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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD,**

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

2nd October, 1945.

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.

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

Sydney Walter MAXTED, B.Sc., A.R.C.S.,
Scientific Adviser, Ministry of Supply.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Eric BRYANT, Resident Engineer, No. 21 Maintenance Unit, R.A.F.

Godfrey ROTTER, C.B., C.B.E., D.Sc.,
Scientific Adviser, Air Ministry.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

George Edward FOX, Leading Storeman,
No. 21 Maintenance Unit, R.A.F.

Ernest PARKER, Siskol Machine Operator,
No. 21 Maintenance Unit, R.A.F.

Horace William UTTING, Quarryman, No. 21 Maintenance Unit, R.A.F.

An explosion of great violence occurred at an underground bomb storage depot which consisted of two adjacent mines. The explosion took place in the smaller mine, but its effects were seriously felt in the larger mine where large quantities of explosives were stored. While the greater part of this mine had not suffered serious structural damage, there was a substantial portion of it in which serious roof falls had occurred. The conditions were dangerous in the extreme. Large quantities of rock had fallen on the stored shells and further falls were

threatened. Various highly sensitive explosives were mixed up with the debris so that every step in the clearance operations had to be taken with the utmost caution and there was serious risk of a further explosion.

Bryant was placed in charge of the structural restoration work within the mine and he also assisted in the removal of explosives. He was the first to enter the damaged portions of the mine and his work required him to crawl on top of falls overlying explosives in a dangerous state and to walk and crawl under roof which was liable to fall. His untiring efforts and quiet confidence, combined with his skilful judgment, inspired all concerned to carry on with the dangerous work.

Dr. Rotter was responsible for evacuating the explosive stores. A further explosion would have caused extensive damage, since a natural protecting traverse had been destroyed. The methods to be employed in the evacuation were left to him and in the final stages a small selected band of volunteers worked under his personal direction. Dr. Rotter's example was outstanding and his enthusiasm for the work, the risks of which he fully appreciated, was inspiring. He displayed courage of a very high order and this, together with his skilful direction, gained for him the complete confidence of the men.

Maxted and Fox led a small party engaged in the precarious work of recovering damaged explosives. In certain areas of the mine considerable quantities of specially dangerous stores had been blasted from their containers and intermingled with debris. Great care had to be taken as it was not known whether the safety devices of certain of these damaged stores were still intact. The two men showed courage without regard for their own safety.

Parker and Utting shored up bad roof with timbers to prevent falls and had to do this before other parties could start on the work of removal. The utmost care had to be taken