

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
19th October, 1943.*

The KING has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Australian Ministers, to approve the award of the British Empire Medal (Military Division) in recognition of conspicuous service in operations against the Japanese, to the undermentioned:—
Aus.14142, Flight Sergeant John INGERSOLE, Royal Australian Air Force.

Air Ministry, 19th October, 1943.

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

Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander Lewis Macdonald HODGES, D.F.C. (33408), Royal Air Force, No. 161 Squadron.

Since being awarded a Bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross, this officer has undertaken many sorties. The successes obtained reflect the greatest credit on the efforts of Wing Commander Hodges whose efficiency and personal example, both in the air and on the ground, have been outstanding.

Acting Flight Lieutenant John Alan BROADLEY, D.F.C., D.F.M. (47690), Royal Air Force, No. 161 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Broadley is a navigator of exceptional merit. He has completed a large number of sorties, rendering most valuable service, and his efforts have contributed materially to the successes achieved.

Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader James Leslie William WAGLAND, D.F.C. (81937), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

This officer has undertaken a large number of sorties and his navigational ability throughout has been outstanding. On 2 occasions in September, Squadron Leader Wagland participated in sorties which demanded skill and determination of a high order. In addition to his good work in the air, Squadron Leader Wagland has rendered excellent service in the training of other members of aircraft crew.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Frederick Alan AIKMAN, D.F.C. (Can./J.7460), Royal Canadian Air Force, No. 154 Squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Aikman is a keen and tenacious fighter. He has destroyed at least 8 enemy aircraft. He has shown a rare zest for battle.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Wing Commander Frederick Fitzpatrick RAINSFORD (37507), Reserve of Air Force Officers, No. 115 Squadron.

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties, many of them whilst serving in the Middle East. More recently he has taken part in attacks on various targets in Germany, including Dortmund, Wuppertal and Hamburg. Wing Commander Rainsford's efforts have been characterised by outstanding determination to achieve success and he has set an example worthy of high praise.

Acting Wing Commander Robert Lawrence BOWES (70072), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 44 Squadron.

Wing Commander Bowes has flown on a number of operational sorties, including anti-submarine patrols and bombing attacks against strongly defended German targets. In August, 1943, he was captain of an aircraft which participated in an attack on an objective at Peenemunde. During the bombing run his aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire, which shattered the bomb sight and seriously wounded the bomb aimer. Nevertheless, Wing Commander Bowes succeeded in making a most determined and accurate attack on the target. This officer has inspired his crews with a fine fighting spirit and set a high example of devotion to duty.

Flying Officer Kenneth Henry BECROFT (N.Z.412189), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 218 Squadron.

As captain, Flying Officer Becroft has completed 30 operations over enemy territory. One night in April, 1943, he piloted an aircraft detailed to

attack Rostock. Whilst crossing the enemy coast, the aircraft was hit by fire from the ground defences. One engine was damaged, as also were the elevator controls. Despite this, Flying Officer Becroft continued to the target and executed his bombing attack. This officer has displayed great skill, courage and determination.

Pilot Officer Henry Allen LITHERLAND (149608), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 50 Squadron.

In September, 1943, Pilot Officer Litherland was captain of an aircraft detailed to attack Mannheim. Shortly after the bombs had been released over the target, the bomber was extensively damaged when a violent explosion occurred in close proximity. The aircraft temporarily went out of control. Considerable height was lost but Pilot Officer Litherland succeeded in regaining control and afterwards flew the crippled bomber to base. In most trying circumstances, this officer displayed superb skill, great coolness and determination.

Acting Warrant Officer Samuel Graham JOHNSON (N.Z.416502), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 218 Squadron.

One night in August, 1943, Warrant Officer Johnson participated in an attack on Nuremberg. Whilst on the way to the target, his aircraft was struck by heavy anti-aircraft fire and sustained damage to the starboard aileron, the electrical system and a petrol tank. Despite this, he continued his mission and, although the aircraft was again hit when nearing the target he successfully completed his attack. Warrant Officer Johnson who has taken part in operations against many well defended targets, is a skilful and determined captain.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Warrant Officer (now Pilot Officer) Raymond Frank DENTON (1390294), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 90 Squadron.

Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (Flying).

1652936 Sergeant Owen Noel JONES, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 90 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

1575577 Sergeant Ronald William Charles SUDDENS, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 90 Squadron.

In September, 1943, Warrant Officer Denton and Sergeants Jones and Suddens were pilot, flight engineer and navigator respectively of an aircraft detailed to attack Hanover. Just after the bombs had been released the aircraft was intercepted by a Junkers 88 which made several attacks. The bomber was repeatedly hit and sustained much damage. The gear gunner was killed, while Warrant Officer Denton was hit in the leg by a bullet and Sergeant Suddens was wounded in the hand. Nevertheless, Warrant Officer Denton succeeded in flying clear and set course for this country. Meanwhile, Sergeant Jones, displaying praiseworthy promptitude, dealt effectively with 2 fires which had broken out in the rear part of the fuselage, afterwards rendering first aid to his wounded comrades. In the face of many difficulties, Warrant Officer Denton succeeded in reaching this country and successfully crash-landed the damaged bomber at an airfield. Throughout the return flight Sergeants Jones and Suddens did everything within their power to assist and proved themselves cool and resourceful members of aircraft crew. These gallant airmen set an example worthy of emulation.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Warrant Officer Ronald James CLARK (1043314), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 100 Squadron.

Distinguished Flying Medal.

570107 Sergeant Harold BENNETT, Royal Air Force, No. 100 Squadron.

Warrant Officer Clark and Sergeant Bennett were captain and flight engineer of an aircraft detailed to attack Mannheim and Ludwigshafen one night in September, 1943. Whilst over the target area, the bomber was illuminated by the searchlights and subjected to heavy fire from the ground defences. In spite of this, Warrant Officer Clark executed a successful bombing run. The aircraft was hit by anti-aircraft fire, however, and one shell, which passed through the structure almost