

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD.*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.**23rd June, 1936.*

The KING has been graciously pleased, on the occasion of His Majesty's Birthday, to approve of the Award of the Medal of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire to the undermentioned:—

*For Gallantry.*

No. 3768885 Private Richard Blackburn, 1st Battalion, The Cheshire Regiment.

During a forest fire at Kasauli on the 7th June, 1935, a party of troops was threatened by the flames and had to retire. Captain Reed, who was in charge of this party, became separated from the remainder and failed to make his way to safety. Looking back, Private Blackburn saw Captain Reed stumbling in a dazed condition with his clothing alight, and, returning to him, took him to a place which afforded some protection from the flames, and extinguished the burning clothing with his hands. But for Private Blackburn's action it seems certain that Captain Reed would have perished in the flames.

El Yuzbashi (Captain) El Amin Effendi Hemeida, Sudan Defence Force.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in circumstances of very considerable personal danger. On the morning of 4th January, 1936, in the Barracks at Omdurman, a party of the Sudan Defence Force were engaged in making explosive charges. El Amin Effendi Hemeida was in charge of a section of the working party, whose duty was to place the guncotton and primers in containers.

A charge which was being assembled in another part of the room accidentally exploded, killing one Non-Commissioned Officer and injuring a Native Officer and eight Non-Commissioned Officers. The building was extensively damaged and fire broke out in several places.

El Yuzbashi El Amin Effendi Hemeida, though uninjured was badly shaken and dazed. On recovering, although fully realising the risk of further explosions, since he knew that three more containers filled by his section were still in the room, he immediately went to the assistance of the injured, and then took active steps to extinguish the fires and remove the unharmed charges to a place of safety.

His gallant behaviour was instrumental in saving at least one life among the injured, and his presence of mind undoubtedly prevented further explosions which must have resulted in greater loss of life.

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Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire to the undermentioned:—

*For Meritorious Service.*

John Mark Saunders, Stoker Petty Officer, O.N.D./K 22561.

Edgar Tom Lethbridge, Sergeant, Royal Marines, O.N. Ply./16251.

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*For Meritorious Service.*

No. 1023125 Bombardier (Artillery Clerk) James Christie, Royal Artillery, Anti-Gas Wing, Small Arms School, Winterbourne Gunner.

No. 7576720 Staff Sergeant (local Sub-Conductor) (now Warrant Officer, Class II, Staff Quartermaster-Sergeant) Victor Stanley Ebbage, Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

No. 3768749 Private John Lomax, 2nd Battalion, The King's Regiment (Liverpool).

No. 6132807 Sergeant (local Company Sergeant-Major) Leslie John Paine, East Surrey Regiment, Superintending Clerk, Adjutant-General's and Military Secretary's Departments, Sudan Defence Force.

No. 7254432 Sergeant (Temporary Staff Sergeant) Frederick William Stevens, Royal Army Medical Corps, attached to The London Division, Royal Army Medical Corps (T.A.), School of Instruction.

No. 7682728 Sergeant Peter Stoddart, Corps of Military Police.

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*For Meritorious Service.*

354523 Flight Sergeant Eric Richard Bloomfield, Royal Air Force.

207304 Flight Sergeant Arthur Ashley Lester, Royal Air Force.

348752 Sergeant Philip Cullen, Royal Air Force.

506822 Corporal Lawrence Edmund Stack, Royal Air Force.