



SECOND SUPPLEMENT  
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FRIDAY, 27 MARCH, 1942

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
27th March, 1942.*

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 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 Additional Officers of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—*

Thomas Arthur Varley, Chief Regional Fire Officer, No. 8 (Wales) Region, National Fire Service.

John Farrell, Fire Force Commander, No. 22 (North Wales) Area, National Fire Service.

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

John Richard Allen, Company Officer, No. 22 (North Wales) Area, National Fire Service.

Harold Grimbledeston, Senior Company Officer, No. 22 (North Wales) Area, National Fire Service.

Leonard George Hughes, Leading Fireman, No. 22 (North Wales) Area, National Fire Service.

A tanker was making for port when she was hit by high explosive bombs and had to be abandoned.

Varley gave preliminary instructions for men and material to be mobilised and then left for the port accompanied by Farrell and Grimbledeston. The party reached the burning vessel and Varley, who fully appreciated the risk involved, went on board, quickly assessed the position, stationed the men and directed operations until the fire was

completely under control. The vessel and its valuable cargo were saved through the co-operative and excellent team work of the fire fighting personnel under the competent and courageous leadership of Chief Regional Fire Officer Varley.

Farrell assisted in the supervision of operations and remained throughout the incident setting a splendid example to his officers and men.

Hughes worked at a point of great danger and had to contend with intense heat and smoke from a burning tank which was less than ten feet away. The decks were too hot for him to stand upon and an improvised foothold of pieces of rough timber was his only protection. The soles of his boots were actually burnt owing to the intensity of the heat. He remained at his post without seeking relief or help of any kind for a considerable period.

Grimbledeston planned and maintained the supply of foam under most trying conditions. Without any regard for his personal safety, he descended below deck up to his waist in water to combat a fire.

Allen, although of limited experience, mobilised the equipment on hand and volunteered to go out to sea and ascertain the best form of assistance the National Fire Service could render. He showed courage and initiative and, in difficult conditions, took the correct preliminary steps to tackle the fire pending the arrival of his superior officers.

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

Harold William Heptinstall, B.E.M., Acting Chief Fire Officer, Thurrock Urban District Council Fire Brigade (now Divisional Officer, National Fire Service).

During an enemy air attack, bombs caused severe damage to tanks of oil and spirit which ignited.