

of bombs, in an endeavour to rescue their comrades. Flight Sergeant Forbes located the rear gunner who had sustained injuries and whose clothing was alight. After beating out the flames he assisted the gunner clear of the wreckage and then to safety. Flying Officer Galbraith found the navigator unconscious and lying in the wreckage of the nose of the aircraft. Assisted by Flight Sergeant Forbes, who had again returned to the aircraft, Flying Officer Galbraith freed the navigator and then passed him to another member of the crew who had been able to extricate himself when the crash occurred. One member of the crew still remained in the blazing wreckage. Flight Sergeant Forbes seized a fire extinguisher and managed to subdue and control the flames sufficiently to enable Flying Officer Galbraith to enter and search the tail of the aircraft. Unfortunately the remaining member of the crew was dead when found. Flying Officer Galbraith, although severely wounded on the chin, displayed high qualities of leadership, courage and unselfish heroism. Flight Sergeant Forbes also showed great bravery in circumstances of considerable danger.

1125669 Sergeant Conrad Cannan, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

This airman, who is employed in the Fire Section, has shown exceptional fortitude when performing exacting and dangerous work attending crashed aircraft. On a recent occasion he took charge of the crash tender when a Halifax aircraft, carrying one large H.E. bomb, failed to gain height when taking off and crashed in a ploughed field outside the airfield boundary. The bomb did not detonate on the impact but the aircraft burst into flames. The crash tender quickly reached the scene, followed by the ambulance. Three of the crew of seven had been thrown clear and were safe. Incendiary bombs started to detonate but Sergeant Cannan and two other airmen went into the fire area and helped to safety 2 of the crew who were trying to extricate themselves. Flames on their clothing were extinguished and the two rescued airmen were handed over to the staff of the ambulance. As one of the crew was still missing Sergeant Cannan returned to search the wreckage. Eventually he found the pilot, who had been thrown out of the bomber, partially hidden in a furrow in the field. He was stunned and Sergeant Cannan carried him 20 yards from the fire where he was assisted by a medical orderly. Sergeant Cannan displayed great courage, working in the full knowledge that a major explosion from the bomb might occur at any moment.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal
(Military Division).*

N.Z.392047 Flight Sergeant Raymond Anthony Lindsay, Royal New Zealand Air Force.

One night in December, 1943, Flight Sergeant Lindsay was the navigator of an aircraft which crashed and caught fire when landing at base after an attack on Berlin. He was thrown 50 feet in front of the aircraft and, besides receiving severe burns to his face, sustained a broken arm and a broken ankle. Nevertheless his first thoughts were for his companions who were still in the burning aircraft. Despite his great pain, and in the face of fierce flames, this airman dragged himself back to the wreckage. Without hesitation, he then braved the intense heat and blazing petrol and aided the trapped and badly-injured bomb aimer and flight engineer to a place of safety. Even after the arrival of the ambulance Flight Sergeant Lindsay disdained treatment until his injured companions had been cared for. He displayed high courage and unselfish devotion to duty.

1052946 Sergeant Ernest Roberts, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

One night in February, 1944, Sergeant Roberts was the mid-upper gunner of an aircraft which crashed and burst into flames when reaching base after an operational flight. Although suffering from shock and a heavy blow on the chest, this airman immediately proceeded to extricate the rear gunner who had sustained a broken arm and was trapped in his turret. After freeing the air gunner, Sergeant Roberts attempted to enter the fuselage to rescue other members of the crew, knowing full well that the petrol tanks might

explode at any moment. There was also the risk of ammunition and pyrotechnics exploding. He was, however, compelled by the flames to abandon his efforts. He then found the flight engineer, who had been thrown clear and did what he could for him until the airman died. Sergeant Roberts, in his disregard of the risk of sustaining further injuries, showed great courage and devotion to duty in his attempt to rescue his companions.

1588527 Sergeant Thomas Vernon Shaw, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

One morning in February, 1944, Sergeant Shaw was the flight engineer of an aircraft which, when approaching to land after an operational sortie, crashed and immediately caught fire. Three members of the crew of the Lancaster managed to extricate themselves. Sergeant Shaw, who was suffering from shock and was badly shaken, was escaping through his window when he noticed that, although the propellers were broken off, the engines were still running. Disregarding his personal safety Sergeant Shaw made his way back into the burning bomber and succeeded in switching off the engines, thereby making any rescue work less dangerous. With the assistance of a medical officer, Sergeant Shaw then succeeded in extricating the bomb aimer who had been trapped in the fuselage. Another member of the crew (the mid-upper gunner), who was burned on the face and hands and blinded by blood, was making his way to the end of the aircraft which was burning. Sergeant Shaw re-entered the aircraft and, despite the intense heat, smoke and fumes, he succeeded in getting the mid-upper gunner to safety. Sergeant Shaw's unselfish and courageous actions undoubtedly contributed to a greater saving of life than would otherwise have been effected.

1179394 Corporal John Douglas Simmons, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

In July, 1943, a Whitley aircraft crashed into a Hampden in which an airman was working. Corporal Simmons immediately went to the rescue of the trapped airman whose clothing was on fire and, removing his own tunic, he smothered his colleague's burning clothing. He then raced to another aircraft some 20 yards away and removed it to safety just before the depth charges exploded in the Whitley and Hampden aircraft. On 21st December, 1943, regardless of personal danger, Corporal Simmons climbed into the cockpit of a Dakota aircraft which had crashed and had lost a propeller. The crew had left the Dakota but one of the engines was still running and smoke was pouring from it. Corporal Simmons switched off the engine, turned off all petrol cocks and so prevented a fire from breaking out. His prompt and courageous actions have thus saved an airman's life and prevented the probable destruction of 2 aircraft.

1151859 Corporal Frederick William Styles, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

One night in November, 1943, a Catalina aircraft crashed when alighting on the water and immediately submerged with the exception of its tail. Corporal Styles was duty coxswain of the control boat on the flare path and he at once proceeded to the scene. Diving overboard, he brought to safety 2 men who were afloat. Learning that 6 members of the crew were still in the aircraft, Corporal Styles opened the blisters and swam around inside the aircraft in an attempt to locate them. He was unable from the inside to penetrate to the front of the Catalina. After ascertaining that nobody was left in the tail, he swam round to the front and repeatedly dived in an attempt to enter the Catalina from its nose. After 20 minutes Corporal Styles was forced to abandon his attempts owing to the icy cold water. Returning to his launch, he took the aircraft in tow but the line parted and the Catalina ultimately sank. Corporal Styles displayed bravery in circumstances of great difficulty. On a previous occasion, in September, 1943, when on duty, this airman dived into the sea and rescued a 10 year old boy who had fallen into the water and had disappeared below the surface.

1518936 Leading Aircraftman Emile Hamilton TARRY, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.

In January, 1944, during an enemy air attack, two bombs were dropped on a small explosives storage unit and one of the missiles hit a storehouse containing explosives. The senior N.C.O. was injured and dazed by falling debris. Air-