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

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
12th March, 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 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.

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

Eric Shaw, Works Chemist, Manchester.
Walter Fleetwood, Divisional Officer, No. 27 (Manchester) Area, National Fire Service.

A dangerous fire broke out at a chemical works. Mr. Shaw took charge of the fire-fighting operations until the arrival of the National Fire Service, and entered the burning building to undertake the dangerous task of isolating material liable to explode.

Divisional Officer Fleetwood, who displayed a masterly grasp of the situation, gave a very fine lead to the men working with him. Shaw and Fleetwood showed great courage and, by their prompt actions, prevented the fire from reaching more alarming and disastrous proportions.

Rex Alfred Warburton, B.Sc., Chemist, Imperial Chemical Industries (Explosives) Ltd.

Mr. Warburton, in the course of his work, discovered an outbreak of fire. He immediately raised the alarm, fitted his smoke respirator and attempted to enter the affected building. In the high concentration of smoke, he lost all sense of direction and, in groping around to locate a fire bucket, his hand came into contact with a box full of smoke bombs. Although the box was very warm he carried

it out and then returned to the hut. On hearing ignitions take place in the box which he had previously carried out, he went back and poured water over it. He re-entered the hut, inside which the visibility was nil, but he could hear a sizzling sound and moved towards its source. Six pots of chemicals were burning on a shelf. With his hand he swept these into a bucket of water which he was carrying. Moving to the right he found more pots on fire on another shelf; these were dealt with in the same way. At that moment flames shot up in another area and these he also extinguished. He continued searching, in the dark, until sure that there was no further danger from fire.

Mr. Warburton showed initiative and courage, being fully aware that in the building was a quantity of explosive which might have ignited at any moment.

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

Charles Richards, Divisional Officer, No. 21 (Carmarthen) Area, National Fire Service.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

John William Edmunds Jones, Senior Company Officer, Regional H.Q. (Cardiff), National Fire Service.

A fire broke out in a ship conveying a cargo including munitions, twelve hours before its arrival in port. All efforts of the Master and crew to check the fire proved of no avail. A call for assistance was made to the National Fire Service but operational fire-fighting was not feasible until the ship arrived in harbour.

Richards displayed great initiative and leadership and was responsible for the prompt attendance of reinforcing fire appliances and special equipment. At considerable personal risk, wearing breathing apparatus, he entered

the affected hold in a courageous and persistent effort to locate the fire. He was overcome and had to be rescued from a very dangerous situation but on recovery from partial asphyxiation he made attempts to continue his work.

Jones was one of the breathing apparatus team which entered the burning hold. After a feat of considerable physical effort and skill, fraught with great danger, he located the fire. In the darkness, and in thick smoke and fumes, he climbed through very awkward places where any false move might have cost him his life. Rescue would have been impossible, as there was not a passage for more than one person at a time. His skill and daring were responsible for the fire in that hold being confined and held in check until such time as it could be extinguished.

He discovered another fire which was amongst highly inflammable and dangerous explosives. This also was put out.

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

Benjamin Katz, Temporary Assistant Supply Officer, Calcutta.

Katz marched out through the Hukawng Valley when the hospital unit was discharged at Mohnyin. He endeavoured to prevent looting from ration dumps at Maingkwang and, on reaching Shinbwiyang, volunteered to assist in running the dispensary. Although urged to leave with the last party he refused. He not only attended to the sick for four months at that place, but assisted in the disposal of the corpses and took charge of the sanitation of the camp. He also made himself responsible; as far as the limited resources available permitted; for the welfare of refugees who were unable to proceed further owing to the break of the monsoon. Katz

showed himself adept at handling the local Naga labour when this became available for improving the camp. He left Shinbwiyang only when ordered by the Government of Burma to return to India.

Claude Smith, Works Progress Chaser, Taylorcraft Aeroplanes (England) Ltd.

A gas cylinder caught fire, which the use of extinguishers and other means failed to subdue. Flames were spouting out three or four feet, and there was an imminent danger of explosion.

Smith, realising the danger, coolly divested himself of his coat, which he wrapped round his head, faced the flames and, at great personal risk, turned off the gas, which was the only means of preventing an explosion.

Mr. Smith showed courage and devotion to duty, and by his action prevented an explosion which probably would have meant loss of life, material damage to the building and dislocation of production.

COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been Commended for brave conduct in dangerous circumstances:—

Hector Brackenbridge, Fireman, No. 27 (Manchester) Area, National Fire Service.

Robert Dean, Works Fireman, Manchester.

Edward Limbert, Leading Fireman, No. 27 (Manchester) Area, National Fire Service.

John Thomas Reade, Fireman, Works Fire Brigade, Manchester.

Edgar John Thomas, Section Leader, No. 21 (Swansea), National Fire Service.

Archibald Hewitt Warren, Company Officer, No. 27 (Manchester) Area, National Fire Service.

John Wood, Chief Fireman, Works Fire Brigade, Manchester.

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