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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
 OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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

12th December, 1950.

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 those specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation.

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

Reginald Herbert BLANCHFORD, County Officer, St. John Ambulance Brigade, St. Peter Port, Guernsey.

A boy who attempted to climb a cliff, 100ft. high and almost perpendicular, reached a point about 75ft. from the bottom and was then unable to go either up or down. He clung to the cliff face, feet splayed and hands gripping the rock above him, in great danger of crashing to death on the rocks below. Blanchford ran to the nearest telephone and summoned an ambulance car and cliff rescue equipment. When these arrived a rope was tied around a gorse bush and Blanchford commenced his perilous descent to the boy.

As he went, loose stones, lifted by the movement of the rope, fell around him. More than once the falling boulders narrowly missed him and before he reached the boy he was struck on the chest by a heavy stone and almost rendered unconscious. Recovering, but in severe pain, he managed to grasp and hold on to the boy and bring him safely to the beach.

In accomplishing the rescue Blanchford showed courage, skill and endurance of a very high degree.

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

Howard Frederick GRIFFITHS, Divisional Officer, Hampshire Fire Service.

Joseph Launcelot STOBART, Deputy Armament Supply Officer, R.N. Armament Depot, Bedenham, Gosport.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Lionel Mornington ABBS, Station Officer, Hampshire Fire Service.

Donald James Davidson MCGREGOR, Station Officer, Hampshire Fire Service.

Edward Alfred MARSH, Chief Inspector, Admiralty Constabulary, Bedenham and Priddy's Hard Group.

Charles Edward WALDER, Police Constable, Admiralty Constabulary, Bedenham and Priddy's Hard Group.

William Charles WOODS, Police Sergeant, Admiralty Constabulary, Bedenham and Priddy's Hard Group.

A fire occurred on a barge loaded with ammunition which was moored at the pier head of the R.N. Armament Depot, Bedenham, Gosport. Access to the pier, which was more than half a mile from the Depot entrance, was possible only by way of a railway track.

Station Officer McGregor was first on the scene and gave instructions for a railway bogey to be loaded with fire fighting equipment. He and his crew took this to within 150 yards of the seat of the fire where the ammunition train on the pier head and other barges moored alongside were burning with