

the aircraft. Mr. Owen, without regard for his own safety, pulled aside parts of the burning wreckage and, whilst so doing, the petrol tank of the aircraft exploded.

He managed however to extricate the child and extinguish the flames which enveloped her.

Mr. Owen acted with courage and great promptitude.

COMMENDATIONS.

The individuals named below have been brought to notice for their brave conduct.

For services when attempting to rescue an airman from the sea:—

George Cledwyn Arthur (deceased); Police Constable, Rhosneigr, Anglesey.

Evan Jones (deceased), Coastguard Officer, Anglesey.

Arthur John Owen, Esq. (deceased), First Officer, Merchant Navy.

For brave conduct when rescuing children trapped under a crashed and burning aircraft:—

Margaret, Mrs. McEnroe, Housewife, Juniper, Cottisford, Oxon.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
30th January, 1942.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned awards 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 brave conduct in Civil Defence:—

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Miss Frances Brassfield, Midwife, Municipal Midwifery Service, Portsmouth.

Nurse Brassfield was called to a patient during an air raid. Bombs fell very close to the house, the windows of which were blown in. The nurse placed her patient in comparative safety under a table and later twins were born. Another bomb fell, damaging the house and as the debris fell all around, Nurse Brassfield protected the mother and babies with her own body. Although suffering from shock she then arranged for her charges to be conveyed to hospital.

Nurse Brassfield showed courage and, by her coolness, was a source of encouragement to her patient.

Thomas James Turner, Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Bootle.

Henry Ellison Etherington, Member, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Bootle.

Lorenzo Joseph Hardwick, Member, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Bootle.

Houses were damaged by H.E. bombs and two women were trapped under the wreckage which caught fire.

Turner directed his squad to clear a way into the debris and, taking a hosepipe with him, tunnelled into the burning mass. With the help of Etherington, the fire was partially damped down but before they could reach the victims it increased. Whilst firemen directed water on to the fire, Turner and Etherington continued to work and eventually rescued the two women.

On another occasion Turner's squad went to the rescue of six persons trapped in the wreckage of a demolished house.

Hardwick volunteered to be lowered into a cavity and, working under the debris which was liable to collapse, he cut through joists and succeeded in freeing three people.

He was then relieved by Etherington who continued until the remaining persons were extricated.

The three men showed courage in the face of danger and on both occasions Leader Turner displayed skill in the direction of the rescue operations which resulted in the saving of eight lives.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

Michael Sheerin, Member, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Bootle.

John Smith, Member, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Bootle.

Patrick Walter Wilkie, Demolition Foreman, Birmingham.

The name of George Pearson, Chargehand Coppersmith and Tank Maker, is as now described and not as stated in Gazette No. 35399 dated 1st January, 1942, page 30.

The name of Edward Ascroft, Process Worker, Royal Ordnance Factory, is as now described and not as stated in Gazette No. 35384, dated 19th December, 1941, page 7161.

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