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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD,

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
30th May, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to award the GEORGE CROSS to:—

Anthony Smith, Member, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Chelsea.

During an air raid, bombs demolished a number of four-storey houses, leaving standing only the party walls which were in a precarious condition. Gas and water mains were fractured and the gas ignited, setting fire to the buildings and wreckage, the whole of which became a raging inferno. Two floors had pancaked forming a huge pile of blazing debris but Smith burrowed a way through the burning ruins and managed to reach a casualty trapped in a front basement underneath. He released the victim, but by this time the front of the building was a solid wall of flame, the upper floors were collapsing and his escape was cut off. Carrying the casualty, Smith made his way through the flames and smoke to the rear of the house and there found a 6-inch aperture in the wreckage. He forced a way through and managed to pass the casualty to safety just as the remaining portion of the front wall collapsed into the area. Smith's eyebrows and hair were burnt and he was almost overcome by smoke but, undeterred by his ordeal, he immediately went to the assistance of a comrade who was endeavouring to rescue a woman trapped in the basement of an adjoining building, the walls of which were in a very dangerous condition. Here, working for an hour up to his waist in water, and with walls and floors on the point of collapse, Smith helped to release her. He then obtained a change of clothing and carried on until his squad was relieved.

Smith displayed outstanding gallantry and devotion to duty in conditions of the utmost danger and difficulty.

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30th May, 1944.

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

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

Arthur Waterman (Senior), Public Works Contractor, Leeds.

For services in difficult and dangerous circumstances.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Kenneth Robert Cox, Builder's Labourer, Wandsworth.

William James Gray, Police Constable, "V" Division, Metropolitan Police.

A bomb fell on a garage, partly demolishing the building and causing a big fire.

Constable Gray was told that six employees were trapped in an air raid shelter inside the building and that their rescue was almost impossible as the flames had already reached the shelter and that a diesel oil tank nearby was liable to explode at any moment. Despite this warning Gray determined to make the attempt and Cox, a youth of 17, volunteered to help him. They managed to get into the burning building, but at first they could see nothing through the smoke and dust. The Constable, however found a man who was pinned down by debris a few feet away from the flames. The two got to work to release him and, while doing so, were almost completely overcome