

across fields to the scene three-quarters of a mile away. He scrambled down a steep cutting to get to the aircraft and as he reached it an explosion occurred which broke it in two. He then saw the pilot, who was in the wreckage. Sergeant Barrie took off his own tunic and, after wrapping it round his head, entered the burning wreckage. He was able to drag the badly wounded pilot away to safety. Sergeant Barrie then returned to the blazing wreckage and searched for other survivors until he was satisfied that there were no others who could still be alive. This airman showed complete disregard for his own safety, which was jeopardised by fire, exploding tanks and pyrotechnics. His unselfish heroism was responsible for saving the pilot's life.

1110323 Leading Aircraftman George Henry Chastney, Royal Air Force.

A Bisley aircraft, carrying mails, crashed when taking off and immediately burst into flames. Leading Aircraftman Chastney rushed to the scene of the accident and found the wireless operator trapped in the burning wreckage. Displaying complete disregard for his own safety whilst working for several minutes directly beneath a burning petrol tank, which was liable to explode, he succeeded in releasing the wireless operator. Leading Aircraftman Chastney's courage and devotion to duty undoubtedly saved the airman's life.

1303228 Leading Aircraftman Harold Garforth, Royal Air Force.

1504547 Leading Aircraftman Edward Joseph White, Royal Air Force.

One night in April, 1943, a Wellington aircraft was returning from operations and, when landing on the airfield, bombs which had not been released exploded, causing the bomber to disintegrate in flames. Leading Aircraftmen Garforth and White, who were on duty at the station as ambulance driver and nursing orderly respectively, proceeded to the scene. Leading Aircraftman White immediately went to the rear turret and succeeded in extricating the gunner, who was badly injured and whose clothes were smouldering. In the meantime Leading Aircraftman Garforth had prepared his ambulance and brought a stretcher up to the blazing wreckage. Their prompt action in entering the area of the burning wreckage is worthy of high praise and undoubtedly enabled them to save the life of the air gunner. Neither of the rescuers was deterred by the possibility of further explosions occurring.

1054476 Aircraftman 1st Class Christian Gabriel Borrowdale Kapp, Royal Air Force.

In March, 1943, a Beaufighter aircraft crashed. Aircraftman Kapp, who was on leave, left his house and was the first to arrive at the scene. The aircraft was on fire and the pilot, who was injured, was trapped in the wreckage by his parachute harness. Despite the fire and consequent risk from exploding petrol tanks, Aircraftman Kapp heroically persisted until he succeeded in extricating the pilot, whose clothing had by then caught fire. He displayed courage and initiative of a high order.

1665738 Aircraftman 2nd Class Harry Kay, Royal Air Force.

One afternoon in May, 1943, a Beaufighter aircraft crashed and caught fire when landing on an airfield. Aircraftman Kay immediately drove his ambulance to the scene and endeavoured to rescue the pilot, who was trapped and badly injured. As the heat was intense, this airman put on his cap and coat and finally succeeded in extricating the pilot; in so doing Aircraftman Kay sustained burns to his forehead. After receiving treatment for the burns, Aircraftman Kay returned to his ambulance and took the injured pilot to hospital. In effecting the rescue, in spite of the intense heat of the fire, this airman showed high courage and a complete disregard of personal injury, which he might have sustained from the explosion of petrol tanks and oxygen bottles.

1349855 Aircraftman 2nd Class John Kennedy, Royal Air Force.

In March, 1943, a Wellington aircraft crashed on an aerodrome and caught fire. Aircraftman Kennedy, accompanied by two other members of his gun post, immediately went to the scene of the accident. On arrival, Aircraftman Kennedy climbed on to the rear of the fuselage and, after breaking away the perspex of the rear gun turret, he succeeded in extricating the air gunner. Air-

craftman Kennedy then went to the front of the aircraft and, assisted by his two comrades, succeeded in extricating another member of the crew who was unconscious. By this time the aircraft was enveloped in flames and Aircraftman Kennedy was compelled to abandon his rescue efforts; this he did just before the starboard petrol tanks exploded. The courage and initiative displayed by this airman undoubtedly saved two lives.

*Air Ministry, 27th July, 1943.*

#### ROYAL AIR FORCE.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallantry displayed in flying operations against the enemy:—

##### *Distinguished Service Order.*

Wing Commander Graham Danson JONES, D.F.C. (37265), No. 97 Squadron.

This officer has displayed inspiring leadership, great skill and unflagging devotion to duty which has been reflected in the many successes obtained by the squadron he commands. Wing Commander Jones has successfully undertaken numerous hazardous sorties.

Acting Wing Commander Donald Teale SAVILLE, D.F.C. (74738), No. 218 Squadron.

This officer has completed a very large number of sorties and has displayed outstanding determination to achieve success. He is a fearless commander, who invariably chooses to participate in the more difficult sorties which have to be undertaken. Whatever the opposition, Wing Commander Saville endeavours to press home his attacks with accuracy and resolution. By his personal example and high qualities of leadership, this officer has contributed materially to the operational efficiency of the squadron.

Acting Squadron Leader Theodore Widdowfield BLAIR, D.F.C. (113853), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 83 Squadron.

Squadron Leader Blair has taken part in a large number of sorties, most of which have been against heavily defended targets, including the industrial centres of the Ruhr and Berlin. A navigator of exceptional skill, Squadron Leader Blair has unerringly guided his aircraft to far distant targets such as Spezia, often in the face of adverse weather. His keenness, courage and efficiency have proved a source of inspiration.

Acting Squadron Leader Eric Frank Knowles CAMPLING, D.F.C. (40249), No. 460 (R.A.A.F.) Squadron.

Squadron Leader Campling is a first class pilot who has rendered fine service. He has completed very many sorties, including 4 attacks on Berlin. He has set a fine example of courage, pressing home his attacks with a determination which is deserving of high praise.

Acting Squadron Leader Edmund Keith CRESWELL, D.F.C. (107461), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 35 Squadron.

This officer has a fine record of achievement, having undertaken a large number of sorties, involving attacks on heavily defended areas in the Ruhr, on ports both in enemy and enemy occupied territory, and on far distant targets such as Turin and Spezia in Italy. He has accomplished his tasks with great skill, while his fearlessness and tenacity have inspired his crew with great confidence. His successes have been worthily earned.

Acting Squadron Leader Richard Anthony WELLINGTON, D.F.C. (106238), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 83 Squadron.

This officer has completed a large number of sorties, including 18 attacks on the Ruhr area. His efforts throughout have been characterised by a keen desire to bomb his targets determinedly and accurately. Squadron Leader Wellington is a fine leader whose great skill and example have contributed materially to the high morale of the air crews of the squadron.

Flight Lieutenant Alec Panton CRANSWICK, D.F.C. (42696), No. 35 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in a very large number of sorties, involving attacks on targets in Germany, occupied territory, Italy and in the Middle East. He has always pressed home his attacks with vigour, obtaining much success. His excellent and sustained efforts have been worthy of the highest praise.