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TUESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY, 1944

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
22nd February, 1944.*

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 awards of the British Empire Medal, in the Merchant Navy, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of those specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct.

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

Reginald Ferguson Cole, Esq., Chief Radio Officer.

The ship, sailing alone, was torpedoed and began to sink by the stern. Shortly afterwards she was hit again and had to be abandoned, sinking as the last members of the crew were leaving. There were many casualties and three of the boats were wrecked making the abandonment extremely difficult and dangerous.

The Chief Radio Officer displayed great courage and devotion to duty. Although injured and dazed by the explosion, he struggled among the debris of the wrecked wireless room to get away a distress message on the emergency set and left only when ordered to his boat by the Master. His devotion to duty undoubtedly greatly contributed to the speedy rescue of the survivors, who were picked up the following day.

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

John Kristijon Marrow, Esq., First Officer.
John Swanson Livingstone, Esq., Second Engineer Officer.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Guiseppe Fenech, Greaser.
John Hopper Ellerington, Able Seaman.
James Doan, Able Seaman.
Stanley Close, Cook Steward.

For gallantry and initiative in hazardous circumstances.

COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been Commended for brave conduct when their ships encountered enemy ships, submarines, aircraft or mines:—

Alexander Brough, Esq., Third Engineer Officer.
Charles Sime Currie, Esq., (deceased), Chief Engineer Officer.
George Dew (deceased), Donkeyman.
Captain Albert Hocken, Master.
Alexander Mair, Esq., Third Officer.
Captain John Drayton Matthews, Master.
John Morrison Ruthven, Esq., Chief Refrigerating Engineer Officer.
Robert Young Taylor, Esq., (deceased), Purser.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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22nd February, 1944.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned 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 in Civil Defence.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Jack Eldridge, Deputy Party Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Kent.

During an air raid a bomb wrecked three cottages.

Eldridge, who was off duty, was informed that people were trapped. There was a fire

in the debris and the upper floors, which had collapsed, were gradually settling. Eldridge began to tunnel through the wreckage with his bare hands and, fearing that the fire would spread, he ignored the principles of safe shoring and succeeded in rescuing two women before the fire reached them.

Eldridge showed courage without thought for his own safety.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

Alfred George Allen, Member, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Brighton.
Horace Slade, Party Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Brighton.

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Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Leonard Gordon Abbott, Fireman, Merchant Navy.

William Caldicott, Galley Boy, Merchant Navy.

For gallantry in difficult and dangerous circumstances.

Thomas Burgin, Labourer, Royal Air Force Station.

James Alwyne Stanton, Canteen Manager, Royal Air Force Station.

An aircraft crashed on taking off and burst into flames. Blazing petrol and oil spread rapidly around the wreckage and incendiaries caught fire and exploded.

Burgin and Stanton, with no thought for their own safety, climbed on to a wing of the

burning aircraft and helped to extricate the pilot who was injured and only half-conscious. When they had seen him taken to safety, they made a thorough search all round the aircraft to make sure that there were no further casualties, at the same time warning others who were approaching to keep clear.

Burgin and Stanton showed bravery and presence of mind in the face of great danger.

Henry Victor Hawes, Lengthman, Great Western Railway, Mortimer, Berkshire.

An aeroplane crashed and at once burst into flames. Hawes ran to the machine, which was upside down, and with help released the semi-conscious pilot from the cockpit. Hawes' clothes were covered with oil and petrol and he was slightly burnt. His gallant action in the dangerous circumstances was responsible for saving the life of the pilot.

COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been Commended for brave conduct:—

When engaged in hazardous operations:—

Herbert Hamilton Harrison, Carpenter, Merchant Navy.

Maxwell Urban Jones, Fireman, Merchant Navy.

John Verblis, Greaser, Merchant Navy.

When rescuing people trapped under a collapsed building:—

Walter Hall, Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Party, Middleton.

When fighting fires in ships:—

Captain David John Lewis, Master, Merchant Navy.

Captain Thomas Arthur Lupton, M.B.E., Master, Merchant Navy.

William Richard Thomas, Esq., Second Officer, Merchant Navy.

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

Thomas Kershaw, Labourer, Royal Air Force Station.

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