

After determined attempts he was able to ease the wireless operator into a position from which he was carried away to safety. The prompt and courageous action of Sergeant Mathews, who had worked until he was almost exhausted, saved the lives of the pilot and wireless operator.

1366120 Sergeant James Morrison, Royal Air Force.

When taking off one morning in June, 1943, a Blenheim aircraft crashed into 2 vehicles, one a motor tanker, containing 2,000 gallons of petrol. The aircraft caught fire and the tanker, which had burst, caught alight and burned furiously. Sergeant Morrison, who was in a nearby hut, rushed to the scene and saw an airman lying in the flames. Dashing into the fire the sergeant seized the airman and pulled him clear, then beat out the flames on his clothing with some overalls. Sergeant Morrison himself received burns in the process. He displayed great initiative and a complete disregard of danger.

1144696 Sergeant Norman Webb, Royal Air Force.

Sergeant Webb was navigator in an aircraft which, with ammunition aboard, crashed in June, 1943. Flames rose high above the pilot's cockpit and the pilot was so affected by fumes that he was unable to extricate himself from the aircraft. Sergeant Webb went to his companion's aid and, climbing on to a wing and standing over a petrol tank from which leaking petrol was burning, he assisted the pilot to safety. Immediately the two airmen were clear the tank exploded. Sergeant Webb displayed courage of a high order and undoubtedly saved the life of the pilot.

961145 Leading Aircraftman Ivor Williams, Royal Air Force.

One night in May, 1943, an aircraft which had been damaged during an operational mission, crashed and burst into flames about 3 miles from a Royal Air Force Station. Leading Aircraftman Williams, who was in charge of the station fire tender, proceeded immediately to the aircraft which was burning furiously. The pilot of the bomber had been thrown from his seat and was lying on the ground beneath the starboard wing and the engines which were blazing and liable to collapse. He was seriously injured and unable to assist himself. With complete disregard of his own safety, Leading Aircraftman Williams plunged into the burning wreckage and succeeded in dragging the pilot to safety only a few seconds before the wing collapsed. At great risk this airman saved the life of the pilot.

1443874 Aircraftman 2nd Class Richard Bramwell Parton, Royal Air Force.

536876 Corporal Thomas Leslie Johnson, Royal Air Force.

In January, 1943, an aircraft stalled and crashed on an airfield and burst into flames on impact. Although the wreckage was blazing fiercely and there was grave danger of petrol tanks and ammunition exploding, Aircraftman Parton entered the flames to help the injured pilot. Driven back by the heat of the fire, he again entered the flames. He received assistance from Corporal Johnson and together these airmen, who showed great courage and complete disregard of their own safety, succeeded in extricating the pilot from the wreckage. Their courage and prompt action helped to save the life of the pilot.

Air Ministry, 7th September, 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.

Acting Group Captain John Henry SEARBY, D.F.C., Royal Air Force, No. 83 Squadron.

One night in August, 1943, this officer participated in a bombing attack on an important target at Peenemunde. Enemy fighters were extremely active over the target area, but in spite of this Group Captain Searby executed his difficult task with consummate skill. He displayed faultless leadership, great courage and resolution throughout.

Acting Wing Commander Lloyd Vernon CHADBURN, D.F.C. (Can/J2976), Royal Canadian Air Force.

Wing Commander Chadburn has led formations on very many sorties during which 16 enemy

aircraft have been destroyed, 6 of them by this officer. In addition, 3 E boats have been successfully attacked. Wing Commander Chadburn has displayed exceptional leadership and great skill, while his fine fighting spirit has set a most inspiring example.

Acting Squadron Leader Desmond James SCOTT (N.Z.40779), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 486 (N.Z.) Squadron.

This officer has participated in a large number of sorties. He is a first class leader whose great skill and fine fighting qualities have been reflected in the high standard of operational efficiency of the squadron, which has obtained many successes. On several occasions his cool judgment and tactical ability have enabled his formation to exploit fleeting opportunities to advantage. This was amply demonstrated on one occasion in July, 1943, when the squadron was engaged in an air/sea rescue operation near Le Havre. Fighter opposition was encountered but Squadron Leader Scott skilfully drew away the enemy aircraft, 2 of which were destroyed by his formation in the ensuing engagement. This officer has displayed courage and tenacity of a high order.

Second Bar to Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader Raymond Hiley HARRIES, D.F.C. (87447), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 91 Squadron.

Since being awarded a bar to the Distinguished Flying Cross, Squadron Leader Harries has destroyed a further 4 enemy aircraft. In May, 1943, he led the squadron in an engagement against 12 enemy fighters. In the combat 5 enemy aircraft were shot down, 2 of them by Squadron Leader Harries. During an engagement in July, 1943, he destroyed 2 and damaged another enemy aircraft. This officer is a fine leader and a skilful and tenacious fighter.

Distinguished Flying Cross.

Acting Squadron Leader David John EVANS (43629), Royal Air Force, No. 107 Squadron.

Flying Officer Trevor Alfred ROBERTS (121238), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 107 Squadron.

As pilot and observer respectively, Squadron Leader Evans and Flying Officer Roberts have flown on numerous operations during which a variety of targets have been attacked. On 1 occasion, in an attack on an airfield in Northern France, their excellent work was largely responsible for the success of the sortie. More recently, in an attack on an airfield in Holland, Squadron Leader Evans' skill as a pilot and Flying Officer Roberts' masterly bombing were a praiseworthy contribution to the successes obtained. These officers have invariably displayed high courage and an inflexible determination.

Flight Lieutenant Lindley Stuart Brebner SCOTT (62016), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 1 Squadron.

This officer has taken part in very many sorties during which he destroyed 1 enemy aircraft and executed 11 determined attacks on locomotives. Recently, in combat against 3 enemy fighters, Flight Lieutenant Scott was severely wounded in the arm and leg. Although suffering great pain he flew his damaged aircraft to base. His example of courage and fortitude was worthy of high praise.

Flight Lieutenant Arthur Ernest UMBERS (N.Z.404003), Royal New Zealand Air Force, No. 486 (N.Z.) Squadron.

This officer has taken part in a very large number of varied operations. In operations against shipping he has always pressed home his attacks with great vigour and has obtained several hits. In air combat, Flight Lieutenant Umbers has displayed great keenness and determination, setting a fine example. He has shared in the destruction of an enemy bomber.

Flying Officer Brian Rushworth KEELE (110837), Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, No. 604 Squadron.

Flying Officer George Henry COWLES (47803), Royal Air Force, No. 604 Squadron.

As pilot and observer respectively, these officers have displayed great skill and keenness in night operations during which they have destroyed 5 enemy aircraft. Their example of gallantry and devotion to duty has been highly commendable.