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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD,

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
28th November, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointments 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 Officer of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

James Holt, Governor, H.M. Prison, Liverpool.

When Liverpool Prison suffered damage during air raids Mr. Holt displayed leadership of a high order. He was largely responsible for organising and directing the rescue of prisoners under conditions of great difficulty and danger.

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

Reginald Campbell Ratray, District Engineer, William Hill Underwood, Acting Assistant District Locomotive Superintendent,	}	London and North Eastern Railway.
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Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Peter Campbell, Locomotive Foreman, David Thorburn, Mechanical Engineer's Examiner,	}	London and North Eastern Railway.
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A time-bomb passed through a wagon of coal and broke away several feet of one of

the rails. The wagon, which was straddled across the hole, seriously hampered the activities of the Bomb Disposal Squad. Mr. Ratray, with some voluntary helpers, attempted to move the wagon to enable the Squad to reach the bomb. Mr. Underwood and Mr. Campbell offered their services and they were joined by Mr. Thorburn who brought to the site a wagon-lifting jack and blocks of wood.

Attempts to jack the wagon over on its side proved futile, as also did an effort to bridge the hole by re-arranging the fractured rail. Eventually, sleepers, extending past the edge of the hole, were packed under the axle and the wagon was rolled clear.

All four men showed courage and determination with complete disregard of the danger from the bomb which was liable to explode at any moment. They worked throughout as one unit, Mr. Ratray and Mr. Underwood taking the lead.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Cornelius Legg, Station Officer, London Fire Force, National Fire Service.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Leonard Arthur Burley, Acting Sub-Officer, William Charles Killbourn, Leading Auxiliary Fireman,	}	London Fire Force, National Fire Service.
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Legg, Burley and Killbourn were members of a Fire Service contingent sent from London to Plymouth.

They showed courage and devotion to duty in fighting fires under heavy bombardment and their work of rescue was performed with complete disregard of their own safety.

Bombs fell close to where Killbourn was working and damaged a public shelter and persons were trapped inside.

The debris which had fallen from nearby buildings had also trapped three auxiliary firemen and a war reserve policeman.

Killbourn, in spite of the continual fall of masonry, led his men in clearing away the debris in an endeavour to rescue the victims. He was joined by Legg and Burley and with the help of other fire service personnel the four men were extricated.

Attempts were then made to rescue the people in the damaged shelter. Heavy bombing was still in progress and the buildings around had been badly damaged and were collapsing. Because of the danger, Legg ordered the men away and, at considerable risk to his own life, went into the crater and tried to find the entrance to the shelter. He began to remove some of the debris and to tunnel underneath. Burley and Killbourn then went down into the crater to help. Legg worked in a very cramped space and under extremely arduous conditions, but he persisted until he made a small opening through which he was able to crawl. He was then able to release seven of the casualties whom he passed to the men outside.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Edward William Bailey, District Officer, London Fire Force, National Fire Service.

Throughout the period of heavy enemy air attacks, Mr. Bailey attended many fires and directed fire-fighting operations with marked efficiency. He showed good leadership and set a fine example to the men under his command. His courage and coolness in emergency and his devotion to duty have been outstanding.

On one occasion Mr. Bailey was injured but although in great pain continued to direct operations. Later, he was in a Fire Station when it was demolished by H.E. bombs. He directed the evacuation of the staff which, owing to the collapse of parts of the building, was carried out with extreme difficulty.

The cool, calm manner in which Mr. Bailey carried out operational duties, under conditions of great stress, did much to steady the remainder of the staff.

Sydney Frank Chandler, Station Officer, London Fire Force, National Fire Service.

Station Officer Chandler has, on many occasions, displayed efficiency and resource in dealing with difficult circumstances arising out of fires during air raids, particularly in relation to the disposition of appliances and the re-organisation of water supplies.

On one occasion a bomb exploded about thirty yards from where Chandler was working. The explosion completely demolished a building, a trailer pump was partly buried in the debris and three other appliances had to be temporarily abandoned. Chandler was blown over by the blast, but helped to remove eight injured men to a place of greater safety. His pluck and tenacity set a fine example to his men and enabled the fire fighting to continue unabated.

Miss Patricia Dewing, Driver, London Fire Force, National Fire Service.

During an air raid Driver Dewing was driving a staff car when a high explosive

bomb exploded about fifteen yards away, shattering the glass and severely damaging the vehicle. The roof of the car caught fire and Driver Dewing put this out with an extinguisher. Although bruised and suffering from shock, she procured another car and rejoined her Officer. The enemy attack was concentrated and lasted for some hours. High explosive and incendiary bombs were falling in the district most of the time. In addition to conveying vital messages during the height of the attack, Miss Dewing saved one building from fire by promptly removing two incendiary bombs from an upper floor.

On another occasion, when firemen were injured, she volunteered, regardless of the danger from falling bombs, to go into the street to give first aid. Afterwards, on her own initiative she fought a fire in a Fire Station and prevented the flames from spreading.

Driver Dewing has displayed great courage and devotion to duty.

Frank Goodman, Auxiliary Fireman,	} London Fire Force.
Miss Kathleen Prettejohn, Section Officer,	

During an air raid bombs demolished buildings. The explosion severely damaged two fire appliances of a stationary convoy and members of the crews were killed and injured.

Goodman, although his ear drum had been perforated by the blast and he was suffering badly from shock, immediately went to the assistance of his more seriously injured comrades. With the help of the uninjured members of the crews he worked unceasingly to remove the casualties and render first aid. Goodman then carried on fighting fires in the neighbourhood until he collapsed and had to be removed to a first-aid post for treatment.

Members of the Women's Auxiliary Fire Service who were manning the control room at a Fire Station were badly shaken by the explosion, but they immediately volunteered to go out into the street to help the injured firemen. Under the leadership of Section Officer Prettejohn they rendered first aid and, notwithstanding the danger to which they were exposed, remained until the last casualty had been removed by ambulance. Section Officer Prettejohn then went to the Secondary Control and carried out her duties there. Her coolness, courage and leadership were an inspiration to those who worked with her.

Matthew Keld, Ganger, London and North Eastern Railway.

Time bombs fell close to each other between railway lines and to get at them it was necessary first to remove 30 feet of track including three crossings and then a further 60 feet of track.

Keld collected a gang of twenty-two Permanent Way men and led them in the work of removing the sections of track. All the men concerned worked with the full knowledge that two unexploded bombs lay beneath them and all are deserving of great praise. It was, however, due to Keld's initiative, resource and leadership that the

job was tackled and completed in little more than one hour.

Albert Paul, Carriage and Wagon Inspector,
Henry Shipton, Charge-man Carriage and Wagon Examiner,
David Ernest Blaber, Carriage and Wagon Examiner,

Southern Railway.

A time-bomb fell in front of a raft of wagons, distorted the track and caused five wagons to be derailed. The leading wagon, loaded with coal, was partly tipped over, and the front axle came to rest on the bomb, which had only partially penetrated the earth between the running rails.

The bomb could not be reached until the wagon had been raised. Inspector Paul made arrangements for the tool van to be sent and, together with Shipton and Blaber, placed packing and hydraulic jacks in position under the wagon. The men, regardless of the danger to which they were exposed, operated the jacks until the weight of the wagon was taken, after which the Bomb Disposal Unit took charge.

Samuel Frederick Pritchard, Acting Station Officer, London Fire Force, National Fire Service.

Acting Station Officer Pritchard has attended numerous fires caused by enemy action on London.

He has consistently shown courage and steadfastness of purpose, and, by his qualities of leadership, has set a fine example to the men under his command.

During one air raid he entered a burning building and removed explosives to a place of safety and on other occasions has shown considerable resource and initiative in dealing with difficult situations.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

Albert Edward Crust, Auxiliary Fireman, London Fire Force, National Fire Service.
Miss Margaret Kathleen Fruin, Auxiliary, London Fire Force, National Fire Service.
Henry William Kenneth Kelly, Junior Scientific Officer, Admiralty.
Reginald Alfred Marks, Auxiliary Fireman, London Fire Force, National Fire Service.
Benjamin Ernest Storey Mitchell, Sub-Officer, London Fire Force, National Fire Service.
Miss Florence Saunders, Nursing Sister (Civil Nursing Reserve), Rest Centre Service, London County Council.

Miss Joan Audrey Sharp, Auxiliary, London Fire Force, National Fire Service.
Leonard Walden, G.M., Temporary Experimental Assistant IIA, Admiralty.
Miss Ivy Mabel Whiterod (Shorthand Typist Grade I), Member, Civil Defence Service, Ministry of Aircraft Production.

The surname of the undermentioned Warden is as now described and not as stated in Gazette Supplement No. 35327, dated 31st October, 1941.

Louis Norman Herckenrath, Civil Defence Wardens Service, Liverpool.

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28th November, 1941.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following awards of the George Medal and of the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Awarded the George Medal:—

John Robert Douglas, Senior Superintendent,
James Grant, Process Man,
Stephen Tipper, Process Man,

Explosives Factory.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

James McGivern, Process Man,

Explosives Factory.

An explosion, which took place at a factory between a building where large quantities of nitro-glycerine were stored and the protecting embankment, caused the building to catch fire.

McGivern, knowing the nature of its contents, went inside the mound and discovered a smouldering bag which he immediately removed. Douglas and Grant then entered the building and found part of it alight. While they were subduing the fire Tipper ascended to the upper floor and played water on it from the higher level.

All these men knew the dangerous character of the contents of the building, but courageously accepted the risk of being involved in a second explosion of a much more serious nature and one which, if it did occur, they knew would result in their death. By their prompt and gallant action a serious explosion was averted and valuable plant and buildings saved from destruction.

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