

## ROYAL NEW ZEALAND AIR FORCE.

*Distinguished Flying Cross.**Flying Officers.*

Raymond Edward Charles HOGG (N.Z.4210085), 102 Sqn.

Homer Cecil HURT (N.Z.41589), 15 Sqn.

Bruce Edwin SMITH (N.Z.425947), 103 Sqn.

*Acting Flying Officers.*

Maurice Raymond BLANK (N.Z.411554), 57 Sqn.

Edward Thomas COSSENS (N.Z.421683), 514 Sqn.

Lionel Oscar EDWARDS (N.Z.415303), 149 Sqn.

*Pilot Officers.*

Noel Kenderdine BRABANT (N.Z.422176), 158 Sqn.

Trevor Hugh HILL (N.Z.429335), 158 Sqn.

Sydney Archie THOMPSON (N.Z.425955), 102 Sqn.

The above awards are in recognition of gallantry and devotion to duty in the execution of air operations.

*Air Ministry, 20th February, 1945.*

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

*Distinguished Service Cross.*

Acting Squadron Leader Esmond Arnold HAINES (81170), R.A.F.V.R.

This officer has been in command of air/sea rescue marine craft units for three years and has served in the Dover area for more than 2½ years. Throughout, he has displayed outstanding leadership and ability, qualities which have greatly inspired the personnel under his command. Despite the most adverse conditions his present unit has, at all times, operated most successfully. It has had to contend with heavy enemy shelling, during which several craft were damaged, but a full and efficient rescue service has always been maintained. During the invasion of Normandy and the airborne operations at Arnhem, Squadron Leader Haines' unit rendered most valuable service. Squadron Leader Haines' personal example has contributed in a large measure to the fine record of his unit.

Acting Flight Lieutenant Edward Robert Hurlock WATSON (117315), R.A.F.V.R.

Flight Lieutenant Watson has been engaged in air/sea rescue operations since March, 1942, and has rendered very valuable service. In July, 1943,

he was appointed to command a detachment in North Africa and served at Pantelleria, Lampedusa and Alghero. Later, Flight Lieutenant Watson was appointed to command a unit at Bari. During the course of many operations Flight Lieutenant Watson has shown high courage, fortitude and devotion to duty which have resulted in the saving of many lives. Several of these rescues have been effected in the face of heavy enemy shell and machine gun fire. Throughout, Flight Lieutenant Watson has displayed complete disregard for his personal safety and has set an example worthy of emulation.

Flying Officer Geoffrey LOCKWOOD (130423), R.A.F.V.R.

Flying Officer Lockwood has served with his present unit since November, 1942. As captain of a high speed launch he has participated in numerous air/sea rescue operations which have resulted in the saving of many lives. In August, 1944, a Stirling aircraft crashed into the sea near the shore at Couden Bay. Four of the crew were able to cling to the wing of the aircraft and a fifth, who was injured, was in a partially inflated dinghy which was tied alongside the aircraft. A very rough sea prevailed and Flying Officer Lockwood, who had set off to the rescue, experienced considerable difficulty in controlling his launch and in preventing it grounding on the rocks. He persisted in his rescue efforts and finally the 5 survivors were taken on board the launch, an operation which called for great skill on the part of Flying Officer Lockwood. On another occasion this officer went to the assistance of the crew of a bomber which had crashed in the English channel. Despite adverse weather he found the dinghy and rescued 10 airmen. Whilst returning to base he located another dinghy from which he rescued a further 9 airmen. Once whilst on patrol, Flying Officer Lockwood observed a pilot abandon his aircraft. The pilot became entangled in his parachute but, owing to Flying Officer Lockwood's vigilance, he was rescued within 5 minutes. On yet another occasion, Flying Officer Lockwood displayed courage in going to rescue an American airman who had come down close to the French coast. Despite the known presence of enemy mines, Flying Officer Lockwood succeeded in saving the life of this airman. Flying Officer Lockwood's initiative and ability have set a magnificent example and have inspired others.

LONDON

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