

THE FINE SECOND WAR 'PATHFINDER FORCE' TARGET INDICATOR'S D.F.C. GROUP AWARDED TO A MOSQUITO XVI NAVIGATOR, WHO'S FIRST OPERATIONS TOUR WAS WITH WELLINGTON'S OF 466 SQUADRON, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE IN 1943. CONVERTING TO MOSQUITOS, HE JOINED 109 SQUADRON IN 1944, AN ELITE OBOE EQUIPPED MARKER SQUADRON OF PFF AND WAS KILLED RETURNING FROM A SORTIE TO WESEL, 6 MARCH 1945 – THIS 72ND OPERATIONAL SORTIE OF THE WAR



DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS, G.V.I.R., REVERSE OFFICIALLY DATED 1945, IN ROYAL MINT CASE OF ISSUE; 1939-45 STAR; AIR CREW EUROPE STAR; WAR MEDAL 1939-45

D.F.C. *London Gazette* 13 April 1945. The original recommendation states:

'Flying Officer Jones is now half-way through his first tour on Mosquitoes. He came to us with 29 trips on heavy bombers to his credit. Here he has done a further 35 of which 17 have been as a target indicator. Flying Officer Jones is a skilful navigator whose work here has been much enhanced both by his good handling of our special equipment and by his enthusiasm for the kind of work the on which the Squadron is engaged He is the navigator of a crew which is fast becoming one of our star crews; much of the credit is his. For his work here, and his previous tour I strongly recommend him for a non-immediate award of the Distinguished Flying Cross.'

Cover Remarks by the Station Commander: This officer's skill as a Navigator and his competent handling of the special equipment with which his aircraft is fitted make him very worthy of being recommended for the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross.'

William Anwyl Jones was born in Meifod, Montgomeryshire, on 27 November 1920 and enlisted into the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in 1941. After undergoing training as a Navigator at the U.S.

Naval Air Station, Pensacola, in December 1941, he continued his training at No. 1 Air Observer School at R.A.F. Station Wigtown, flying Ansons. After a further period at No. 15 Operational Training Unit, converting to Wellingtons, on 25 October 1942, he received his first operational posting, to the newly formed 466 Squadron, Royal Australian Air Force, at R.A.F. Driffild. The squadron still in training, they moved to R.A.F. Leconfield on 27 December of that year.



ORIGINAL MEMBER OF 466 SQUADRON, ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE

As a Navigator in Wellington X's, Jones flew his first operational sortie (Pilot Sgt C T King), a Gardening raid on Terschelling, on 21 January 1943, this a week after the Squadron's first operational sortie.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/No._466_Squadron_RAAF

Over the next six months, Jones would take part in a further 29 operational Sorties, many of which were to extremely heavy defender German targets:

Lorient (twice), Brest (twice), Schiermonnikoog, Emden, Hamburg (twice), Essen (twice), Duisburg (three times), St. Nazaire (twice), Bochum (twice), Kiel (twice), Frankfurt, Dortmund, Essen, Dusseldorf, Mulheim, Wuppertal, and Cologne (twice) and two sea searches. Having been Commissioned Pilot Officer on 24 April 1943, he completed his first operational tour on 27 July 1943 with a Gardening raid on Simonzand, his total number of Operational sorties being 29 as the two sea searches were counted as half each!

The following superb website gives details of crews and all operational flights, along with individual crew operations, including Jones's:

<https://466and462squadrons.com/CrewOps/JonesWA146013.html>

<https://466and462squadrons.com/466missions.htm>

MOSQUITOS XVI'S WITH 109 (MARKER) SQUADRON, PATHFINDER FORCE

Jones was next posted to No. 83 Operational Training Unit at Peplow, converting to Mosquitos, he was promoted Flying Officer on 24 October 1943. Posted to 109 Squadron at R.A.F. Little Staughton on 15 September 1944. 109 Squadron, a marker squadron, was part of Pathfinder Force and operated Oboe equipped Mosquitos to mark targets, a role crucial to the success of the RAF's campaign against the Ruhr. Teamed up with Flight Lieutenant (later Squadron Leader) George Miller Smith as his pilot, the pair would serve together throughout their service with 109 Squadron.



<https://raf-pathfinders.com/category/109-squadron/>

Jones commenced his second tour with Mosquito XVI's on 28 September 1944, with a bombing raid on Heilbronn; further targets over the next five months, both 'bombing' and 'marking', sorties, included Krefeld (twice), Dortmund (twice), Heilbronn, Mannheim, Weisbaden (twice), Dusseldorf (twice), Pforzheim, Aschaffenburg, Cologne (twice), Oberhausen, Mulheim, Bochum, Gelsenkirchen, Stuttgart (twice), Freiburg, Hallendorf, Hagen, Karlsruhe, Schwerte (twice), Duisburg (three times), Bonn, Saarbrücken, Hannover, Wesel, Essen, and Bremen.

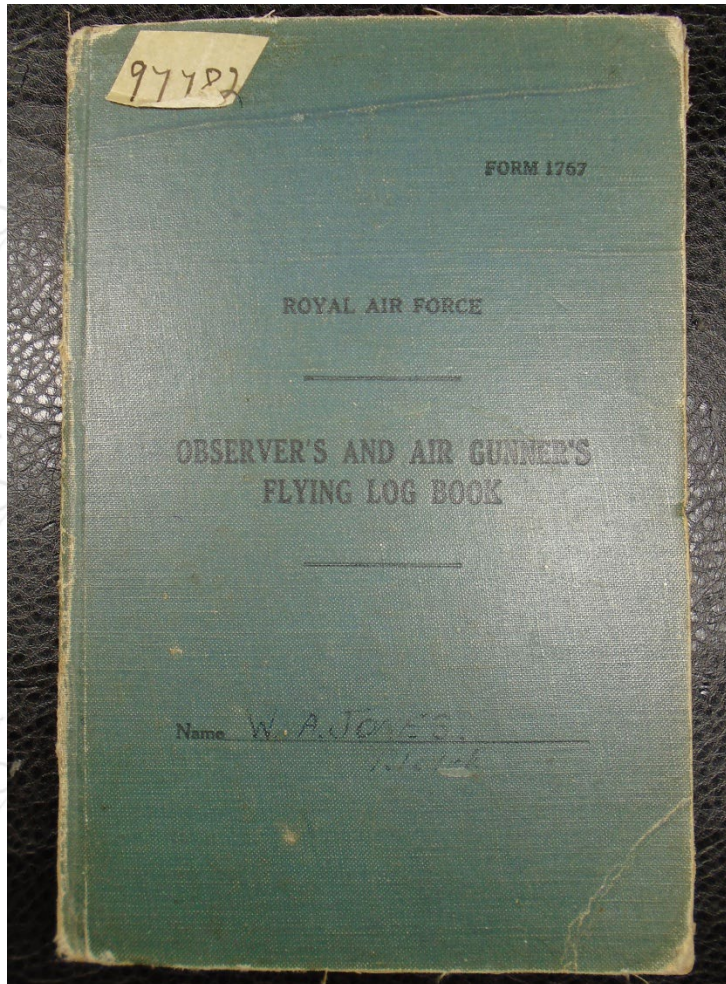
Promoted Flight Lieutenant, Jones was killed on 6 March 1945, during his 72 operational sortie, a daylight raid on Wesel, in which his and Smith's Mosquito XVI PF429 was the formation leader. Taking off from R.A.F. Little Staughton at 14:53 hrs to Oboe mark motor transport and troop concentrations, it was whilst taking over the lead formation comprising of six Mosquitos on their return that they collided with another Mosquito and were last sighted diving steeply into cloud at 15,000 feet with their tailplane damaged. Both officers were killed as their aircraft crashed into the North Sea off the Suffolk Coast near Southwold; their bodies were not recovered, and both are commemorated on the Runnymede Memorial. The other Mosquito was only superficially damaged and made a safe return to base.

U.S. NAVAL AIR STATION, PENSACOLA.					1941.		
Date	Hour	Aircraft Type and No.	Pilot	Duty	REMARKS (including results of bombing, gunnery, exercises, etc.)	Time carried forward --	
					Flying Times		
					Day	Night	
30/11/41.		PBY5.	M'Dowall.	Navigator.	Familiarisation & Map-Reading.	1.5	
					Total for NOVEMBER 1941.	1.5	
1/12/41.	0920	PBY2.0460	Adams & Harper	Navigator.		4.0	
2/12/41.	1130	PBY2.0491	Adams & Harper	"		3.8	
3/12/41.	0947	PBY2.0491	Pflum & Wilson	"		1.0	
4/12/41.	0726	PBY2.0490	Pflum & Krauss	"		6.0	
5/12/41.	0838	PBY2.0461	Pflum & Wilson	"		5.7	
8/12/41.	0721	PBY2.0490	Pflum & Mc Gregor	"		6.0	
9/12/41.	0759	PBY2.0496	Pflum & Mc Gregor	"		6.0	
10/12/41.		PBY2.0496	Pflum & Mc Gregor	"		6.0	
11/12/41.		PBY2.0490	Pflum & D'Brien	"		5.8	
13/12/41.		PBY2.0490	Pflum & D'Brien	"		4.4	
15/12/41.	0742	PBY5.9724	Pflum & D'Brien	"		4.5	
20/12/41.		PBY5.9719	Richwine & Hollister	Guarantee.		1.6	
24/12/41.		PBY5.9719	Richwine & Hollister	"		2.8	
29/12/41.		PBY2.0460	Richwine & Hollister	"		3.0	
30/12/41.		PBY5.9724	Richwine & Hollister	"		2.5	
31/12/41.		PBY5.9724	Richwine & Donspell	"		2.8	
19/12/41.		PBY5.9721	Lieut Richwine	"		1.6	
					Total for December 1941.		

466 SQDN. R.A.F.					DRIFFIELD		
Date	Hour	Aircraft Type and No.	Pilot	Duty	REMARKS (including results of bombing, gunnery, exercises, etc.)	Time carried forward --	
					Flying Times		
					Day	Night	
3. 26. 11. 42.	1511	WELLINGTON II	SGT. KING.	NAVIGATOR.	LOCAL FLYING.	2.00	
7. 28. 11. 42.	1020	WELLINGTON II	SGT. KING.	NAVIGATOR.	AIR TO SEA - FIRING - LOCAL FLYING.	2.15	
					Total Flying Hours for Nov. 1942.		
					446 SQDN.		
					DAY.	4 Hrs. 15 MINS.	
					NIGHT.	NIL.	
I CERTIFY THAT I UNDERSTAND AND HAVE CARRIED OUT DINGHY AND PARACHUTE DRILL AS LAID DOWN FOR WELLINGTON AIRCRAFT NOVEMBER 1942.					Certified Correct. <i>[Signature]</i> W/CDR. O.C. 466 SQDN R.A.F.		
Sgt. W. A. Jones.							
S/LDR. O.C. A FLIGHT. 466 SQDN R.A.F.							

466 SQDN. R.A.F.					DRIFFIELD		
Date	Hour	Aircraft Type and No.	Pilot	Duty	REMARKS (including results of bombing, gunnery, exercises, etc.)	Time carried forward --	
					Flying Times		
					Day	Night	
3. 24. 12. 42.	1130	WELLINGTON II	SGT. KING.	NAVIGATOR.	N.F.T.	00.30	
7. 29. 12. 42.	1815	WELLINGTON II	SGT. KING.	NAVIGATOR.	OPERATIONS - LORIENT - BOMBING.	6.20	
6. 26. 12. 42.	1635	WELLINGTON II	SGT. KING.	NAVIGATOR.	LANDED DRIFFIELD		
6. 29. 12. 42.	1130	WELLINGTON II	SGT. KING.	NAVIGATOR.	OPERATIONS - BREX - GARDENING.	7.15	
1. 12. 2. 43.	1850	WELLINGTON II	SGT. KING.	NAVIGATOR.	LANDED DRIFFIELD.		
1. 13. 2. 43.	1830	WELLINGTON II	SGT. KING.	NAVIGATOR.	DRIFFIELD - BASE.	00.30	
1. 17. 2. 43.	1649	WELLINGTON II	SGT. KING.	NAVIGATOR.	OPERATIONS - SCHERMONNIKOOG - GARDENING.	14.05	
1. 19. 2. 43.	1535	WELLINGTON II	SGT. KING.	NAVIGATOR.	OPERATIONS - LORIENT - BOMBING.	6.00	
Certified that dinghy and parachute drill carried out during Feb 1943.					DAYLIGHT OPERATIONS ENDED		
S/LDR. O.C. A FLIGHT 466 SQDN R.A.F.					FORMATION. LOCAL FLYING.		
					TOTAL FLYING HOURS FOR FEB. 1943. 466 SQDN R.A.F.		
					DAY	5 Hrs 55 MINS.	
					NIGHT	23 Hrs 40 MINS.	
					Certified Correct. <i>[Signature]</i> W/CDR. 466 SQUADRON R.A.F.		





For his services during the Second World War, he was awarded a posthumous Distinguished Flying Cross.

Sold with

- 1) Jones's Observer's and Air Gunner's Flying Log Book, covering his entire flying service, 30 November 1941 to 6 March 1945
- 2) Named Air Council medal entitlement enclosure
- 3) R.A.F. Central Depository letter forwarding Jones's logbook to his NOK, 15 May 1946
- 4) A Damas Service Watch, the reverse stamped 'G.S/T.P 178454'.
- 5) Digital copies of 466 Squadrons Operational Logs. **Note**, these have not been studied to locate Jones's sorties but will give exact details of these sorties, results of attacks, any damage etc. Likewise it would be worthwhile downloading the 109 Squadrons Operational Logs from the National Archives:

<https://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/browse/r/h/C111569>

A very fine DFC group with great research potential, to a Wellington and Mosquito Navigator who saw a great deal of action before he was killed