

GREEP, Ronald Sidney. 643093 Sergeant, No.106 Sqn. (Immediate)

PARRY, Edward. 1319236 Sergeant, No.106 Sqn. (Immediate)

L.G. 12/2/1943. Air2/4947.

Sergeant Grep and Sergeant Parry were the rear and mid-upper gunners of a Lancaster aircraft which raided Berlin on the night of 17th/18th January, 1943. On the return journey, whilst flying in the vicinity of Kiel at 5,000 feet, the aircraft was attacked by a Ju.88. The enemy aircraft came in from dead astern and opened fire with cannon and machine guns from 800 yards but Sergeant Grep and Sergeant Parry coolly waited until the range was narrowed to less than 400 yards before replying and such was the accuracy of their fire that the fighter, obviously hit, was forced to break away. Shortly afterwards, a second attack developed but Sergeant Parry gave the pilot a concise and accurate commentary which enabled him not only to evade a very determined attack but to out-manoeuvre completely the enemy fighter and cause it to present a perfect target. Sergeant Grep and Sergeant Parry were quick to seize the opportunity and with short, well aimed bursts, they set it on fire and saw it fall to the ground and burst into flames. Considerable height was lost in this encounter and the Lancaster, flying low near Flensburg, was caught in searchlights and subjected to a heavy barrage of light flak, but both gunners fired hundreds of rounds at the gun posts and searchlights, at least five of which were shot-out. Sergeant Grep and Sergeant Parry, despite having previously flown on only six operational sorties, showed the courage and coolness of veterans. By displaying an offensive spirit which not only saved their own aircraft but caused the enemy to lose a valuable night fighter, they have set a magnificent example to the other gunners of the squadron.