



SUPPLEMENT
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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
19th December, 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:—

John Lappin, Section Officer, Liverpool Auxiliary Fire Service (now National Fire Service).

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Noel Landau, Section Officer, Liverpool Auxiliary Fire Service (now National Fire Service).

Henry Hodge, Auxiliary Fireman, Liverpool Auxiliary Fire Service (now National Fire Service).

James Roach, Auxiliary Fireman, Liverpool Auxiliary Fire Service (now National Fire Service).

Enemy action caused a serious fire at a Dock in which a ship containing a quantity of explosive was berthed.

The ship and large sheds alongside were burning furiously and bombs continued to fall all around. With full knowledge of the tremendous risk involved, an A.F.S. crew, under the leadership of Section Officer Lappin, fought the shed fires in a gallant but vain effort to reach and save the blazing ship.

The ship eventually exploded causing many deaths, but the Section Officer rallied the men

under his command and, although on the verge of collapse from fatigue, he continued to hold the situation.

Lappin displayed a fine example of courage and devotion to duty and led his men without any regard for his own safety.

Section Officer Landau, who showed bravery and unyielding devotion to duty, courageously obeyed all commands in the most nerve testing circumstances. Although he knew there would be a second explosion, Landau stayed on and attended to the removal of the dead and injured, personally rescuing many of the wounded and organising their removal to hospital in improvised ambulances.

Hodge, who turned out although he should have been resting, showed great devotion to duty and his courage inspired his colleagues to continue with their dangerous task.

Roach was several times thrown over by blast from bombs, but he continued at his post throughout the night, working indefatigably until when the explosion occurred he was injured by blast and flying debris.

Awarded the George Medal:—

John Samuel Mercer, Pressureman, The Liverpool Gas Company.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

James Edmund Hayes, Leader, Works Fire Brigade, The Liverpool Gas Company.

During an air raid a large gas holder received a direct hit through the crown, which was almost completely stripped off, and the gas immediately caught fire.

Mercer, who was about thirty-five yards away, received a severe shock. With utter disregard for his own safety and in the face of