

TEL. No.: VICTORIA 4433

Any communication on the  
subject of this letter should be  
addressed to:—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,  
HOME OFFICE, (FIRE BRIGADES DIVISION),  
CLELAND HOUSE,  
PAGE STREET,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

and the following number quoted:—



HOME OFFICE,  
CLELAND HOUSE,  
PAGE STREET,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

9th September, 1940.

F.B.GEN.91/10.

CONFIDENTIAL.

Sir,

Honours for Fire Brigade and  
Auxiliary Fire Service Personnel.  
F.B. Circular No. 122/1940.

1. I am directed by the Secretary of State to say, for the information of the fire authority, that he has had under consideration the procedure for the recognition of acts of gallantry and of meritorious services on the part of members of regular fire brigades and of the Auxiliary Fire Service, with particular reference to the question of recommendations by fire authorities in respect of gallantry in connexion with war activities.

2. Fire authorities generally will no doubt be aware that the principal honour available for members of the Fire Service, whether for gallantry or for meritorious service, is the King's Police and Fire Services Medal. By a Royal Warrant bearing date the 20th August, 1940, the scope of this Medal has been extended so as to include members of the Auxiliary Fire Service as well as members of any fire brigade providing local fire services under the Fire Brigades Act, 1938. This Medal will be the appropriate award in cases of individual gallantry of the highest order displayed in dealing with the consequences of enemy action or other war situations. Under normal arrangements, recommendations for the award of the Medal are to be sent to this Department in the months of March and October in each year, in order that, in accordance with the Regulations governing the submission of recommendations to the King, lists may be submitted to His Majesty twice a year. These arrangements should be complied with by fire authorities in the case of recommendations not arising specifically out of war activities.

The Clerk of the London County Council.  
The Town Clerk.  
The Clerk to the Council.



3. The Regulations provide, however, that a recommendation may be made at any time when His Majesty so commands, and the Secretary of State would be glad if the fire authority would submit to this Department, as soon after the event as possible, particulars of any act of conspicuous gallantry in connexion with war activities performed by a member of a fire brigade or of the Auxiliary Fire Service, in order that the question of submitting a recommendation to His Majesty may be taken into consideration.

4. Where gallantry is displayed in connexion with war activities, but is not of so high a standard as to warrant the award of the King's Police and Fire Services Medal, it may be considered appropriate to recommend the award of the Medal of the Order of the British Empire for Meritorious Service, or the inclusion of the name of the Officer or fireman, or the crew concerned, in a list of Commendations to be published in the London Gazette. Recommendations for such recognition of gallantry may also be made at any time.

5. All recommendations should state the name, rank and age of the person recommended, the name of the Fire Brigade of which he is or was a member, or to which he is or was attached as an auxiliary, the total duration of his services, his previous honours (if any), with dates of the awards, and full particulars of the action for which the award or commendation is recommended. In the event of several names being submitted at one time, order of priority in which the fire authority now place the names should also be indicated.

6. Whenever a recommendation is forwarded to this Department, a copy of the recommendation should be sent to the Regional Commissioner for the Civil Defence Region.

7. A copy of the Royal Warrant governing the King's Police and Fire Services Medal will be sent to the fire authority in due course.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

*J. B. Mac Iner*

Issued to:-

All Fire Authorities in England and Wales.

Copies sent to:-

All Chief Officers of Fire Brigades and Chief Constables in  
England and Wales for information.