

Major James Ernest Gray, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.(Belf.), Indian Medical Service, Civil Surgeon, Karachi, Bombay.

Hugh Weightman, Esq., of the Political Department, Political Agent, Kalat and Chagai, Baluchistan.

*Whitehall, October 29, 1935.*

His Majesty The KING has been graciously pleased to award the Albert Medal in each of the following cases for services rendered in connection with the recent earthquake in Baluchistan:—

Nurse Florence Alice Allen.

At the risk of her life, and at the cost of terrible injuries to her leg, Miss Allen saved the life of the child in her charge by throwing herself across the cot. She has displayed the highest courage ever since.

Lieutenant John Guise Cowley, Royal Engineers, 16th Army Troops Company, Q.V.O. Madras Sappers and Miners.

Lieutenant Cowley and his party were the first to start relief work at the Civil Hospital where the walls of all the wards had collapsed bringing down the roofs intact on the inmates on whom the debris of the walls had already fallen. At first the men were too few in number to tear off the roofs, so they raised them up for short periods whilst Lieutenant Cowley crawled under them and dragged out survivors from their beds. The survivors were pre-earthquake hospital patients and mostly quite helpless. Lieutenant Cowley lifted many men in his arms regardless of the warning that they were suffering from all manner of diseases. Had it not been for the work of this officer and the excellent example shown by him to his men, very many less men would have been saved alive.

Lance-Naik Firoze Khan, 5th Battalion, 8th Punjab (Burma) Regiment.

On the morning of May 31st Lance-Naik Firoze Khan was in charge of a party engaged in rescue work and fire fighting in the city. Hearing cries for help from beneath the ruins in the close vicinity of a fire, Lance-Naik Firoze Khan and his party commenced to dig and cut their way down into the building. After nearly two hours' work, the Lance-Naik was able to enter the building from above and discovered two people pinned down by beams and rubble. The fire had by this time spread to the building in question, which was full of smoke and fumes. In spite of this the Lance-Naik with pick and saw spent over half an hour beneath the ruins and finally released the injured people. He did this at great risk to his own life as throughout there was grave danger of the ruins subsiding from the effect of the fire and further earthquake shocks.

Private Harry Fitzsimmons, 1st Battalion, The West Yorkshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's Own).

On the 31st May and 1st and 2nd June, 1935, Fitzsimmons was on rescue duty in the area of Quetta City to the east of Sandeman

Hall. He worked with conspicuous energy and devotion to duty throughout the period of rescue work, and in conjunction with others was responsible for saving several lives. On 1st June, in order to rescue an Indian whom he knew to be buried alive, Fitzsimmons, at great risk to his own life, made a passage under the debris of a house into which he was able to crawl. On reaching the man he discovered a woman lying dead on top of him, who was pinned down by a stout beam across her leg. In order to release the man, whom he eventually saved, he had to saw off the woman's leg with a carpenter's saw. The remains of the building, and the passage he made, were in imminent danger of collapse during the whole period he was working. Fitzsimmons' action was a very gallant one and worthy of special recognition.

Rifleman Harkbir Thapa, 2nd Battalion, 8th Gurkha Rifles.

On the morning of the 31st May, Rifleman Thapa was detailed as part of a rescue party which was going to dig out some living people behind the Police Lines. On the way to the work he heard noises in a building and obtained permission from the N.C.O. to try to get these people out. At about 6.30 a.m., the Adjutant visited the area to ascertain how work was progressing. He found Rifleman Harkbir Thapa had worked his way with his hands through the debris under a tottering roof, and was nearing two people who were alive but buried. As there was clearly every chance of the roof collapsing on top of him as he removed the debris, the Adjutant assisted him by propping up the roof as far as possible. Rifleman Harkbir Thapa continued his work and brought out two children alive. He undoubtedly saved those two children at the risk of his own life. On 2nd June this Rifleman's conduct was again brought to notice. On this occasion he formed part of a detachment working in Hudda Village. The upper storey of a crumbling house was being cleared, part of the roof had fallen through the floor into the lower storey, thus rendering the floor most dangerous. A living child was discovered in the lower storey. This man and one other volunteered to dig through a corner of the floor opposite to where it had crumbled. They did so with khukries and their hands and got through to the lower storey and rescued the child. They did this at considerable risk to their own lives, as the walls were in danger of falling and the floor might have collapsed at any moment.

Lance-Naik Hukam Dad, 5th Battalion, 8th Punjab (Burma) Regiment.

In the early morning of 31st May, while employed in rescue work in the city, Lance-Naik Hukam Dad fought his way into the ruins of a burning house at considerable risk to his own life and rescued a woman who was imprisoned there. Two injured men had already perished in the flames, and it was only through the bravery and presence of mind of Hukam Dad that the woman was saved.