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TUESDAY, 30 APRIL, 1946

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
30th April, 1946.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the GEORGE CROSS to the undermentioned:—

Lieutenant George GOSSE, R.A.N.V.R. (N. Adelaide, Australia).

On the 8th May, 1945, divers searching Übersee Hafen reported the presence of a mine which from their description appeared to be an entirely new type. Lieutenant Gosse immediately dived and verified the fact that it was a GD pressure type which was commonly known as "Oyster." As it was very necessary that this type of mine should be recovered intact it was decided to attempt to render safe the mine underwater and on the following day May 8th Lieutenant Gosse dived on it again. Using improvised tools he eventually succeeded in removing the primer which was followed by a loud metallic crash. The mine was eventually lifted on the quayside when it was found that the detonator had fired immediately the primer had been removed. During the subsequent ten days Lieutenant Gosse rendered safe two similar types of mines which were lying in close proximity to shipping and in each instance the detonator fired before the mine reached the surface.

This form of operation called for exceptionally high standard of personal courage and also a high degree of skill. The conditions were always arduous and were combined with the presence of known mines in the docks and with all forms of underwater obstruction—human corpses—which together with lack of visibility produced a set of conditions which would deter the boldest.

This officer displayed courage and zeal far in excess of the usual course of duty and contributed greatly to the success of a most difficult and important operation.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
30th April, 1946.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

To be an Additional Officer of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:

Acting Commander James Leslie HARRIES, G.M., R.C.N.R. (Montreal P.Q.),

for courage, determination and outstanding leadership in mine clearance and mine disposal operations in North West Europe immediately before the close of the war with Germany and in the months that followed.

To be an Additional Member of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:

Lieutenant Francis Frederick PEARSE, R.N.V.R. (Bristol),

for great zeal and devotion to duty during mine clearance and mine disposal operations in North West Europe immediately before the close of the war with Germany and in the months that followed.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
30th April, 1946.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the George Medal to the undermentioned:

Temporary Acting Lieutenant Paul Roland Frank BRITNELL, R.N.V.R. (Gt. Missenden, Bucks),

for exceptional courage, skill and zeal in rendering safe a mine found in Europa Hafen at Bremen. On 5th August, 1945, he dived on a mine which appeared to be a GC type. When it was eventually raised the description was confirmed and it contained an