



SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 17th of DECEMBER, 1940

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TUESDAY, 17 DECEMBER, 1940

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD,

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
17th December, 1940.*

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

Roy T. Harris, Staff Officer, A.R.P. Engineers Service, Croydon.

For conspicuous bravery in carrying out dangerous duties.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD,

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
17th 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.

John Arthur Blake, A.R.P. Incident Officer, Bermondsey.

Following an air raid an area had been burning for more than three hours and had been evacuated. Blake heard that a fireman was lying wounded somewhere in the area and would require transportation to hospital.

At great personal risk, he drove towards the spot, the property on either side being ablaze and burning debris falling continually on to the road. During the journey, a bomb exploded in front of his car, wrecking it completely. Blake then proceeded on foot and, climbing through a space in the burning fence, gained access to the inner dock buildings. As the area had been evacuated, no help would have been forthcoming if he had been injured.

After some searching, Blake found six firemen lying among blazing debris, all seriously wounded. He then went back and, finding a telephone still in service, called for an ambulance. While receiving this call the Deputy Controller who was in the Control Room, heard two heavy detonations through the telephone. Two bombs had blown Blake away from the instrument, but after recovering from the shock, he returned and again got into communication with Control Centre.

The wounded firemen were removed to hospital, where three of them recovered. There is no possible doubt that, but for Blake's action, none of these men would have survived.

His car was eventually discovered in the bomb-crater.

On the same day, elsewhere, Blake was informed that some people were trapped inside an Anderson Shelter which was entirely surrounded by fire, thus preventing any attempt at rescue.

Without hesitation, Blake went through the flames and succeeded in extricating three people, all of whom were suffering from shock.