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Air Ministry, 12th March, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:—

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Robert George BARRELL, D.F.C. (78524), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 7 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

939240 Sergeant Harold John HUDSON, No. 7 Squadron.

One night in February, 1943, Squadron Leader Barrell and Sergeant Hudson were captain and flight engineer of an aircraft detailed to attack Cologne. Whilst over the target area the aircraft was subjected to intense and concentrated anti-aircraft fire. Despite this, Squadron Leader Barrell pressed home his attack but, after releasing his bombs the aircraft was hit. One engine was put out of action and the elevator control cable was severed which caused the aircraft to dive out of control. Considerable height was lost before the captain, assisted by Sergeant Hudson, skilfully regained control. Squadron Leader Barrell then headed the bomber for home. Meanwhile, Sergeant Hudson gave instructions to a member of the crew as to the care of another engine which seemed likely to fail and then attempted to repair the elevator control. He succeeded in so doing by the time his captain had flown the damaged aircraft to base where a masterly landing was effected. In the face of difficult and hazardous circumstances Squadron Leader Barrell, supported by Sergeant Hudson, displayed great skill, courage and devotion to duty. Both these members of aircraft crew have taken part in many sorties against heavily defended targets.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Clarence Desmond INCE, D.F.C. (110952), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 7 Squadron.

One night in February, 1943, this officer captained an aircraft which attacked Cologne. Whilst crossing the enemy coast on the outward flight, the bomber was attacked by an enemy fighter. The port wing and tail plane were damaged, while the port petrol tanks were pierced and the petrol control cock cables were severed; the electrical system also sustained damage. Despite this, Flying Officer Ince pressed on to his target which he bombed successfully.

Displaying great skill and determination he then flew his damaged aircraft to base where he made a safe landing. Flying Officer Ince set a fine example of courage and devotion to duty throughout.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flying Officer Edward Lancelot MUSGRAVE (Aus.403528), Royal Australian Air Force, No. 137 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in a large number of operational missions. In attacks on the enemy's communications in Northern France and Belgium he has damaged 7 locomotives. One night in February, 1943, he took off to search for a large merchant vessel, escorted by 5 armed ships, reported in the Channel. Although the night was very dark, Flying Officer Musgrave sighted the vessels sailing close in to shore south of Boulogne. Skilfully approaching the merchant vessel he flew in to attack but was frustrated by heavy fire from the coastal defences. Despite this, Flying Officer Musgrave persisted and, after diving through the searchlights from the shore he attacked his objective, releasing his bombs from a low level. Although his aircraft was damaged by opposing fire from the ships, he flew it safely to base. Flying Officer Musgrave displayed great courage, skill and determination in the execution of his task.

Pilot Officer Harold Brassey NEWTON (N.Z.404449), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 125 Squadron.

This officer formerly served in Bomber Command where he successfully completed 9 operational sorties over enemy territory and latterly has completed much operational flying while serving in Fighter Command. One night, in February, 1943, he destroyed at least 2 Dornier 217s and damaged another. Pilot Officer Newton has displayed great courage, skill and determination.

Air Ministry, 12th March, 1943.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:—

Distinguished Service Order.

Wing Commander William George WELLS (34255). Acting Squadron Leader Sidney Patrick DANIELS, D.F.C. (81676), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 83 Squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Raymond HILTON, D.F.C. (60073), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 83 Squadron.