



SECOND SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 10th of DECEMBER, 1940

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FRIDAY, 13 DECEMBER, 1940

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

13th December, 1940.

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

Brandon Moss, Special Constable, Coventry Special Constabulary.

Special Constable Moss was engaged on duty when a house was struck by an H.E. bomb and completely demolished, burying the three occupants. He led a rescue party in clearing an entry to the trapped victims under extremely dangerous conditions owing to collapsing debris and leaking gas. When conditions became critically dangerous he alone worked his way through a space he cleared and was responsible for the saving of the three persons alive.

It was then learned that other persons were buried in the adjoining premises and Moss at once again led the rescue. The workers became exhausted after many hours of work but Moss laboured unceasingly and inspiringly throughout the complete night, again with falling beams and debris around him, and as a result of his superhuman efforts and utter disregard for personal injury one person was rescued alive and four other bodies recovered. During the whole of the time of the rescue, bombs were dropping around and it was known that there was a delayed action bomb in the doorway of a tavern only 20 yards away. Moss was working from 11 p.m. until 6.30 a.m. without pause.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

December, 1940.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following awards, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct.

Awarded the George Medal.

Reginald Herbert Blunt.
William Harris.

Mr. Blunt is the proprietor and driver and Mr. Harris the feeder of a threshing-machine which has been operating for the past nine weeks in circumstances of the utmost difficulty and of very considerable danger. During this time they, and their threshing set, have been under direct fire from the French coast and practically every day they have been under machine-gun fire from the air. There is heavy anti-aircraft fire from British guns and shrapnel is falling round them much of the time they are at work. On at least one occasion their threshing set was bombed, fortunately with no damage.

Blunt has by his determination and inspiration kept his threshing gang at work. Harris has remained on the machine under fire and has set an extraordinary example of devotion to his work. When the engine of the machine is running it is almost impossible to hear the noise of aircraft or of gunfire and there is consequently no opportunity for either of these men to take shelter

even if much shelter were available, and they have remained at their work in an area where the degree of danger is particularly great.

Blunt and Harris during the last nine weeks have completely threshed out the corn in the district and have therefore done most valuable work for the food production campaign by enabling many hundreds of quarters of corn to be made available for the nation's use, which would have been lost but for their efforts.

Miss Rose Ede, Wadhurst.

During an air raid a farm sustained a direct hit from an H.E. bomb and was completely demolished. Two persons were instantly killed but three children remained trapped in the debris. Mr. and Mrs. Ede and Rose Ede were the first on the scene and hearing the cries of the children they succeeded quite quickly in rescuing two of them. A baby remained trapped under the wreckage of an upstairs room. Rose Ede crawled under the fallen beams, which might have crushed her at any moment, and worked to get the child free whilst her father and other neighbours were endeavouring to lift the beams. She continued to work for over half an hour under the broken roof, moving the child inch by inch and comforting it until the beam was lifted sufficiently for her to rescue the child. She was in complete darkness, and in pouring rain with enemy planes overhead.

Awarded the George Medal.

E. Goodyear, Station Sergeant, Royal Marine Police.

H. D. Robbins, Deputy Armament Supply Officer.

Awarded the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for Meritorious Service.

Constable Drouet, Royal Marine Police.

Constable Taylor, Royal Marine Police.

During an air attack which began at a quarter to one in the morning, between 100 and 200 incendiary bombs were dropped, which started fires over a large area.

The Royal Marine Police at once attacked the flames and, with the help of the local Fire Brigades which arrived very soon, were able to prevent the fires from spreading.

The enemy returned about half past one and dropped some high explosive bombs.

For seven hours they worked in intense heat exposed to danger from exploding ammunition, the enemy's bombs, and a hail of debris from the burning buildings.

Station Sergeant Goodyear was in charge and directed operations with the utmost efficiency and coolness.

Mr. H. D. Robbins, Deputy Armament Supply Officer, though past 60, was active in the fire-fighting and himself put out a fire in the lobby where explosives were housed.

Constables Drouet and Taylor were approaching one of the fires with a hose when they had to throw themselves down to avoid the blast of a high explosive bomb. Undeterred they at once carried on with their work of extinguishing the flames.

Awarded the George Medal.

Henry Bernard Neale, Fireman, Auxiliary Fire Service.

During operations following an enemy air attack it became necessary to stop up a large leak that had appeared in the top of a tank which had been on fire. The flames had been extinguished but the oil pouring out of the tank was quite likely to catch fire again.

Neale, enlisting the aid of two firemen from another unit, secured a thirty-foot extension ladder and a plank. He then climbed the iron ladder that was secured to the side of the tank and, with help, dragged the extension ladder up to the top. He was joined by the Senior Officer and the Engineer, the ladder was extended to its full length and dropped over the other side of the tank. Neale then opened a lid on the top of the tank to ascertain the depth of the oil, which was found to be roughly eight feet from the top.

The Senior Officer then went down the ladder and plugged the hole with soft wood. The whole of this operation from start to finish was a very risky undertaking. Apart from fires in the vicinity and the likelihood of certain gases being given off in the tank, one slip on the top would no doubt have been fatal.

Neale also played a great part in the saving of another tank. This tank had a hole in it about four feet above the base and burning oil was pouring from it. The crew played two very strong jets at the leak, driving the flames away. Two more cross jets were used to drive away the burning oil at the base of the tank, making a passage between the tank and the fire. Neale and another fireman bridged the gap between the tank and the bank with a ladder and proceeded to plug the hole with wood. While this operation was in progress, two more jets were played above the men, making a curtain of water and at the same time cooling the tanks. If at any time the two cross jets had failed to beat back the burning oil, the two men would certainly have been burned, perhaps with serious consequences. The tank was saved.

Frederick Parkes, A.R.P. Warden.

Mr. Parkes who was not on duty heard that a bomb had been dropped on some works and he immediately went to see if he could be of assistance. An H.E. bomb had been dropped close to the outside wall and the premises were well alight as a 3-inch gas main had been broken and the gas ignited. The works' roof watchers had been able to get down from the roof safely and in company with these workers, Mr. Parkes went into the premises to see if it was possible to extinguish the fire. A considerable quantity of sand was applied to the source of the blaze but this was found to be ineffective. They then stopped an A.F.S. tender and the leader of the squad and Parkes made their way as far along the passage entrance as they could, but it was decided that it was impossible to get into the building, as there was every likelihood of the remaining unfallen structure coming down. Parkes was aware of the exact position of the gas cock in the cellar of the adjacent premises, and with the assistance of another employee managed to

enter the cellar, head first through a small opening of 12 inches to 15 inches square, and turn off the gas at the main. The fire was then extinguished without much difficulty.

His action, a particularly courageous one, undoubtedly saved the whole of these works from destruction.

Miss Betty Quinn, St. John's Ambulance Brigade, Coventry.

Miss Quinn was rendering voluntary service at an A.R.P. Post when a shower of incendiary bombs fell in the district. Without waiting for assistance she ran outside. At this time A.A. Batteries were putting up a heavy barrage and shrapnel was falling all round. Bombs began to fall and a man was injured by one. Miss Quinn assisted him to a public shelter. A report came in of an Anderson shelter receiving a direct hit and although bombs were still falling, Miss Quinn ran there and commenced digging in the crater with a spade. She remained there and assisted to dig out seven persons who had been trapped and then attended to their injuries. She stayed until all had been removed by ambulance although shells were bursting overhead the whole of the time. She then returned to the Post and carried on with her duties assisting distressed people there.

Albert Edward Parsons Twyman, Chief Officer, Fire Brigade.

Frederick Walter Watson, Fireman, Fire Brigade.

Serious fires were caused when a series of bombing and machine-gun attacks took place. Fire Brigades and Auxiliary Fire Services were called out, and worked under most dangerous conditions, saving much valuable equipment and extinguishing the fires before nightfall. Two men having entered a burning building with breathing apparatus, Chief Officer Twyman led others (not so equipped) by crawling into the building and forming a chain whereby material was passed out and the whole stock saved.

On another occasion Oil Stores were fired and the only water supply was from an underground tank within five feet of which a delayed action bomb had fallen. None the less this source of supply was used and, although fully realising the danger, Watson, the Pump Engineer, remained working within a few feet of the unexploded bomb whilst the fires were tackled. While this was being done a further bombing attack developed, a heavy H.E. bomb exploding within 20 feet of the place where the men had taken cover. Despite shock the men continued work and carried on during a later machine-gun attack, eventually extinguishing the fires before dark. Chief Officer Twyman showed great qualities of leadership and courage, setting a fine example to the men under him who, with him, fulfilled their important and dangerous task. Fireman Watson by his courage and devotion to duty enabled the only water supply to be utilised.

Thomas James Vickers, Works Fitter, South Metropolitan Gas Company.

During an air raid a gasholder was struck by an H.E. bomb. The gas in the holder was ignited and the flame set fire to offices and adjoining buildings. An adjacent gas-

holder had the side plates of the top lift pierced by fragments of the bomb or of shell, and the gas escaping from the perforations was ignited. The flame from the fire in the offices also endangered the safety of this holder.

Vickers climbed the holder to a height of 60 feet and sealed the perforations with clay and afterwards with soft wooden plugs. The perforations were many, and Vickers' action greatly eased a serious situation, thus preserving the second gasholder and allowing all efforts to be concentrated on the extinction of the fire in the offices before nightfall. During his action bombs were falling nearby, and there was heavy gunfire.

Awarded the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for Meritorious Service.

Alfred Waters George Barnes, Messenger, Research Department, Ministry of Supply.

During a severe air raid Mr. Barnes was acting as first-aid man. He carried out all his duties with enthusiasm and efficiency. He went out of the post during the height of the bombardment without hesitation to attend to injured men in other shelters in the vicinity, and though when the bombardment was over he appeared exhausted, he remained on duty for the whole of the 24 hours allotted to him. During this time he was conspicuous by the cheerful and efficient manner in which he carried out any work assigned to him, and on his own initiative made arrangements for the removal of the dead bodies in the area.

On the completion of his tour of duty, Barnes asked permission to stay at his post. He declined to leave his post for the best part of 60 hours, during which time he had very little sleep or rest as there were more or less continuous air raids. He remained cool and efficient throughout and carried out a number of duties additional to his official one of first-aid man.

George Kewley, A.R.P. Warden, Birkenhead.
Robert William Parry, A.R.P. Warden, Birkenhead.

During an enemy air raid a High Explosive bomb dropped on some dwelling houses. The Wardens were very quickly on the spot and rendered assistance before any of the Services arrived, doing valuable work.

R. W. Parry was able to release three of the inmates of the house. On reaching the debris he carefully climbed up to the top and discovered an injured woman. Kewley followed Parry, stopping on a lower level and establishing himself to act as a "go between" to the man above and persons below. The injured woman was passed by Parry via Kewley to the ground, and first aid was rendered until the First Aid Party arrived.

Another woman was then found with head and shoulder protruding. Her baby, who was above her, was completely covered with slates and debris of all kinds. After carefully removing this, Parry, who had been joined by a civilian, was able to extricate the baby unhurt and passed the child down to Kewley.

Parry then turned to the other woman and proceeded to extricate her. It was found

that a beam was lying across her and the debris had to be removed from around this. The woman was then removed by lowering her underneath the beam, Parry and the civilian making sure the beam did not move.

Leonard Mountain, Permanent Unestablished Workman, Admiralty Establishment, Greenwich.

During an air raid a bomb fell causing much damage and cutting a 3-inch gas main. An open fire was in a lodge close at hand and there was risk of an explosion. During the raid, when splinters from bursting shells were falling, Mountain made a temporary stopping to the gas main, preventing the escape of gas. While he was working in the bomb-crater, with much gas escaping, he was in danger of being overcome by fumes but carried on in spite of the danger to himself.

Jack Reynolds, A.R.P. Messenger, Birmingham.

During an enemy air raid a house was demolished by an H.E. bomb, six occupants being trapped in the cellar. At the risk of great personal danger from falling debris and structural collapse Reynolds volunteered to crawl along the beams and enter the cellar by means of a very small aperture. He succeeded in rescuing four persons, three injured and one uninjured and then reported that there were two who were too heavy for him to move. A rope was passed to him and a sheet of iron. He tied the rope round the people's waists, and, using the sheet of iron as a slide, these two were drawn up through the aperture. Undoubtedly, the boy's action saved these persons' lives.

George Smith, Lengthsman, Roads and Bridges Department, Cheshire County Council.

During an enemy raid incendiary bombs were dropped on several cottages. One oil bomb dropped outside the back door of one of these cottages setting fire to the house and the clothing of a woman, her daughter, and a pram containing another child.

George Smith who lives nearby saw this and at once, although bombs were still dropping, ran over, went into the house and found a child sheltering under a table with her clothes on fire. He carried her out of the house, put out the flames with his hands and returned to the building where he found another child whom he rescued. This child was not on fire. As it appeared that there was still another child inside the house he went in, but could not find her. It was afterwards discovered that she had run out of the house.

Smith then showed the woman where to go for shelter, and gave first aid until the arrival of first aid personnel.

One child and the baby in the pram subsequently died.

David William Thomas, Senior Warden.
Albert Emerson Truman, Senior Warden.

Both these Wardens were on duty on the night of a severe air raid. A High Explosive

bomb dropped a matter of yards from the Wardens Post, damaging the Post. Thomas was on duty in the Post and Truman was on patrol duty. As a result of this bomb explosion extensive damage was done to workshops, stores and houses, whilst several fires were started. Truman and Thomas took charge of the situation immediately. Using stirrup pumps and water they commenced to fight the fires. When one trailer pump that arrived failed to function and fresh fires broke out, Truman and Thomas tackled these fires without regard for their personal safety. This work was being carried on while enemy planes were still dropping bombs.

At the points where they were using the stirrup pumps there was great danger from falling debris from the damaged houses, and Thomas and Truman, who carried on, undoubtedly saved the situation by preventing small fires from becoming a conflagration.

COMMENDATIONS:

Those named below have been brought to notice for brave conduct in connection with Civil Defence:—

W. Bright, Skilled Labourer, Victualling Yard.
Cecil Diplock, Section Officer, Maidstone Auxiliary Fire Service.

Herbert Reginald Evans, Leading Fireman, Margate Auxiliary Fire Service.

B. Fowling, Engineer's Department, Victualling Yard.

Robert Glennon, Auxiliary Fireman, Northampton Auxiliary Fire Service.

Arthur Thomas Harrison, Fireman, Margate Fire Brigade.

Douglas S. Johnson, A.R.P. Stretcher Bearer, Romford.

Constable Lewis, Royal Marine Police.

Charles Augustus Lowlett, Leader of First Aid Party, Portsmouth.

Miss Lilian Maher, Mona Hotel, Liverpool.

Sam Moore, A.R.P. Stretcher Bearer, Coventry.

W. Morris, Motor Driver, Victualling Yard.

Gabriel George Nye, Foreman, Margate Fire Brigade.

H. F. Proctor, Superintendent, Victualling Yard.

Albert George Rigden, Laundry Maintenance Engineer, Folkestone.

Mrs. Ada Louise Rose, A.R.P. Warden, Birmingham.

E. Rose, Skilled Labourer, Victualling Yard.

E. E. Sandeman, Mechanic Driver, Victualling Yard.

G. E. Scott, Mechanic Driver, Victualling Yard.

Donald George Setterfield, Fireman, Margate Fire Brigade.

Walter Keith Shirley Smith, Patrol Officer, Northampton Auxiliary Fire Brigade.

Peter Springall, A.R.P. Messenger, Lewisham.

Mrs. Dorothy Louise Vane, A.R.P. Ambulance Driver, Coventry.

John Venables, A.F.S. Messenger, Coventry.

Harry Warren, L.R.C.P.I., L.R.C.S.I., Medical Officer in Charge, Mobile Aid Post, Maidstone.

Winifred Mary Warren, Nursing Sister, Mobile Aid Post, Maidstone.

Albert George Watson, Superintendent, Margate Fire Brigade.

Michael John Wicks, Fireman, Margate Fire Brigade.

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