

Four Tennessee Men Decorated; Sewanee Flier Receiving DFC

Three Nashvillians Awarded Air Medal for Their Outstanding Service; Capt. Guerry Honored

Awarded the Air Medal recently for outstanding service against the enemy in the Southwest Pacific war theater were three Nashville airmen, while another Tennessee flier, Capt. Alexander Guerry, Jr., of Sewanee, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross by Lieut. Gen. George C. Kennedy, commander of the Allied air forces in the

area, it was announced yesterday. Those receiving the Air Medal were Lieut. Paul G. Blankenship, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul G. Blankenship, 998 Maplewood Lane; Staff Sgt. William Cummings, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen B. Cummings, 1102 Nineteenth Avenue, South, and Staff Sgt. David W. Bessire, 24, son of Mr. and Mrs.

William Bessire, 407 Forty-fifth Avenue, North.

Captain Guerry, whose father is vice-chancellor of the University of the South, received the D. F. C. for extraordinary achievement in an aerial flight over Kavieng, New Ireland, last May. He achieved the difficult task of photographing the airdrome for the first time despite unfavorable weather and intense fighter activity. The flight was over open sea for the most part.

Sergeant Cumming's award was given for his performance as radio operator on a B-24 bomber which raided Rabaul, New Britain, last January.

Lieutenant's Blankenship's award

was for "meritorious achievement in the Battle of the Bismarck Sea, March, 1943, when he participated in the first daylight low-level bombing attack ever executed by this squadron."

Sergeant Bessire was cited for the successful completion of 25 operational flight missions in the Southwest Pacific area, the operations including bombing missions, armed reconnaissance flights and attacks on enemy naval vessels.

Production of fats and oils from domestic materials, it is estimated, will reach about 11,000,000,000 pounds in the 1942-43 crop year, a billion pounds over the production the preceding year.

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