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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
 OF KNIGHTHOOD,

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

20th November, 1951.

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

To be an Additional Commander of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:

Captain St. John CRONYN, D.S.O., Royal Navy, for great courage and devotion to duty in the face of extreme danger when an explosion occurred in a lighter which was being loaded with ammunition from the Naval Auxiliary Vessel **BEDENHAM**, in His Majesty's Dockyard, Gibraltar, on 27th April, 1951. The first explosion was followed by an intense ammunition fire and a second large explosion, and Captain Cronyn, as the Senior Naval Officer present in the Dockyard at the time, took immediate and effective measures to control the situation.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
 OF KNIGHTHOOD,

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

20th November, 1951.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the George Medal to the undermentioned:—

Surgeon Lieutenant James Golding Harding SHEPPARD, M.B., B.S., Royal Navy.

Acting Leading Sick Berth Attendant (Local) Malcolm HUGHES, D/SMX. 868808.

On 27th April, 1951, a lighter was being loaded with ammunition from the Naval Auxiliary Vessel **BEDENHAM**, in His Majesty's Dockyard, Gibraltar, when a minor explosion occurred in the lighter followed by

an intense ammunition fire. Six minutes later a second large explosion occurred in the lighter which cut the **BEDENHAM** in two and sank her.

Immediately after the first explosion, Surgeon Lieutenant Sheppard went to the wharf where the **BEDENHAM** was lying and searched for casualties. He helped to pull out of the water a badly burned man and took him to an ambulance. He was walking back towards the **BEDENHAM** to his first aid box and was only about fifteen yards away when the second explosion occurred. He fortunately escaped unharmed and immediately began to administer first aid to the seriously injured on the wharf. Later he treated other casualties in the Dockyard surgery.

Surgeon Lieutenant Sheppard showed a total disregard for his own safety, and his single-minded determination to do all within his power to seek out the casualties, care for them and relieve their pain was worthy of the highest praise.

Leading Sick Berth Attendant Hughes accompanied Surgeon Lieutenant Sheppard to the wharf where the **BEDENHAM** was lying, and assisted him in the care of a badly burned man in the immediate vicinity of the burning lighter in which ammunition was exploding.

He was within twenty or thirty yards of the **BEDENHAM** when the large explosion occurred, but was fortunate enough to escape with slight shock and minor bruises. He at once resumed his assistance with the treatment and removal of the casualties on the wharf, and then returned to the Dockyard surgery to assist there with the treatment of the injured.

The coolness, courage and devotion to duty shown by Leading Sick Berth Attendant Hughes in the face of extreme danger was outstanding.