

Lt/Cdr Ernest Oliver GIDDEN won his George Cross for defusing a parachute mine on Hungerford Bridge in 1942. His obituary in The Times noted that when he arrived on the scene, trains and sleepers at Charing Cross were alight, as was the hotel. Tubes had been stopped and many local buildings, including the War Office, had been evacuated. After 6 hours' work, during which ~~suspects~~ the timing mechanism began to tick, Gidden pried out the fuse with a chisel.

Gidden, who had earlier won the George Medal, was educated at UGS and lived at 21 Elworthy Road.