



**SUPPLEMENT**  
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**MONDAY, 4 JANUARY, 1943**

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.**

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

*4th January, 1943.*

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

Miss Doris Beatrice Lane, Matron, City Maternity Home, Norwich.

During an air raid on Norwich, the Maternity Home was partly demolished by a high explosive bomb and rendered uninhabitable. The Matron was knocked over by the blast of the explosion but she immediately organised the removal of the patients to comparative safety and obtained the necessary help for the immediate and complete evacuation of the Home to another place. Miss Lane's courage, coolness and determination set an admirable example and inspired all her staff in the dangerous and difficult circumstances.

The Reverend John Newton Sykes, B.A., Vicar of Holy Trinity, Stepney.

During the period of air raids on London, the Reverend John Newton Sykes has shown personal courage and readiness to assist in every possible way, however humble, strenuous or difficult. By his indomitable spirit and his untiring efforts in succouring the injured, he has set an example to all with whom he came in contact.

On many occasions he has fought fires and helped to release trapped people and his

prompt actions when attending to the injured have been the means of saving life.

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

Reginald Charles Taylor, M.M., B.Sc., A.M.I.Mech.E., Engineer and General Manager, The Torquay and Paignton Gas Company.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

John Willie Denton, Assistant Engineer and Manager, The Torquay and Paignton Gas Company.

Frederick Charles Richardson, Assistant Electrician, The Torquay and Paignton Gas Company.

During a daylight air raid a gas holder was attacked by enemy aircraft and fierce fires resulted. Taylor, Denton and Richardson climbed to the crown and, with total disregard of personal danger, worked hard to extinguish the flames before nightfall. Their clothes often caught fire and, while encircled in flames at a height of some 120 feet, Denton and Richardson undoubtedly saved the life of a workman by pulling him back to safety as he was rolling off the edge of the crown. Denton fractured two ribs in this action but carried on with his duties.

Some weeks later another holder was bombed and subjected to severe cannon fire by enemy aircraft. The holder was burning fiercely on one half of its perimeter. Denton and Richardson again set a magnificent example of courage and devotion to duty and, as a result, the fires were extinguished, temporary repairs effected and the supply of gas in that area was uninterrupted.

Mr. Taylor was in charge of the fire-fighting arrangements on both occasions and his example was a great incentive and encouragement to the workers.