) for Alan George William DRY (520138) *Read* Alan George William DRY (520138).