

directions. After the target had been bombed and enemy territory crossed, the crew were forced to leave by parachute as the aircraft could no longer be flown. The rear gunner was trapped in his turret but, in spite of his own sufferings, Sergeant George secured an axe with which he hacked a way clear to release his comrade. This airman displayed courage, fortitude and devotion to duty of a high order.

1305510 Sergeant Robert Hall HUDSON, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 49 Squadron.

As air gunner, this airman has taken part in many sorties and has proved himself to be a fearless and determined member of aircraft crew. On a recent occasion, during a fight with enemy aircraft, his gun turret was put out of action. Coolly and skilfully, however, Sergeant Hudson gave the necessary evading directions to his pilot and thus played a good part in frustrating the attackers. He set a fine example of courage and devotion to duty.

1801001 Sergeant Paul MCGIBNEY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 61 Squadron.

As air gunner, this airman has participated in very many sorties. One night in March, 1944, he was the rear gunner of an aircraft detailed to attack Nuremberg. During the operation the aircraft was attacked by 3 enemy fighters. On each occasion, Sergeant McGibney's good shooting and concise evading directions to his pilot greatly assisted in driving off the enemy aircraft, one of which was seen to lose height rapidly with an engine on fire. This airman displayed great coolness and determination and defended his aircraft with much skill.

*Air Ministry, 9th May, 1944.*

The KING has granted unrestricted permission for the wearing of the undermentioned decorations conferred upon the officers indicated in recognition of valuable services rendered in connection with the war:—

CONFERRED BY HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE NETHERLANDS.

*Flight Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander Robert Norman BATESON, D.S.O., D.F.C. (39054), Reserve of Air Force Officers.

CONFERRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND.

*Virtuti Militari (5th Class).*

Flight Lieutenant Edward Joseph HARROD (45654), Royal Air Force.

*Krzyz Walcznych (Cross of Valour).*

Pilot Officer John Anthony WELLS (Aus.407922), Royal Australian Air Force.

Pilot Officer Noel WILCOCK (172889), Royal Air Force.

CONFERRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

*Legion of Merit (Officer).*

Squadron Leader Henry Campbell WALKER, A.F.C. (N.Z.1138), Royal New Zealand Air Force.

*Government House, Canberra, 9th May, 1944.*

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards *with effect from 19th April, 1944*, in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy in the South-West Pacific area:—

*Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Squadron Leader Herbert Clarence PLENTY, D.F.C. (Aus.582), Royal Australian Air Force.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.*

Acting Wing Commander John HICKEY (Aus.270542).  
Squadron Leader Frederick John MACGUIRE, A.F.C. (Aus.261537).

Acting Flight Lieutenant Colin Travers ADAMS (Aus.407397).

Acting Flight Lieutenant Arthur Watson BADGER (Aus.403892).

Warrant Officer Gordon Leslie BLAND (Aus.407519).  
Warrant Officer George Firth Spencer BROWN (Aus.400776).

LONDON

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE  
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:  
York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 13a Castle Street, Edinburgh 2;  
39-41 King Street, Manchester 2; 1 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff;  
80 Chichester Street, Belfast;  
or through any bookseller

1944

Price Sixpence net

S.O. Code No. 65-36504