



THIRD SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 6th of OCTOBER, 1942

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

FRIDAY, 9 OCTOBER, 1942

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
9th October, 1942.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned 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:—

Reginald Norman Willey, Leader, Rescue Party, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Somerset.

During an air raid a house was demolished by bombs, and people were trapped. After working for two hours, the Rescue Party released a man. Tunnelling further into the wreckage a woman was found trapped behind a table one end of which was holding up the debris. It was decided to cut the table in half and remove one portion in order to release the victim. Willey worked in a kneeling and crouching position for nearly an hour.

During the whole of this operation he was in very great danger. The vibration of the sawing and the explosion of bombs nearby caused the debris to settle and the ceiling gradually dropped until he was working prone with only eighteen inches of height.

The woman, however, was safely extricated and the head and body of a man was then exposed. A vertical shaft was started to reach the man and Willey remained in the tunnel for about two hours cheering him and guiding the surface workers. The man was eventually released.

Willey showed great courage and endurance and it is due to his efforts that the lives of two people were saved.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Emily Alberta Mardon, Mrs. Knee, Assistant Night Nurse, City Hospital, Exeter.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Mary Megan, Mrs. Britt, Assistant Nurse, City Hospital, Exeter.

Miss Mary Anne Dorothy Walker, Assistant Nurse, City Hospital, Exeter.

During an air raid incendiary bombs were dropped on the Hospital, and big fires broke out.

Mrs. Knee behaved with great courage and fortitude throughout the raid. She remained on the first floor rescuing patients until the fire and smoke were almost unbearable, and the roof and floor above were on the point of collapse. She only left the ward when ordered to come out while it was still possible. Her heroism was outstanding and at the risk of her life saved many lives.

Nurses Britt and Walker were on duty in another part of the hospital fighting fires. They worked splendidly in the face of the rapidly spreading flames, and their exceptional coolness and courage gave the patients confidence. Had it not been for their immediate response to the arduous duty imposed upon them many lives would have been lost.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

Alfred August Braven, Male Attendant, City Hospital, Exeter.

Percy Hubert Bray, Supervisor, Rescue Party, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Somerset.

Florence Elizabeth, Mrs. Cartwright, Assistant Nurse, City Hospital, Exeter.

Roy Robert Cheeseman, Assistant Hospital Master, City Hospital, Exeter.

Ernest Fraser, Police Sergeant, Exeter City Police.
 Miss Annie Gunter, Assistant Nurse, City Hospital, Exeter.
 Albert Edward Hallett, Male Nurse, City Hospital, Exeter.
 Thomas Marsh, Carter, Canterbury.
 Miss Elsie Annie May, Charge Nurse, City Hospital, Exeter.
 Walter Ernest Morris, Gardener, City Hospital, Exeter.

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9th October, 1942.*

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Awarded the George Medal:—

George Richardson, lately Company Officer (acting Column Officer) (Jarrow), No. 1 Fire Force Area, National Fire Service.
 Francis James McNulty, Master Stevedore, South Shields.

A fire broke out on board a ship, carrying a cargo of fuel oil, that had been beached.

The fire burned furiously and the vessel's magazine was threatened. It became apparent that, unless the ammunition was immediately thrown overboard, serious damage would result. Knowing full well the risk of the ammunition exploding, Richardson and McNulty, who volunteered to assist, entered the ship, which was full of smoke, and groped their way along the alley leading to the magazine where the fire was gaining increased hold. As they got near to the magazine a major explosion occurred throwing them violently to the deck. A second explosion immediately followed and the men were blown several feet.

Richardson and McNulty were severely burned and otherwise injured. Although still within the danger zone of further explosions Richardson, disregarding his own injuries, helped a fireman, who had also been injured

by the explosion, up the ladder to the main deck.

Both men showed great courage and resolution in their attempt to save the ship and its valuable cargo.

Maurice Meynell Scarr, Shop Manager, Royal Ordnance Factory, Ministry of Supply.

Thomas William Henry Jobbins, Foreman, Royal Ordnance Factory, Ministry of Supply.

When H.E. Filled Shells were being loaded on to platform trucks in the porch of a building, a box was dropped and an explosion followed immediately.

Scarr and Jobbins, with full knowledge of the risk involved, volunteered to clear up the debris in the porch and shop before any workmen entered the building.

In great danger from further possible explosion, due to the unknown condition of damaged fuzes, they worked for five hours and succeeded in defusing the damaged shells, removed the detonators and cartridges, and thus rendered all the filled shells in the shop safe for handling.

Both men showed courage and initiative and by their efforts enabled production to be resumed with the least possible delay.

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

Tem Beneuro, Chief of Native Police, Beru Island, Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

Beneuro showed the utmost skill and courage in organising and personally leading the various canoe and boat voyages between Nikunau and Beru Islands, to rescue a shipwrecked crew which had landed on the former island after being torpedoed in mid-Pacific. The voyages would have been a remarkable feat in ordinary daytime conditions. These rescues were undertaken mainly during the night and the success of the venture was largely due to Beneuro's good judgment and resource.

COMMENDATION

The individual named below has been Commended for brave conduct when helping to remove ammunition from a burning ship:—

George William McGregor (deceased), Divisional Officer (Newcastle-on-Tyne), No. 1 Fire Force Area, National Fire Service.

LONDON

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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1942

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