



SUPPLEMENT

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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
17th January, 1941.*

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

Albert Ernest Dolphin (deceased), Porter,
South Eastern Hospital, New Cross.

A high explosive bomb fell on the kitchens of Ward Block 1 at the South Eastern Hospital, killing four nurses who were in the ground floor kitchen and injuring the night Sister and patients in the adjoining ward. A nurse, who was in the ward kitchen on the first floor, was thrown through the collapsing floor into the passage below. Together with other helpers, Albert Ernest Dolphin, one of the porters of the hospital, rushed to the site and found her pinioned by a block of masonry across her legs. While they were working the wall was heard to crack and subsequently collapsed. The workers had ample time to jump clear before the masonry fell, but Dolphin remained where he was and his body was subsequently found lying face downwards across the nurse with his head towards the wall which collapsed on top of him. When found he was dead, but the nurse, who was subsequently extricated, was

still alive, though severely injured. There is no doubt that Dolphin, although aware that the wall was about to collapse, deliberately remained where he was and threw himself across the nurse's body in an endeavour to protect her. This he succeeded in doing at the cost of his own life.

Leonard John Miles (deceased), A.R.P.
Warden, Ilford.

Volunteer warden, Mr. L. J. Miles, was on duty when he was warned of imminent danger of an explosion nearby. He could have taken a few paces and gone to a public shelter only a few yards away, but instead his sense of duty forced him to run towards the scene to warn members of the public he knew to be in their houses. He had succeeded in warning certain of the residents when the explosion occurred, inflicting serious injuries which proved fatal.

Whilst lying awaiting the ambulance to remove him to hospital, he was conscious and obviously suffering; this did not reduce his sense of duty and when a fellow warden approached him to render whatever aid he could, Miles instructed him to attend first to the fire which had been caused by a fractured gas main.

Warden Miles showed magnificent courage and devotion to duty.