



## SUPPLEMENT

TO

# The London Gazette

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FRIDAY, 14 NOVEMBER, 1941

### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
14th November, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following awards of the George Medal and of the British Empire Medal and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of the persons specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct in Civil Defence:—

#### *Awarded the George Medal:—*

Stephen Robert Jeeves, Bodymaker's Assistant, Southern Railway. (Now serving as Ordinary Seaman No. JX.257401, Royal Navy.)

A large number of incendiary bombs fell on and around a railway station and inspection sheds in which were six box wagons loaded with anti-aircraft shells and bombs.

Two of the wagons caught alight causing explosions in other wagons and the flying metal made the isolation of the blazing wagons a dangerous and hazardous task.

Jeeves led an attempt to subdue the blazing trucks of exploding shells. With two volunteers he ran forward with a hose but had only gone a few paces when one of the men

fell, fatally injured by a shell fragment. Jeeves courageously carried on but was eventually forced to give up owing to the failure of the water supply. He then helped to deal with the various fires that had broken out nearby.

Jeeves showed gallant conduct and outstanding qualities of leadership in the face of extreme danger.

Fred Potter, Wagon Examiner, London and North Eastern Railway.

During an air raid incendiary bombs fell amongst valuable timber stacks and numerous fires were started.

Potter, unassisted, tried to remove a burning tarpaulin sheet from one of the stacks. The heat of the fire, however, had caused the sheet to adhere to the timber and he was unable to lift it.

There was no water available at this particular spot but, by using sandbags and ashes, Potter extinguished fires which had started in other stacks.

He then fetched four lengths of fire hose from an Auxiliary Fire Station 400 yards away and, alone, attacked another fire.

Later, high explosive bombs fell on some stables nearby. Potter removed sufficient of the debris to enable him to rescue five horses.

He then saw that the wooden decking around a coal hoist was on fire. Improvising a rope, by fastening together a number of sheet strings, he drew water from the dock in buckets and extinguished the fire, thereby saving the hoist from destruction.

Potter showed courage and resource in undertaking, unaided, a succession of highly dangerous tasks.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Robert Hume, Yard Inspector,	} London and North Eastern Railway.
John Steel, Driver,	

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

Jonathan William Angus, Acting Class III Shunter,	} London and North Eastern Railway.
Charles Colthorpe, Yard Inspector,	
Robert Stephen Ward, Acting Yard Inspector,	

During an air raid on a Docks, incendiary bombs were dropped in and around sidings containing stacks of pit props, many of which were set alight. The sidings also contained 300 wagons, some loaded with ammunition, which were alongside the burning stacks. Seven wagons at different points were set alight.

Hume was in charge of the work in the sidings and he, with Colthorpe, Steel, Angus and Ward, extinguished a number of incendiary bombs. Realising that, in spite of their efforts, all the wagons were likely to become involved in the fire, Hume decided to remove them to a safer area.

With the assistance of the other men 274 of the wagons, including those loaded with ammunition and others which by this time were burning, were moved to sidings unaffected by the fires. Of the remaining wagons only one, containing steel helmets, was burned out.

The Fireman on Steel's engine was a lad of seventeen years of age and, in view of the great risk involved, Steel refused to allow him to remain on the engine, and manned it himself, single handed.

Hume, who is 65 years of age, took the lead in the difficult and dangerous operations and there is no doubt that, but for the courage and resource of these five men, the whole of the 300 wagons would have been lost. Tremendous destruction must have occurred had the wagons of ammunition exploded.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

George Roberts, Goods Guard, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

Peter Kilshaw, Goods Guard,	} London Midland and Scottish Railway.
James Edward Rowland, Goods Guard,	

During an enemy air raid a bomb fell on a train of munitions stabled in an old siding. Roberts, accompanied by Kilshaw and Row-

land, volunteered to go to the scene and, at considerable risk to themselves, the men made an inspection of the sidings and uncoupled wagons which were in danger of burning.

During the whole of the time the men were engaged upon this work, explosions were occurring in the munitions train and there was added danger from high explosive bombs which continued to fall nearby.

Roberts, as the leader of the party, set a high example and showed considerable initiative and courage.

Kilshaw and Rowland, with complete disregard of the many dangers, carried out their duties with coolness and determination.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

John Edwin Ernest Antliff, Skilled Workman, Class I, Post Office Telephone Manager's Office, Plymouth.

During air raids Mr. Antliff has driven supervising Engineers round areas where many fires were raging. On one occasion, when the properties surrounding a Post Office building were blazing fiercely, Antliff entered a warehouse, although the roof was liable to collapse, and removed bales of straw which, had they ignited, would have greatly added to the danger. He also removed records to safety, in the course of which he drove through streets enveloped in flames.

Mr. Antliff is responsible for maintaining the large Private Branch Exchanges in Plymouth and, in spite of power supply failures, he did excellent work in keeping important installations functioning satisfactorily. His courage and devotion to duty have been a source of inspiration to his colleagues.

George Brown, Assistant Traffic Agent, London and North Eastern Railway.

During an air raid Brown, who was off duty, noticed a blaze in the direction of a Dock and immediately cycled from his home and found that incendiary bombs had been dropped in large numbers. He obtained the assistance of other staff and, although H.E. bombs and shrapnel were falling nearby, extinguished the incendiaries. Brown and the other men continued their efforts until a H.E. bomb demolished a chimney thirty yards away. The blast and debris injured three of the party, and Brown gave first aid to the wounded.

He then helped to put out fires in wagons loaded with ammunition.

Brown displayed a high standard of initiative and leadership and by his example encouraged the Yard staff to carry out difficult and dangerous operations.

William Edward Brown, Inspector (Engineering),	} Post Office Tele- phone Manager's Office, Plymouth.
Ernest Philip Stokes, Skilled Workman, Class I,	

During air raids a main trunk underground route was damaged and important cables were severed in two places by H.E. bombs, one crater being about fifty yards from a time

bomb. The cables carried not only public junctions and trunk circuits but very important defence circuits and it was vital that repairs should be made as quickly as possible.

Mr. Stokes, who was the jointer in charge of the party under Mr. Brown's supervision, was the first to volunteer to perform the repair work.

The courageous example and devotion to duty shown by Brown and Stokes inspired the repair party to carry on in extremely dangerous conditions.

Francis William Clarke, Parcels Porter, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

During a period of heavy enemy air activity a signal box was demolished by a high explosive bomb, the Signalman being injured and buried beneath the debris which was on fire. He managed to extricate himself and his cries for help were heard by Porter Clarke. Although Clarke is only 5 ft. 3 ins. in height he got the Signalman on his back and carried him towards the Station. In the darkness Clarke got entangled with some wires and fell down with the casualty on top of him. He recovered and started out again but was knocked down by the blast of a H.E. bomb which exploded nearby.

Although almost exhausted Clarke struggled on and got the injured man to a first aid post.

He displayed courage and determination and was responsible for saving the life of the Signalman.

Miss Eva May Couzens, Supervisor (Telephones), Post Office, Portsmouth.

Miss Queenie Frances Smith, Supervisor (Telephones), Post Office, Southampton.

These Supervisors of Women Telephone Operators have, by their courage and devotion to duty, set a fine example to their staffs.

During air attacks on the areas in which they work, they have maintained an efficient telephone service during periods of great danger.

William Thomas Flegg, Acting Temporary Stationary Machinery Attendant, London Midland and Scottish Railway (now serving as a Refrigerator Greaser in the Merchant Navy).

Incendiary bombs were dropped on station shunting premises. Flegg immediately helped to dispose of the bombs and to get a hose playing on a straw shed which was on fire.

He then saw a bright light in the windows of a warehouse.

To reach the top floor Flegg, in the dark, had to find and negotiate three iron ladders with a trap door at the top of each.

He got to the top storey but, before he could deal with the bomb, it burned through the floor and dropped on to the fourth floor below, a few inches from a large stack of paper.

Although Flegg was in danger of being trapped in the burning room he remained and, with great coolness and courage, succeeded in putting out the fire.

George Herbert Fowell, Casual Shunter, London and North Eastern Railway.

A number of incendiary bombs fell in a railway Yard and one of them set light to a wooden building used as an office.

Fowell, with other members of the staff, fought this fire and progress was being made when the water supply was cut off. The fire then got a good hold.

Standing on rails less than four feet away from the burning hut were two brake vans and four loaded petrol tanks. The brake vans were soon burning furiously and consequently the petrol tanks were liable to explode.

An engine was obtained and coupled on to a rake of 32 wagons which were backed on to the petrol tanks.

Shunter Fowell, with complete disregard of his own safety, uncoupled the petrol tanks from the two burning brake vans and coupled them to the wagons and engine, making it possible for them to be drawn to a place of safety.

Henry John Gardner, Engine Driver, Ernest Newham, Station Foreman, Albert Victor Newman, Locomotive Fireman,	}	Southern Railway.
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Newham, after helping to put out numerous incendiary bombs, saw that a nearby factory was alight. Knowing that five wagons of explosives were included in the freight train stabled close to the fire he, with assistance, separated the wagons and pushed a number clear of danger. Newman and Gardner volunteered to work the engine and, notwithstanding the terrific heat and continued enemy action, all the wagons were drawn out, the burning trucks being placed under a water crane. Newham then climbed on top of the wagons to ascertain that all fires were extinguished.

The three men displayed courage and devotion to duty in conditions of great danger.

Leslie Kirby, Police Constable, Lincolnshire County Constabulary.

Bombs demolished houses and a woman was trapped in the debris. There was danger of a further collapse and, at great risk to his life, Constable Kirby crawled six feet under the debris. There was very limited space in the tunnel but the Constable, lying prone, was able to get his arms around the victim's shoulders and was then dragged to safety, bringing the woman with him.

William Henry Runicles, Carpenter, London and North Eastern Railway.

Bombs set fire to buildings the roofs of which collapsed.

An incendiary bomb fell on an injured man who would have been fatally burned had not Runicles, with his bare hands, removed the smoking and red hot bomb. Although his right arm had been severely burned, Runicles then extricated four men who had been buried in the debris and also extinguished several other incendiaries thus preventing fires from spreading.

Walter George Searle, Fire-watcher, Post Office Telephone Manager's Office, Plymouth. (now Executive Officer, War Damage Commission.)

During the early part of an air raid, Mr. Searle, at great personal risk, dealt effectively with a number of incendiaries and an outbreak of fire was effectively prevented.

Heavy bombing followed and Searle worked throughout the night showing great courage and devotion to duty in dealing with the many dangerous situations which arose.

Later, the building was demolished by a direct hit, and Mr. Searle was buried for seven hours, two of his fellow fire-watchers being killed.

Frederick Albert Willcocks, Skilled Workman, Class I, Post Office Telephone Manager's Office, Plymouth.

During air raids on Plymouth Mr. Willcocks, who is responsible for maintaining an important exchange, did excellent work, particularly during one of the raids when the public power supply failed. Through the whole period his devotion to duty and complete disregard of danger so inspired his colleagues that there was no interruption of the vital services afforded by this exchange.

Albert Edmund Wright, Passed Fireman, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

High explosive bombs completely demolished office buildings at a Goods Yard, four members of the staff being killed and seven injured. A rescue squad, led by Fireman Wright, immediately got to work and found a man injured and trapped under the wreckage, his head being wedged between heavy beams of the roof which had collapsed. There was a great danger of further injury to the man and Wright crawled under the debris to protect him. He remained attending to the casualty for three hours before it was possible for the rescue squad to effect a release. During the time the rescue work was in progress there was very heavy enemy air activity and fire broke out in the wreckage.

Fireman Wright exhibited great coolness in face of the danger of being trapped or injured.

#### COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been Commended for brave conduct in Civil Defence:—

Charles Andrews, Stableman, London and North Eastern Railway.

Harry William Ballard, Goods Guard, Southern Railway.

Robert Barnes, Signalman, London and North Eastern Railway.

Robert Bate, Driver, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

William Leslie Bennett, Goods Checker, Great Western Railway.

Sidney Boswell, Signalman, Southern Railway.

Miss Hilda May Bray (deceased), Fire Watcher (Clerical Officer), Post Office Telephone Manager's Office, Plymouth.

Miss Meta Cornish Chadwick, Caretaker-Operator's Assistant, Post Office Telephone Exchange, Torpoint.

Miss Olive Gwendoline Chadwick, Telephonist, Post Office Telephone Exchange, Torpoint.

Benjamin Codd, Porter, Southern Railway.

Thomas Evan Colley, Goods Guard, London and North Eastern Railway.

Harry Charles Constable, Ganger, Southern Railway.

Alexander Coombe, Skilled Workman, Class II, Post Office Telephone Manager's Office, Plymouth.

Robert Owen Evans, Shunter, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

Thomas Farey, D.C.M., Police Sergeant, London and North Eastern Railway.

William Frederick Fowler, Fireman, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

Miss Winifred Gent (deceased), Fire Watcher (Clerical Officer), Post Office Telephone Manager's Office, Plymouth.

Joseph Gorbart, Horse Keeper, London and North Eastern Railway.

John Guinan, Goods Guard, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

John Norman Jackson, Supernumerary Porter (Goods), Great Western Railway.

Bessie, Mrs. Kelly, Porter, Grade I, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

Captain John Joseph Lambert, Dredging Superintendent, London and North Eastern Railway.

George Law, Signalman, Southern Railway.

Robert Frederick Lawrence, Dredger Deck-hand, London and North Eastern Railway.

Allen Leadbeater, Assistant District Controller, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

William John Love, Motorman, Southern Railway.

George McDonnell, Lad Porter, London and North Eastern Railway.

Joseph Phepoe, Checker, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

Alexander Ritchie, Driver, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

Ernest Stephen Roberts, Temporary Door-keeper, Post Office Telephone Exchange, Plymouth.

James Harold Rubie, Signalman, Southern Railway.

Alfred Robert Simmons, Fireman, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

George Edward Spendlow, Firewatcher, Louth. Peter William Stringer, Signalman, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

Charles Frederick Sturgeon, Yard Shunter, Southern Railway.

John Henry Taylor, Dock Gateman, Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.

Lawrence Walker, Shunter, Class III, London and North Eastern Railway.

William Warcup, Tug Master, London and North Eastern Railway.

Percy Ladas Watson, Yard Foreman, Class I, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

Horace Wigfield, Supernumerary Porter (Goods), Great Western Railway.

George Wilkinson, Fireman, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

Thomas Wright, Police Constable, London and North Eastern Railway.

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OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
14th November, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned award and for the publication in the London Gazette of the name of the individual shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for brave conduct.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil  
Division):—*

Harry Cecil Smith, Motor Driver, London and North Eastern Railway.

An aircraft crashed and caught fire and the rear gunner was trapped in the burning wreckage. Despite the fierce flames, Smith

tore away a part of the fuselage, managed to reach the injured gunner and carried him to safety. Smith returned twice to the burning wreckage to drag away the pilot and another member of the crew, who were lying unconscious under the nose of the plane. There were explosive and incendiary bombs on board the aircraft and, during this time ammunition exploded continuously and the petrol tanks blew up.

Smith, by his prompt and gallant action, saved three lives.

## COMMENDATION.

The individual named below has been Commended for his brave conduct during operations in Syria:—

Hugh Mackintosh Foot, O.B.E., Assistant British Resident, Trans-Jordan.

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