

disintegrated on impact and immediately burst into flames. The rear gunner was injured and trapped in his crushed turret, being pinned down by the remains of the tail unit and the rear of the fuselage. A high explosive bomb was in the blazing wreckage some 10 yards away from the gunner. Flying Officer Dhenin, the station medical officer, and Corporal Lush, a gunner, hastened to the scene of the accident. Although fully aware that the heat might cause the bomb to detonate at any moment Flying Officer Dhenin worked for over half an hour to relieve the injured airman's pain and, assisted by Corporal Lush, endeavoured to release him. Their efforts to extricate the gunner were, however, unavailing. A mobile crane was brought to the scene and the mass of wreckage was lifted clear of the ground. Displaying complete disregard for his own safety, Flying Officer Dhenin then crawled under the wreckage and released the trapped airman thereby enabling others helpers to drag him to safety. Flying Officer Dhenin and Corporal Lush showed fine courage and determination in circumstances of great danger.

Awarded the George Medal.

- 970770 Corporal Norman Gouldin, B.E.M., Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
1265287 Corporal Frank Robert North, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.
1484334 Leading Aircraftman Frederick Alfred Withers, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

In August, 1943, four soldiers entered a minefield; three were killed instantly and the fourth was seriously wounded. Corporals Gouldin and North, who are nursing orderlies, and Leading Aircraftman Withers, who is a motor driver, immediately proceeded to the scene of the accident. To reach the injured soldier it was necessary to cross a canal and pass through barbed wire. Corporal Gouldin, although unable to swim, entered the canal and with his two companions waded across. After crossing the barbed wire the rescuers penetrated about 16 feet into the minefield and reached the soldier, to whom they rendered first aid. Afterwards, carrying him on a stretcher, these airmen recrossed the canal, with water up to their armpits and insecure footholds, and brought the soldier to safety. Throughout they showed great fortitude and initiative and complete disregard of their own safety.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Military Division).

- Aus. 421068 Flight Sergeant Robert William Brown, Royal Australian Air Force.

In October, 1943, an aircraft crashed near a Royal Air Force Station and burst into flames. Flight Sergeant Brown, a flying instructor, immediately hurried to the scene of the accident. A passenger in the aircraft was badly injured and trapped in the blazing wreckage. Flight Sergeant Brown, ignoring the danger from the ammunition which was exploding, ran into the flames, succeeded in releasing the passenger and in dragging him to safety. This prompt and gallant action undoubtedly saved the passenger's life.

- 642032 Sergeant Frank Bennetts Woolcock, Royal Air Force.

Sergeant Woolcock was the coxswain of a pinnace which was standing by in the Suez Bay, when he received a message that a Beaufighter aircraft had crashed some 20 miles away. He proceeded at full speed and, aided by aircraft, located two men who were by their dinghy on a desolate part of the coast. Owing to coral reefs, he was unable to approach closer than 250 yards from the shore. The air crew members endeavoured to reach the pinnace in their dinghy but were too exhausted to succeed in this and the wind blew them back to the shore. Sergeant Woolcock then tried to send a lifebuoy on a line to the dinghy but the line caught in the coral. Although he knew that sharks were common in these waters Sergeant Woolcock, after instructing a senior deck hand to take charge of the pinnace, dived overboard and guided the launch as close to the reef as possible and then swam to the dinghy on the shore. The two airmen then got in the dinghy and paddled while Sergeant Woolcock swam behind and pushed. Having assisted the airmen safely on board the pinnace, Sergeant Woolcock swam back to the reef and freed the buoy line. He was in the water for approximately three-quarters of an hour and displayed fine courage and devotion to duty.

- 10026V Corporal Alan William Van Blerk, South African Air Force.

In September, 1943, a Heinkel 111 attacked the airfield of Antimachia on Cos Island. During the attack an anti-personnel "butterfly" bomb crashed through the roof of the hospital and exploded. Corporal Van Blerk, although badly wounded in the chest by a splinter, refused treatment and continued to attend to the needs of other casualties until he collapsed. During the continuous enemy attacks against Cos this airman displayed courage and devotion to duty of a high standard.

- 1468096 Corporal Alfred William Bloom, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

One night in September, 1943, Corporal Bloom was non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the Fire Tender when an aircraft crashed on an airfield and burst into flames. Corporal Bloom led his party in an attempt to rescue the pilot who was trapped in the blazing wreckage. Ignoring the imminent danger from the fire and exploding ammunition Corporal Bloom persisted in his efforts to release the pilot and after some 15 minutes the latter was successfully extricated and his life saved. Corporal Bloom has, by his prompt action on other occasions, saved crashed aircraft from becoming total losses. He has, at all times, displayed courage and devotion to duty of a high standard.

- 1191444 Corporal John Henry James Davey, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

One morning in September, 1943, a Baltimore aircraft, whilst taking off, crashed into a double pen in which two Blenheim aircraft were parked. One of the Blenheims and the Baltimore immediately caught fire. Corporal Davey, a fitter, hurried to the scene and, displaying complete disregard for his own safety, led three other airmen in a successful attempt to release the trapped pilot in the Baltimore aircraft. Corporal Davey's prompt and gallant action undoubtedly saved the pilot's life.

- 1157559 Corporal Gerald Christopher Harcourt, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

In May, 1943, an aircraft, which was attempting to land, crashed on the edge of an airfield and burst into flames. Corporal Harcourt, a member of the service police, immediately gave orders for a fire tender to be brought to the scene. He then proceeded to the aircraft which was burning furiously; the cannon shells in the wings were also exploding. Nevertheless, displaying complete disregard of his own safety Corporal Harcourt, with the assistance of an army officer, extricated the pilot from his cockpit, and got him clear of the wreckage. He then endeavoured to strip him of his clothing which was soaked in petrol and was burning. Corporal Harcourt, by his initiative and courage, set a magnificent example.

- 957672 Leading Aircraftman Ronald Douglas Christopher Carter, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

In August, 1943, when a grass fire started near to a Technical Stores Leading Aircraftman Carter, who was in charge of the fire tender, at once proceeded to the scene. The fire soon surrounded a large store of gelignite and other explosives; one heap of gelignite was already burning. Despite the grave danger of an explosion occurring Leading Aircraftman Carter conducted the fire fighting, working very close to the burning explosives. After the work had proceeded for about five minutes the burning gelignite exploded, injuring all the fire crew and rendering the fire tender unserviceable. In dangerous conditions Leading Aircraftman Carter displayed leadership and ability of a high order.

Air Ministry, 14th January, 1944.

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

Bar to Distinguished Service Order.

Acting Wing Commander Lloyd Vernun CHADBURN, D.S.O., D.F.C. (Can/J.2976), Royal Canadian Air Force.

This officer has displayed outstanding leadership, great tactical skill and courage. Since being awarded the Distinguished Service Order he has led his formations in a large number of sorties during which 23 enemy aircraft have been destroyed and many others damaged; Wing Com-