



SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO

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## CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.  
20th September 1966.

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

V4004870 Sergeant Frank MENZIES, Royal Air Force Regiment.

On 7th October 1965, action by saboteurs caused a major fire at the Shell Company Oil Storage installation at Larnaca, Cyprus. The Cyprus Fire Service invoked a mutual aid agreement and RAF units were ordered to provide fire fighting assistance. On arrival at the fire the RAF Pergamos and RAF Nicosia firemen came under the command of the RAF Pergamos Fire Officer to support the Chief Fire Officer, Cyprus. Sergeant Menzies led the RAF firemen on the fireground. At this early stage the heat, smoke and flame were daunting in intensity. Fires were raging within containing walls, seriously threatening neighbouring tanks. There was a grave risk that the fire would become uncontrollable, enveloping the remaining Shell tanks and those of adjacent oil companies. It also threatened nearby dwellings and even the Larnaca waterfront. As an additional hazard there was the known possibility that the saboteurs had left anti-personnel weapons to hinder fire-fighting. Sergeant Menzies led the RAF firemen during this most crucial phase with great dash and determination. By his example he ensured that the RAF firemen remained in their allotted positions whilst other less inspired men were driven back by the fierce heat. At one stage he led a crew to the top of a threatened tank in order to obtain a better "throw" of foam, although he knew that the tank on which he stood contained a highly inflammable product, and was liable to explode. While disregarding his own safety, he was solicitous of the safety of the volunteer airmen from RAF Pergamos who were not firemen. He ensured that they did not place themselves in a dangerous situation through their lack of experience. On one occasion having appreciated danger he was seen to push two airmen from their position seconds before a searing "flashback" on the surface of unburnt fuel, swept over the vacated point, melting the aluminium branch-pipe, and burning the hose with which they had been working. The fire burned for eleven days and during that time Sergeant Menzies was on the fireground at every available opportunity. On occasions it was necessary to order him to take a rest, but his presence on the fireground was a great asset because he faithfully ensured continuity of action by the many different firemen and volunteers. The

policy of the Chief Fire Officer, Cyprus, was, at one stage, to conserve foam compound for use only in a real emergency. Allied to this was a policy of controlled burning of the leaking fuel products. Some of the RAF firemen found this intelligent policy difficult to understand, as they were impatient to extinguish the fire, but by his presence Sergeant Menzies was able to curb their enthusiasm with marked success. He would certainly have contributed, by his restraint—often a difficult aspect of leadership—to the reduction in airlift effort which was required for foam compound. By his personal courage, energy and commonsense, his consideration for the safety of his inexperienced assistants, and his successful co-operation with the Cyprus Fire Service, Sergeant Menzies acted in the best traditions of the Royal Air Force.

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

20th September 1966.

### ROYAL AIR FORCE

#### GENERAL DUTIES BRANCH

##### Appointment to Commission (Permanent)

##### As Acting Pilot Officer (Supplementary List) Ground Branch:

Thomas Arnold DAVISON (4232742). 5th Sept. 1966 (seniority 20th Aug. 1965).

##### Promotion

##### Flying Officer to Flight Lieutenant:

25th July 1966

T. EELES (608251).

N. P. KIDSON (5200010).

A. SHAW (4230679).

J. M. SHEATH (3522645).

J. H. SPENCER (4230267).

R. T. SYMONS (4230910).

E. J. TICHBAND (4230786).

G. WOOD (4230373).

G. A. JONES (3508057). 15th Sept. 1966.

P. J. GRAY (4230608). 19th Sept. 1966.

##### Pilot Officer to Flying Officer:

M. G. ILES (4232228). 22nd May 1966.

14th Sept. 1966

M. J. PERRETT (2619389).

C. I. ROBINSON (2619085).

P. R. WEBB (4335348). 19th Sept. 1966.

##### Adjustment of Period of Service

The period of service on the Active List of Flight Lieutenant P. HANNEMAN (4230557) is adjusted to eight years from 10th Apr. 1959.