

ing at low altitudes over mountainous terrain under adverse weather conditions in a transport airplane, and often necessitated landing within a few miles of enemy bases. Throughout these flights, outstanding ability and devotion to duty were demonstrated. Cpl. William R. Cummings, 1102 19th Avenue, Nashville. For meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight over Rabaul, New Britain, in January, 1943. In the face of intense anti-aircraft fire from shore installations and vessels in the harbor, this bomber made a bombing run on a 10,000-ton enemy transport in the middle of the harbor. Bombs were dropped from a high altitude and direct hits were scored. At this airplane left the vicinity, the ship was seen to burst into flames and explode.

The courage, skill and devotion to duty demonstrated by Corp. Cummings on this occasion are worthy of commendation. Corp. James J. Riley, Rt. 2, Bluff City. For meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight over the North Coast of New Guinea in June, 1943. This crew of a heavy bomber was engaged on an individual reconnaissance mission over hostile territory which had never been photographed. At Humbolt Bay, an enemy vessel, protected by a gunboat or corvette, was sighted. Three bombing runs were made, scoring a near miss and one direct hit which set the vessel on fire. A low level bombing run was then made and the last two bombs were successfully dropped. Two direct hits were made causing the hostile vessel to sink within a short period. During the bombing attack anti-aircraft and machine gun fire from the gunboat and cargo vessel was very intense. The courage, ability and devotion to duty of Corp. Riley in the conduct of this mission are in keeping with the high standards of the service.

S-Sgt. David W. Bessire, 407 45th Avenut North, Nashville. For meritorious achievement while participating in twenty-five operational flight missions in the Southwest Pacific area, during which hostile contact was probable and expected. These operations included bomb-

ing missions against enemy air-dromes and installations, armed reconnaissance flights, and attacks on enemy naval vessels and shipping. Throughout these operations, outstanding courage, ability, and devotion to duty were demonstrated.

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