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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD,

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
20th February, 1945.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to award the GEORGE CROSS to:—

Leslie Owen Fox, Deputy Party Leader,
London County Council Heavy Rescue
Service.

High explosive and incendiary bombs demolished houses and set fire to the wreckage. The walls were liable to collapse at any moment and the entire framework was well alight.

Cries were heard from under the debris and Fox, without thought for himself, immediately began to tunnel his way through the blazing ruins. Debris passed back by Fox was often too hot to handle and his men continually sprayed him with water in an endeavour to keep down the almost intolerable heat from the flames. At great danger to himself Fox shored the entrance to the tunnel, adjoining which was a very dangerous party wall. After about two hours of very strenuous work and under the most difficult and dangerous conditions Fox located the casualty. Although in a distressed condition he would not allow a relief to take his place and continued rescue operations. Shortly afterwards the dangerous wall collapsed, blocking the entrance and causing the tunnel to subside. Fox, however recommenced tunnelling, straining every muscle to expedite the work. After a further two hours' work he had tunnelled 15 feet and was able to clear debris away from the head of the casualty and cover him with some sort of protection. A Medical Officer was then enabled to enter and administer restoratives to the injured man, who was eventually brought to safety. Fox performed his duty in a most gallant and determined manner and, by his courage and tenacity, saved a man from what appeared to be almost certain death.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD,

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
20th February, 1945.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of the persons specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for brave conduct in Civil Defence:—

COMMENDATIONS.

Captain John Ivor Edwards, Master, Merchant Navy.
Arthur William Hutchinson, Fireman and Trimmer, Merchant Navy.
Harry Lyles, Maltster, Mortlake.
Roy Victor Turner, Fireman and Trimmer, Merchant Navy.
Andrew Gibson Yool, Chief Officer, Merchant Navy.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD,

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
20th February, 1945.*

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 award 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 Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

Miss Margaret Elizabeth Scott Sale, First Aid Nursing Yeomanry.

For services in connection with Military operations in the Mediterranean Area.

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

Thomas George Cooper, Section Leader,
National Fire Service, Northern Ireland.

A fire broke out in a shop and Section Leader Cooper was told that a woman was in the house above the premises. Despite the dense smoke and an escape of coal gas, he tried to ascend the staircase which was alight and in the attempt both his hands were badly burned. He was unsuccessful and called for a ladder. Putting on his breathing apparatus, he climbed to a window which he smashed, and then entered the room. Feeling his way past many obstructions, he heard moans and made his way through the smoke towards the sound. On the landing at the top of the burning staircase he found a stoutly built woman who was unconscious. He was unable to lift her but he dragged her back through the doorway. As he approached the window his breathing apparatus became dislocated by some of the obstructions and the mouth-piece was torn away. Almost overcome with smoke and

gas fumes he dragged the unconscious woman to the window-sill. He was by now exhausted and stepped out on to the ladder to get help. The woman was brought to safety by other members of the unit.

Cooper showed courage and devotion to duty in difficult circumstances, without regard for his own safety.

COMMENDATIONS

Those named below have been Commended for brave conduct:—

When a fire occurred in an ammunition store:—

John Wesley Borthwick, Leading Fireman,
No. 11 (Southend) Area, National Fire Service.

When rescuing the occupant of a burning house:—

William Douglas Reffell, Special Constable,
Surrey Joint Police Force.
William Charles Tucker, Constable, Surrey
Joint Police Force.

LONDON

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