#### CONFIDENTIAL

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HONOURS & AWARDS IMMEDIATE

Christian Names: Lawrence William Surname: WOODS

Rank Warrant Officer Official No.: Aus.408463

Command or Group: No. 1 Group Unit: No.460 Squadron, R.A.A.F.

Total hours flown on operations

since receipt of previous award ...... N/A

Number of sorties since receipt of

previous award ...... N/A

Recognition for which recommended ...... D.F.C. Appointment held ..... Air Bomber

#### Particulars of meritorious service for which the recommendation is made:

On the morning of November  $9^{\rm th}$ , 1944, W/O. Woods, an Australian, was the Air Bomber of a Lancaster aircraft detailed to attack the synthetic oil plant at WANNE-EICKEL.

On the run up to the target at a height of 20,000 feet, the aircraft was hit by heavy flak and fragments entered the cockpit and one splinter caused a severe wound on the Captain's face.

W/O Woods assumed control of the aircraft after the target had been bombed and flew it back throughout the entire arduous journey to this Country, where the Captain was assisted back into the pilot's seat to execute a fine landing at MANSTON.

This W/O Bomb-Aimer had no previous practical flying experience, his only assistance in the art had been gained from a few hours spent in the Link Trainer.

During the journey to this Country high cloud and icing were encountered and this caused a temporary unserviceability of the Air speed Indicator and artificial horizon. At no time was the Bomb-Aimer flustered and he displayed skill, initiative and determination of a high order. His course flying and ability to maintain height were extremely accurate and in consideration of his inexperience, the whole performance was remarkable.

It is considered that this incident is an outstanding example of coolness, initiative, resource and purpose and was undoubtedly the means of a valuable crew and aircraft being returned to this Country to further the Nation's war effort.

This was W/O Wood's thirtieth sortie and a fitting conclusion to an excellent tour. In view of this sterling display I strongly recommend the immediate award of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Date: - 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1944

Group Captain Commanding, No. 460 Squadron, R.A.A.F.

#### REMARKS BY STATION COMMANDER:

I agree with the remarks of the Squadron Commander. This is a fine example and exhibition of initiative, skill and purpose at the right moment. In addition this Warrant Officer has completed a very successful tour of operations and I strongly recommend him for the immediate award of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Group Captain Commanding, R.A.F Base Station Binbrook

Date: - 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1944.

### REMARKS BY BASE COMMANDER:

I agree with the Squadron and Station Commander's remarks, and strongly endorse their recommendations. This Warrant Officer has previously done splendid work.

Air Commodore Commanding,

Date: - 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 1944

No. 12 Base, R.A.F.

## REMARKS BY AIR OFFICER COMMANDING:

Strongly recommend for the Immediate Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Air Vice Marshal, Air Office Commanding No. 1 Group R.A.F.

Date: - 25<sup>th</sup> November, 1944.