

EASTERN CIVIL DEFENCE REGION

Office of the Regional Commissioner,
St. Regis,
Montague Road,
Cambridge.

18th December, 1944.

Sir,

I drew the attention of the Minister of Home Security to your conduct on the 8th May, 1944, when a bomber aircraft of the United States Army Air Force, carrying a full load of bombs, crashed at Frettenham and a number of fires broke out amidst the scattered wreckage. I informed the Minister that you went to the scene of the crash and, without regard for the danger from exploding ammunition and unexploded bombs, helped to effect the removal from the blazing wreckage of the ten members of the aircraft's crew, thereby assisting materially in saving the lives of a number of them.

The Minister felt that your courageous action was deserving of high praise and he took steps to bring the matter to the notice of His Majesty the King. I now have the pleasure of informing you, at the request of the Minister, that His Majesty has been graciously pleased to give orders for the publication of your name as having received an expression of Commendation for your services.

The notice will appear in a list to be published as a Supplement to the London Gazette on the evening of the 19th December, 1944.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Will Spens

Regional Commissioner,
Eastern Civil Defence Region.

Ralph Hewitt.

EASTERN CIVIL DEFENCE REGION

*Office of the Regional Commissioner
St Regis*

*Montague Road
Cambridge*

Telephone: CAMBRIDGE 54237

Telegrams: EMREGCOM, CAMBRIDGE

18th December, 1944.

Dear Sir,

I have much pleasure in sending you the enclosed formal notification of the official recognition of your services on the occasion of the aircraft crash at Frettenham on the 8th May last, and I wish, at the same time, to express my own warm congratulations.

Yours faithfully,

Will Spence

Regional Commissioner.

Ralph Hewitt, Esq.,
The Garage,
FRETTEHAM,
Nr. Norwich.

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY A.R.P. CONTROLLER
AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
CAPT. A. T. BERNEY-FICKLIN,
M.B.E., M.C.

TELEPHONE NO.1 NORWICH 22288

Please quote Ref. ARP/C/21.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY A.R.P. CONTROLLER,
COUNTY OFFICES,
THORPE ROAD,
NORWICH
ATBF/HMS.

20th. December, 1944.

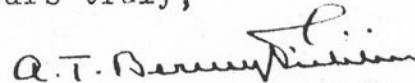
Dear Mr. Hewitt,

Awards for Gallantry -
Crashed Liberator Bomber - Frettenham - 8th. May, 1944.

It is with much pleasure that I have learnt from the Regional Commissioner of the award to you by H.M. The King of an official Commendation for the gallantry shown by you last May in rescuing, with the assistance of Messrs. Sidell, Tebbet and Miles and some members of a nearby Searchlight Battery, the injured crew of a crashed Liberator, some of whom were trapped, thereby undoubtedly saving their lives.

I heartily congratulate you on your well deserved Award.

Yours truly,


A.T. Berney-Ficklin

R. Hewitt, Esq.,
The Garage,
Frettenham,
Norfolk.



CENTRAL CHANCERY
OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD,
ST. JAMES'S PALACE, S.W.1.

The enclosed Badge is issued by Command of The King, for wear by those awarded a civil Commendation for brave conduct.

The Badge is intended to be worn in plain clothes on the left lapel of the coat, or in a corresponding position. In Civil Defence, Police, National Fire Service, and other civilian uniforms, it should be placed immediately above the centre of the position in which any medal ribbons are, or would be, worn. The Badge must not be worn in Service dress.

A duplicate Badge is enclosed so that the recipient may not be put to the inconvenience of removing the Badge from the coat every time this is changed. Care should be taken, however, to see that neither falls into other hands.