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THIS EMBARGO SHOULD BE RESPECTED OVERSEAS BY PREFACING
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AWARDS TO CIVILIANS FOR GALLANTRY

The King has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the British Empire Medal to Mr. Frank Hitchen Willis, farmer of the Willen Farm, Bickley, Cheshire and commendation to Mr. Thomas Galley, Farm Worker, of Oak Cottage, Norbury, Cheshire, in recognition of gallantry.

When a Royal Air Force training aircraft crashed and caught fire near Bickley, Cheshire, in April 1943, Mr. Frank Hitchen Willis went, without hesitation, to the assistance of the occupants, a pupil pilot and his instructor. Entering the flames, which were fifteen feet high, he succeeded in releasing the pupil pilot, dragged him clear of the blazing wreckage and extinguished his clothing which was on fire.

He was then joined by Thomas Galley and together they extricated the instructor who, unfortunately, was already dead.

Both men sustained burns in the course of their rescue work and acted with entire disregard for their personal safety. Their prompt and gallant actions are worthy of high praise.
