

John Attard, Mains Engineer, Electricity Branch, Water and Electricity Department, Malta.

During the intense air raids on the Island breakages in the electricity mains have occurred in many places almost every day. Mr. Attard and his gangs have worked untiringly day and night, often to have their work brought to nothing by further bombing almost as soon as it was completed. He has shown splendid devotion to duty and his work has contributed to the Island's resistance by ensuring that interruptions of electric power have been reduced to a minimum.

Charles Jones, Superintendent of Passive Defence, Malta.

Mr. Jones has shown consistent and marked leadership, resolution and efficiency while in charge of Sliema A.R.P. Centre. On numerous occasions he has displayed personal courage and it is due to his example that the Centre in his charge has on all occasions performed its work rapidly and efficiently.

Arthur Mortimer, Senior Engineer, Water Branch, Water and Electricity Department, Malta.

In conditions of acute difficulty, Mr. Mortimer has been responsible for maintaining the water supply for the Island. Recently difficulties have greatly increased and the Water Branch has been under continuous strain. It is largely due to Mr. Mortimer's ability and example that the Water Service has been run with such conspicuous success.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Francis Calleja, Passive Defence Reservist, Malta.

Caneelo Galea, Passive Defence Reservist, Malta.

A man was trapped in the basement of a house which had been demolished by a bomb.

All entrances to the basement were blocked but Calleja and Galea managed to reach him through a small ventilator. Although there was serious danger of all three being trapped and crushed by a further fall of masonry the two Reservists succeeded in rescuing the victim.

Vivian Charles Byers Degrey, Inspector of Police, Malta.

Inspector Degrey has displayed outstanding ability and calmness in periods of crisis. He has been in charge of a squad of constables who volunteered to carry out certain defence work on aerodromes. It is due to his courage and leadership in the face of numerous attacks by the enemy that the work has progressed satisfactorily.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
22nd May, 1942.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for the following award 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:—

To be Additional Members of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

John William Coxon, Chief Officer, Merchant Navy.

John Edward Bracken, Chief Engineer, Merchant Navy.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Lindsay Simpson Parker, Able Seaman, Merchant Navy.

The ship, loaded with explosives, was on the high seas. At dawn it was reported that some gear was out of commission. The hatch-covers were removed and dense clouds of smoke at once poured out. Mr. Bracken entered the hold and found the port side of the insulated chamber in flames.

Fire-fighting parties were at once organised, all hands were mustered and hoses connected. Mr. Coxon with Able Seaman Parker entered the burning chamber and directed water on to the fire. The rest of the crew meanwhile removed cases of high explosive fuses, two of which were already on fire. The outbreak was brought under control after two hours' work.

It was mainly due to the courage and resource of the two Officers and the Able Seaman that the lives of the ship's company and the valuable freight were saved.

COMMENDATIONS.

The individuals named below have been commended for brave conduct.

When helping to rescue the crews of crashed and burning aircraft:—

William Alexander, Special Constable, Norfolk Special Constabulary.

Henry James Cooper, Smallholder, Offham, Kent.

Thomas Watson, Police Constable, Norfolk County Constabulary.

When a ship loaded with explosives caught fire:—

William Herbert Moore, Second Engineer, Merchant Navy.

Colin Stuttard, Gunner, Merchant Navy.

Captain Ernest Wilson, Master, Merchant Navy.

LONDON

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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1942

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S.O. Code No. 65-35568