



## THIRD SUPPLEMENT

TO

# The London Gazette

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TUESDAY, 22 JUNE, 1948

### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James Palace, S.W.1.*

*22nd June, 1948.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders 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.

#### *Awarded the George Medal:—*

Harold James BENDING, Fitter-Driver, London Airport. (Heston, Middlesex.)

Angus BROWN, Radio Mechanic, London Airport. (West Kensington, W.14.)

On the night of 2nd March, 1948, a Sabena aircraft crashed and caught fire at London Airport.

Bending and Brown, when the crash took place, were about 75 yards away. Without hesitation they ran to the machine which was burning fiercely. There were several minor explosions as Bending approached the wreckage but, undeterred, he carried on and dragged a man to safety through a hole in the fuselage immediately behind the starboard main-plane. He then ran to the rear of the fuselage, saw a door which was already partly open, and entered. The fuselage was full of smoke but he found one man on the floor and dragged him to the door. After taking him to safety he returned but was not able to enter the aircraft again owing to the fierceness of the flames and the intense heat.

By this time Brown had managed to enter the burning machine from the front. He dragged another man through a hole in the fuselage and carried him to safety. A further attempt was made to enter the aircraft but this was now impossible and the two men were forced to withdraw.

Bending and Brown showed great courage and by their prompt action saved the lives of two of the passengers.

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

Martha Olive, Mrs. ATKINSON, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent.

On 24th October, 1947, a Mosquito aircraft of the Royal Air Force crashed and caught fire close to the home of Mrs. Atkinson. The pilot was killed and the navigator was injured and trapped in the wreckage.

Mrs. Atkinson ran to the scene and found the navigator helpless and in great danger from the flames. Without hesitation she approached the burning wreckage, freed the navigator's leg and, seizing him by the collar, dragged him from the cockpit. She then pulled him some distance away and beat out his burning clothes with her bare hands. Mrs. Atkinson then dragged the injured man away from the wreckage until she reached a place of safety sheltered by trees. Shortly afterwards Verey cartridges and the petrol tank in the aircraft exploded.

Mrs. Atkinson continued to render first aid to the navigator until the arrival of medical help.