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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
5th November, 1943.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointment 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 an Additional Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—*

Miss Sarah Elizabeth Hartshorne, Matron, Royal Eye Infirmary, Plymouth.

During the period of air raids Miss Hartshorne has been on duty at all times during alerts, and the care of her patients has always been her primary consideration. She has displayed great qualities of leadership and devotion to duty, without regard for her personal safety. It is due to Miss Hartshorne's energy and training that the staff of the hospital have carried out their duties so calmly and efficiently during air raids.

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

Harry Dennis, Warden, Civil Defence Wardens Service, Grimsby.

During an air raid an incendiary bomb set fire to a house. Dennis heard a child screaming and finding the staircase ablaze he climbed on to the top of the bay at the front of the adjoining house and jumped on to the bay of the burning building. In the bedroom he found a woman and a child lying on the floor with their clothing burned. He lowered the child to safety from the window and then re-entered the burning room. He picked up the woman, carried her to the

window and placed her on the top of the bay just as the floor of the bedroom collapsed. With help, Dennis lowered her safely to the ground and carried her to the Wardens Post on his back.

Dennis showed courage without regard for his own safety.

Thomas Richard Gale, Party Foreman, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Hull.

A woman and two children were trapped in a house demolished by a bomb. After cutting through several feet of solid clay, Gale continued to remove small debris and rubble and in this manner constructed a tunnel which covered a distance of ten feet. He eventually located a woman and one of her children crushed together in a very confined space and in such a way that they could make no move of their own accord. After cutting away the final obstructions, Gale was able to bring out both these people. He then discovered another child trapped in a particularly awkward corner of a collapsed cupboard. He crawled inside the tunnel, handpicked small rubble and, by gentle manoeuvring, withdrew the child to safety.

Gale showed courage and skilful leadership of his party.

Alexander Ross Gordon, Fire Guard, Grimsby.

During an air raid, incendiary bombs fell around the building where Gordon was on duty.

Under his direction, fires in adjoining buildings were tackled and great efforts made to prevent the flames from spreading.

When the water supply temporarily failed, Gordon salvaged important documents and carried them to safety. By this time the building was ringed with fire, but although the smoke was very thick and the heat intense, Gordon continued to fight the fires and eventually they were subdued.

Gordon showed courage and it was due to his energy and leadership that the building was saved from destruction.

Dorothy, Mrs. Page, Warden, Civil Defence Wardens Service, Plymouth.

During air raids on Plymouth, Mrs. Page has displayed self-sacrifice and undaunted devotion to duty with entire disregard of her personal safety.

No matter how severe the raid she has continued to work willingly and zealously to give help to those in her care, dealt with incendiary bombs and helped survivors from their wrecked and burning homes.

Ernest Wilson, Warden, Civil Defence Wardens Service, Kingston-on-Hull.

During an air raid people were trapped in a house which had been damaged by a bomb. Wilson heard cries for help and ran to the first floor. After breaking down a door, he saw a man partly covered by loose debris and pulled him to safety.

Learning that the man's wife and daughter were still buried under an enormous piece of clay which had come through the roof from the bomb crater, Wilson set to work with his hands and located the woman's head. After uncovering her face so that she could breathe he freed her from the clinging mud.

Wilson discovered that the child was already dead but he worked on and, with help, released the body.

During the whole of this time there was great danger of further debris falling from the roof and the floor was actually moving and likely to collapse any moment.

Wilson showed courage and determination.

#### COMMENDATIONS.

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

Hugh Cardy, Warden, Civil Defence Wardens Service, Grimsby.

Miss Nancy Charlton, Fire Guard Sector Captain, Grimsby.

Miss Elizabeth Davey, Superintendent of Infants Sunday School, Torquay.

Jesse Alfred Hammond, Fire Guard, Grimsby.

The Reverend James Branchley Merifield, Head Fire Guard, Grimsby.

Henry Stamp, Fire Guard, Grimsby.

John James Tilley, Fire Guard, Grimsby.

#### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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

*5th November, 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.

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

William Herbert Lowe, Resident Engineer, Braithwaite & Company, Iskenderum, Turkey.

A ship was anchored off an oil installation when an explosion occurred in the cargo. As a result the vessel broke adrift and, burning

furiously, drifted towards the anchorage and harbour. Owing to the direction of the wind there was a great risk of the ship drifting foul of other vessels in the anchorage or actually into the harbour, which was crowded with lighters loaded with valuable stores.

Mr. Lowe, realising the danger, immediately took a tug alongside the burning vessel and attached a wire hawser to her cable. He then towed her from the anchorage and secured her in a small bay some miles away. By this courageous and prompt action Mr. Lowe probably prevented considerable damage to shipping and the destruction of valuable material.

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

Captain Reginald Pattrick, Master, Merchant Navy.

Albert Cecil Stephenson Oliver, Chief Engineer Officer, Merchant Navy.

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

James Murray Sibbald, Chief Officer, Merchant Navy.

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

Joseph Mutter, Boatswain, Merchant Navy.

The ship was sailing in convoy with a cargo of military stores, munitions and a large number of motor lorries with petrol tanks full, when a fire broke out in one of the holds. Action was taken immediately to control the fire and the ship dropped out of convoy. In spite of the efforts of the crew the fire gradually became more intense, with flames shooting from the ventilators. The weather deteriorated and a distress message was sent out. Efforts were meanwhile continued to control the outbreak and they were eventually successful and the following day the ship was safely brought to port.

The Master displayed courage and leadership of a high order and, by his determination and skill, brought his ship safely to port in circumstances of grave hazard and difficulty.

The Chief Engineer Officer showed great devotion to duty and played a leading part in controlling the fire and in keeping it confined to the hold where the outbreak occurred. By his skill and example he contributed greatly to the saving of the ship.

When the fire was reported, the Chief Officer put on fire-fighting breathing apparatus and immediately went below to ascertain and report on the extent of the fire. Much dangerous cargo was stowed nearby and Mr. Sibbald took great risks. As a result of his courageous action the decision was made to remain in the ship and fight the fire.

Boatswain Mutter showed outstanding courage and devotion to duty. He was of great assistance to the Chief Engineer Officer.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

James Thomas, Explosives Worker, Ministry of Supply Factory.

A fire broke out in a box of flares stored in a magazine fully stacked with ammunition. The flares produced intense heat and a great deal of smoke which hampered

operations. Mr. Thomas collected buckets of water from outside the door of the magazine and endeavoured to put out the fire and to cool the surrounding boxes of ammunition. In so doing he took a tremendous risk, as the distance of each journey was some 40 feet each way, and he had to pass between rows of boxed ammunition. Shortly after the outbreak of the fire the heat led to the ignition and subsequent explosion of some of the ammunition. Through the prompt action of Mr. Thomas, damage to the building was negligible and only a very small quantity of ammunition was lost. By his courage and resource he prevented the fire from spreading and causing a major disaster.

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

Aaron Brain, Ship's Cook, Merchant Navy.

The ship was discharging cargo when a violent explosion occurred and fire broke out in one of the holds. This was followed by a further explosion in another hold. The cargo included drums of aviation and motor spirit and the flames spread rapidly. Fire-fighting appliances were manned immediately and orders given to flood the two holds. Strenuous efforts were made to fight the fire and to save the ship but these proved unavailing and assistance was obtained from naval and shore personnel. It was not until two days later that the fire was finally extinguished.

Ship's Cook Brain showed outstanding courage and devotion to duty in the fire-fighting operations.

Mahomed Jafi, Warder, Sylhet District Jail, Assam.

A convict escaped from a working party and took refuge in his house 14 miles away.

He was followed by Warder Mahomed Jafi who, after placing three villagers outside the house, entered and was immediately attacked by the convict armed with a dao. In spite of wounds to his hands and scalp, and unarmed as he was, Mahomed Jafi threw himself on the man and secured him after a violent struggle. With the aid of the villagers he conveyed his prisoner to jail, travelling throughout the night.

Mahomed Jafi showed courage and initiative.

Gordon Townsend Rogers, Driller, H.M. Dockyard, Portsmouth.

A ship was in dry-dock undergoing repairs when a serious explosion occurred. Rogers was badly shaken but he went at once to the seat of the trouble. All lights were out, compartments were full of dense smoke and the deck torn open in several places.

By the light of a torch Rogers crawled through one of the holes in the deck down to a lower deck, which had been lifted bodily about 5 feet. A manhole leading to a fuel tank was canted at an angle of about 30°. Rogers went through this, and down the ladder to the tank. The ladder had been wrenched and broken by the explosion and the bottom rung was about 4 feet above the bottom of the tank. Rogers found three men, all badly hurt. Without help he carried one man up the ladder, through the manhole and so to the deck. He then returned to the tank, brought the other two men to the foot of the ladder, and, with help, brought them to safety.

COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been Commended for brave conduct:—

When an aircraft crashed and caught fire:—

Kenneth Andrews, Farm Labourer, Baconsthorpe, Norfolk.

Michael James Lomasney, Police Constable, Warwickshire Constabulary.

When fighting a fire in a ship:—

William Isaac Davies, Carpenter, Merchant Navy.

When an explosion occurred in a ship under repair:—

Cyril Goad Bower, Shipwright, H.M. Dockyard, Portsmouth.

Leonard Ives Lemaux, Welder, H.M. Dockyard, Portsmouth.

Charles Rouse, Inspector of Shipwrights, H.M. Dockyard, Portsmouth.

Sidney Joseph Sandy, Burner, H.M. Dockyard, Portsmouth.

Vernon Ainsworth Whittle, Shipwright Apprentice, H.M. Dockyard, Portsmouth.

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