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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
12th September, 1944.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, and for the following awards of the George Medal and of the British Empire Medal, for brave conduct.

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

William Henry James Benton, Chief Regional Fire Officer, Eastern Region, National Fire Service.

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

Reginald Clarence Welch, Assistant Fire Force Commander, No. 11 (Southend) Area, National Fire Service.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Leonard Cyril Crickmore, Section Leader, No. 11 (Southend) Area, National Fire Service.

A fire broke out at a returned ammunition dump and following a major explosion the fire-fighting personnel were withdrawn until a reconnaissance could be made. Mr. Benton undertook to do this with the Assistant Fire Force Commander and it proved very valuable. During the inspection which extended well into the danger area, continuous minor explosions occurred, and there was a possibility that further major explosions might occur at any time. Mr. Benton not only showed courage and initiative of a high order, but set an admirable example to all personnel by his disregard of danger.

In conditions of considerable complexity and danger Mr. Welch showed courage and devotion to duty of a high order while carrying out his duty as Officer in Charge of the Fire.

Section Leader Crickmore was in charge of the first N.F.S. attendance at the fire. He showed great energy and initiative in tackling the initial problems. Shortly after his arrival the first major explosion put out of action the fire-fighting appliances and made necessary the temporary withdrawal of personnel. Although Crickmore was badly shaken, he continued to control the situation until the arrival of a senior Officer. He afterwards collapsed and was taken to hospital but as soon as he was released he reported back for duty at the fire. Crickmore showed courage, endurance and devotion to duty.

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

Frederick George Secker, War Office Temporary Civilian Clerk, Ore, Hastings, Sussex.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Edward Turner, Cowman, Guestling, Sussex.

When an aircraft crashed, Secker and Turner raced to the scene of the crash and saw two of the crew extricating themselves from the burning wreckage. The pilot, however, because of his injuries, was unable to get away. Without regard for personal safety the two men immediately went to his aid. Despite the flames which at any moment threatened to reach them, they persisted in their efforts until they had freed the pilot and passed him to safety. But for their prompt and courageous action, the pilot would have undoubtedly lost his life in the burning plane.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Harold Franklin Brown, M.B.E., Fourth Engineer Officer, Merchant Navy.

The ship was engaged on salvage operations at Naples. Two officers descended into the interior of an overturned derrick barge and, to facilitate the removal of this craft, a manhole had to be cut in the side to allow work to continue on the deck below. It was intended to cut a second manhole in the deck and a Salvage Officer and one of the officers of the ship were doing this work when an explosion took place which fired the compartment. The ship's officer was overcome by the flames before he could free himself and sustained serious burns from which he subsequently died. Mr. Brown dragged him clear and then descended into the still burning compartment and brought out the Salvage Officer. Mr. Brown, although on the point of collapse, was able to drag him to the manhole and into a stream of water which was being directed from another ship near by.

Mr. Brown made a gallant attempt to save the life of his shipmate and, but for his further prompt and courageous action, the Salvage Officer would undoubtedly have been burned to death or suffocated by the smoke which followed the fire.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Charles Richard Williams, Farm Labourer, Sherrards Green, Malvern.

When an aircraft crashed and burst into flames Williams ran to the scene and was told by an injured member of the crew who had got clear of the wreckage that the pilot was still inside. Ignoring the smoke and flames, Williams went right up to the burning aircraft where he found that the pilot was badly injured and pinned down by the debris.

He managed to release the pilot, dragged him out of the flames and carried him away from the aircraft. Shortly afterwards, cannon shells carried by the aircraft started to explode.

Williams, by his prompt and gallant action saved the pilot's life.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Frederick George Mitchell, Member, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Portsmouth.

During an air raid a H.E. bomb destroyed premises and a man was trapped in a cellar which had collapsed and was covered with wreckage from the building above.

After debris had been cleared away, Dr. Taylor and Mitchell entered the cellar through a small opening between two concrete slabs, one of which was supporting the debris of the house. The casualty was trapped at the base of these slabs and the cutting of the reinforcement had to be effected by means of a hacksaw. Each time a piece of reinforcement was cut through, the supporting concrete slabs moved, thereby endangering the lives of the rescuers. Neither Dr. Taylor or Mitchell came out of the hole until the casualty was eventually removed 2 hours later.

Dr. Taylor and Mitchell showed courage and determination with a total disregard of personal danger.

Awarded the George Medal:—

George Samuel Alfred Woodward, B.E.M., Leader, Rescue Party, London County Council Heavy Rescue Service.

Walter Capon, B.E.M., Skilled Man, London County Council Heavy Rescue Service.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Charles Augustus Littlejohn, Leader, Rescue Party, London County Council Heavy Rescue Service.

Edward Arthur Harbour, Rescue Man, London County Council Heavy Rescue Service.

During an air raid a H.E. bomb demolished premises. A woman was located in a flooded basement where she was pinned beneath the wreckage of three floors and the roof which had collapsed and caught fire.

Woodward and Capon tunnelled downwards for a distance of 15 feet until they reached the casualty. Water from hoses and broken mains was accumulating in the basement and had reached a height of about 4 feet. Working up to their waists in water, Woodward and Capon, with the assistance of Littlejohn, succeeded in freeing the victim and took her to the surface, the whole operation lasting about an hour.

Woodward and Capon then went to another building, part of which had been demolished by blast. In extremely dangerous circumstances, Capon rescued a woman who was trapped under 10 feet of debris. A fire was raging nearby and bricks were falling all around. Woodward, meanwhile, with the help of Harbour, concentrated on the attempted rescue of a boy pinned under masonry and timber. Later they were joined by Capon, but unfortunately their joint efforts were unavailing and the boy died after an operation had been performed to secure his release.

Woodward and Capon showed great courage and devotion to duty and were greatly helped by Harbour who acted as a human shore during the rescue work. Littlejohn organised and led rescue efforts

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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:—

Alan Churton Taylor, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Medical Officer in charge of First Aid Post, Civil Defence Casualty Service, Southsea.

resulting in the release of many casualties during which time he was exposed to the danger of fire and falling debris.

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

William Louis Nagle, Leader, Rescue Party, London County Council Heavy Rescue Service.

During an air raid dwelling houses were demolished by a H.E. bomb. People were trapped and the wreckage caught fire. A woman who was only lightly trapped was quickly rescued from the edge of the fire and Leader Nagle and his party then set to work to recover casualties from the basement. After partial clearance of the debris, a woman was located under portions of a collapsed upper floor. This was cut through, thereby releasing the head and shoulders of the casualty. After more debris had been cleared, it was found that her legs were trapped by a stove and metal kerb. These obstacles, after much patient and painstaking work, were finally broken sufficiently to release the casualty after 7 hours. During the whole period, fire was threatening to reach the collapsed timbers under which the rescuers worked.

Nagle showed a total disregard of the dangers of his task and remained until the rescue was successfully completed.

Miss Winifred Ada Redgwell, Telephone Operator, London County Council Hospitals Service.

A flying bomb fell in the grounds of a hospital causing severe damage and casualties. Miss Redgwell was sleeping on the ground floor of part of the Nurses' Home. Her room which was close to the explosion was completely wrecked. She was hit by falling debris but made her way out through the wreckage and fallen furniture and a short time later was on duty at the telephone switchboard. It was with difficulty that several hours later she was persuaded to receive medical attention. X-ray revealed that several ribs were fractured. As soon as possible after treatment she resumed duty on the telephone switchboard where she remained for the rest of the day, maintaining that she was quite fit to carry on. By so doing, her special knowledge of her work greatly facilitated the many arrangements which had to be made as a result of the incident. Miss Redgwell showed great devotion to duty and her conduct was a splendid example to others.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

Frederick Bordman, Driver, Rescue Party, London County Council Heavy Rescue Service.

William Barnet Jones, Rescue Man, London County Council Heavy Rescue Service.

William Thomas Olinski, Deputy Leader, Rescue Party, London County Council Heavy Rescue Service.

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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 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:—

Fred Osler, Esq., Chief Officer.

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

John Alfred Peterson, Chief Steward.

The ship made three consecutive voyages from the United Kingdom to North Russia.

During the second voyage the convoy in which the ship was sailing was heavily attacked daily by enemy aircraft. These attacks continued after the ships arrived in port, as many as fourteen being made in one day. Although the vessel was damaged by near misses during these attacks she was brought through successfully.

The Chief Officer displayed great courage, coolness and devotion to duty during all three voyages. He ably supported the Master, carrying out his duties in the face of great danger and without thought of self. On the third voyage he elected to sail as Chief Officer in order to remain in the ship although for one voyage he had been in temporary command. On this occasion the ship remained in North Russia for a considerable period during which she sustained many attacks.

The Chief Steward showed courage and great devotion to duty. During the periods of attack he was particularly outstanding in the manner in which he attended to the welfare of the ship's personnel.

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

Lewis Sutherland, Able Seaman.

Lewis Thompson, Able Seaman.

Over a long period the ship, sailing in East Coast convoys, performed much excellent rescue work. On one occasion the convoy in which she was sailing was attacked by "E" boats in darkness. Two ships were sunk and the vessel lowered a boat which went to the rescue. Eleven men were saved.

Later, the ship was again sailing in a convoy which was attacked by "E" boats. Several ships were torpedoed but the vessel, by taking avoiding action, was not hit. The working boat was lowered and picked up 13 survivors from two of the sunken ships. Strenuous efforts were required on the part of the rescuers, and the exhausted survivors had to be hoisted on board.

On a third occasion, a ship in the vicinity of the vessel was mined. One of her crew was thrown overboard by the explosion.

Observing his plight a boat was lowered and, in spite of the very unfavourable weather conditions, was able to effect a rescue.

Able Seaman Thompson and Able Seaman Sutherland were outstanding in all three incidents and displayed exceptional courage and devotion to duty throughout. They manned the boat on each occasion when it was lowered and were responsible for the saving of 25 lives. In addition, during one attack, Able Seaman Thompson fired the

only machine-gun on board until it jammed. He then went away in the boat to the rescue of survivors from other vessels.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

Thomas William Graves, Esq., (since deceased),
Second Engineer Officer.

Captain William Shannon, O.B.E., Master.

LONDON

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