

NOT FOR PUBLICATION BEFORE ANNOUNCED
IN THE LONDON GAZETTE

ENGINEER OFFICER'S COURAGE IN DAMAGED SHIP

Knocked unconscious by a piece of falling metal following a serious explosion, a Commissioned Engineer of the Royal Navy recovered some ten minutes later and, although badly wounded, he went down into the engine room of his ship where he did everything possible to limit the damage before relaxing his efforts.

At the time his ship was on fire and ammunition was exploding.

For his outstanding courage and extreme devotion to duty in the most dangerous conditions the officer, Mr. Joseph Frederick Walker, M.B.E., Commissioned Engineer, R.N., of Chichester, Sussex, has been awarded the George Medal, states tonight's London Gazette.

Engineroom Artificer Leonard Ernest James Love, of East Cosham, Portsmouth, who stayed at his post in the engineroom following the explosion and continued to carry out his duty in spite of being wounded himself, and in danger from fire and exploding ammunition, has received the B.E.M. (Military).

When the explosion occurred Mr. Walker was knocked out by a piece of falling metal and remained unconscious for some five to ten minutes. When he recovered, although he was quite deaf, wounded in the head and suffering from burns and blast, he at once made his way to the engineroom, to satisfy himself that everything possible had been done.

With the help of the E.R.A. Love he shut off steam from the main engines, and then tried to isolate the steam further, shut off oil fuel and opened safety valves. Only when he had satisfied himself that everything possible had been done did he relax his efforts.

E.R.A. Love, in spite of being wounded by the explosion, remained by himself alone in the engineroom until he was joined by Mr. Walker. He continued to work with him, in the difficult conditions that obtained, and at the end was reluctant to leave his post, though ordered to do so, because he thought Mr. Walker was more seriously wounded than himself.

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NAVAL AFFAIRS