



SUPPLEMENT

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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
15th November, 1940.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointment to the Fourth Class of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for the following awards, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of individuals shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their good services.

To be an Additional Officer of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

Tom Breaks, Deputy Chief Inspector, Fire Brigades Division, Home Office.

Mr. Breaks was in charge of the operations for the extinction of a large fire which was caused by enemy air action and which burned for a considerable time. During this period he had necessarily to expose himself to great danger on many occasions. His powers of organisation and the manner in which he handled men under his command were quite outstanding. Mr. Breaks organised the dispositions of the fire attack including the arrangements for relaying water from a distance, on more than one occasion under bombing and machine-gun fire from the enemy. At the same time he organised billeting, feeding and medical attention for the personnel engaged in an area where facilities for these purposes were very limited.

Awarded the George Medal.

Thomas Bruce, Fire Brigade Superintendent.

When an enemy bombing aeroplane crashed, destroying a shop and dwelling-houses and badly damaging two other properties, petrol and oil from the bomber were scattered over a wide area setting fire to the buildings. Three persons were also trapped in a wrecked surface shelter which was covered with debris from the demolished house. The shelter itself was on fire and rescue operations were greatly hampered by the flames and heat given off from the burning petrol. In addition, concentrations of petrol vapour were exploding continuously. Superintendent T. Bruce at once called for volunteers to assist himself and Fire Sergeant Patterson in attempting the rescue of the persons trapped in the shelter. Chief Inspector Middlemist, Detectives G. Cook and A. Buddles and P.C. A. Simpson immediately volunteered and rendered valuable assistance in moving heavy concrete slabs and other debris from the shelter, their efforts resulting in the rescue of three people from the wreckage.

During the rescue operations it was found necessary to play a jet of water on the feet of the trapped persons and the officers engaged in the work, as their clothing was being burnt by blazing petrol.

The officers concerned displayed exceptional courage and showed complete disregard of the possibility that further bombs may have been in the fallen plane and might have exploded at any time during the operations.

William George Hack, Police Constable, " J " Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

During an air raid a crude oil bomb was dropped on a factory and a huge fire resulted and dwelling-houses quickly became enveloped. H.E. bombs were also dropped.

Within a minute or two P.C. Hack arrived and found six persons trapped in a shelter by debris. Here, despite the heat, flames and additional bombs, he succeeded in making a hole in the debris large enough to pull the six people through and sent them away to safety.

Continuing along the road, Hack found a man trapped to the waist in debris. Here again the P.C. showed great devotion to duty and did his utmost to release the man unaided. Finding the task beyond him, however, he obtained the assistance of P.S. Osborne and P.C. Comley. All three officers then commenced to remove the debris which had become ignited, and after several minutes of work in intense heat, and at considerable personal risk, succeeded in releasing the man, who was unconscious.

P.C. Hack undoubtedly saved six lives and was primarily responsible for saving a seventh.

Joseph James Harper, Fire Brigade Station Officer.

Two members of a Bomb Disposal Section were trapped in a crater while attempting to dig out an unexploded bomb.

The Fire Brigade special service tender was immediately despatched, and upon arrival it was found that an opening approximately 6 ft. 6 in. by 18 ft. deep had been dug out, showing a circular hole at the bottom about 18 ins. in diameter. The two men had been lowered through this opening, and had been immediately overcome by the gas in the cavity below, although they were wearing general service respirators.

Station Officer Harper, wearing a " Salvus " breathing apparatus, was immediately lowered through the opening, although he was informed that the bomb had not yet exploded. He located the men, and fastened a rope round them; they were then hauled to the surface by other members of the Brigade.

Edward William Thomas Jackson, Police Constable.	} " L " Division Metropolitan Police Force.
Albert George Parsons, War Reserve.	

Late one night a high explosive bomb burst in South-East London, demolishing one house and partly demolishing another.

A party of police immediately proceeded to the scene of the explosion where they were informed that several people were in the remains of the partially demolished house. After assisting two children and three adults to safety, they were further informed that a man was still trapped in wreckage on the top floor.

Although the remainder of the house was in danger of collapse and enemy aeroplanes still overhead Jackson and Parsons made their way through the debris to the top floor where they found a man pinioned by fallen woodwork. Near his head was a broken gas

pipe, from which gas was freely escaping. Jackson plugged the pipe, and, with the assistance of the War Reserve, attempted to extricate the trapped and injured man. To do this, they had to support the fallen roof upon their shoulders while parts of the house were still crumbling. They persisted in their efforts for twenty minutes when with the aid of a Rescue Squad, they were able to release the man. First aid was then rendered to the patient, who was later removed to hospital.

George Frederick Keen, Sub Ganger.	} Southern Railway Company.
George Henry Leach, Lengthman.	

An ammunition train, of some fifty wagons, standing on a single line railway, was hit by an explosive bomb during an air raid. Keen and Leach hastily collected a working party to help remove the damaged wagons to a place of safety. The moving of the wagons took about two hours and during the whole of that time the burning wagons were exploding and debris was shooting in all directions. But for the action of Keen and Leach in starting and directing the work of moving the wagons it is likely that most of the train would have caught fire with greater danger to life and property in the neighbourhood. Both men acted quite regardless of their own safety and at very considerable personal risk.

Edward Phillip Kerrison, Police Constable, " L " Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

As a result of enemy action during an air raid a public house was completely demolished by an H.E. bomb and several persons were trapped under the debris. On the first floor supported by the wreckage, P.C. Kerrison saw a woman partly dressed lying across a bath which was protruding over the deep crater caused by the bomb. The woman appeared terrified and her struggles caused the bath to slip towards the crater, the danger being intensified by the steep gradient of the street, at the corner of which the public house was situated. The night was very dark and enemy planes were still bombing overhead but the officer, in spite of the danger likely to arise from falling woodwork, masonry, etc., or through slipping in the debris, climbed over the wreckage and forced his way to the first floor and rescued the woman from her perilous position. Shortly afterwards the bath overbalanced and fell.

On another occasion some premises were completely demolished by an H.E. bomb. Several persons were trapped under debris, two of whom were dead. P.C. Kerrison accompanied by an Inspector and a War Reserve entered the basement, the balustrade and steps of which were in danger of collapsing and the passage blocked by debris. They succeeded in rescuing a baby and two women through the side of the demolished shelter. The coping stones at the side of the steps collapsed whilst they were carrying a woman out of the basement. It was then discovered that another woman was on the top floor, all the rooms of which were ex-

posed, the back and side walls being demolished and the front partially demolished. The P.C. obtained an old decayed ladder and climbed and entered the room rescuing the woman. Shortly after the rescue, further parts of the exposed floorings, and the frontage of the house fell away.

Bernard Lees, Police Constable. William Richard Gunn, Police Constable. Charles Nicholson, Police Constable.	}	"G" Division Metropolitan Police Force
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Following an enemy air raid a large number of buildings were demolished, many people being injured and trapped in the wreckage. A number of police attended the scene and assisted Wardens who were present in searching the debris for persons who might be trapped.

Whilst searching among the ruins of a house moans were heard coming from the wreckage.

As there were no Rescue or Demolition Parties, all the police present immediately started to try to pierce the ruins with a view to releasing those who were trapped underneath and a hole was subsequently found amongst the rubble leading down from where the stairs had been. The hole was a very small one and it was impossible to see where it led to or how deep it was and whether it was safe to enter.

P.Cs. Lees, Gunn and Nicholson immediately volunteered to go down to see if they could reach those who were trapped and by crawling on their stomachs they gradually got down to a depth of 20 feet where they found four or five people trapped and seriously injured. Finding it impossible to remove them, they returned to the surface and reported exactly where they were and the best means of removing the wreckage.

All police present then began carefully to remove as much of the wreckage as possible and during this time the three officers repeatedly entered the hole at great personal risk, speaking to and encouraging the people present by telling them that everything possible was being done. When it was realised that the extrication was going to take some considerable time, the three officers asked for pieces of wood about three feet in length to be passed down to them with a saw. P.Cs. Lees and Gunn lying on their stomachs in a small hole choked with dust and escaping gas, shored up the debris surrounding a young woman and sawed through a door which was pinning her down. In this way they managed to effect her release and, passing her carefully from one to another they got her to the surface where stretcher bearers carried her to an awaiting ambulance.

The three men then carried on with their brave and heroic work until the time when Rescue and Demolition Parties arrived.

Miss Violet Eleanor Reid, Junior Nurse.

During an enemy air raid five high explosive bombs were dropped in the grounds of an Asylum. One of the bombs hit the edge of the roof of the kitchen of the female block, in which eighty-two female mental patients

are housed. The bomb demolished part of the kitchen and blew in all the surrounding windows. Steam and hot water escaped from damaged pipes, and after the first two or three minutes the lights failed.

The explosion caused six casualties. Four of these were female mental patients who suffered superficial abrasions caused by flying glass. The remaining two, more seriously injured, were Nurse Reid and a colleague, who were working in the kitchen when it was damaged.

In spite of wounds, loss of blood and deafness caused by the explosion, and in spite of the darkness in the building after the lights failed, Nurse Reid remained calm and showed great devotion to duty in attending to the mental patients and her injured colleague. Unaided she carried the other nurse upstairs and attended to her on a bed until a doctor arrived. Nurse Reid then returned to attend to patients who had gathered in the entrance hall. She refused help for herself until all the patients were cared for, and was with difficulty persuaded to go to the first-aid post in the hospital.

By her cool and cheerful conduct she prevented the confusion among the mental patients from developing into what might readily have become a panic.

Ernest Sexton Rose, Police Constable, "D" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

During an air raid in the early morning, in response to a telephone message received by the Police, P.C. Rose, in company with other officers, visited a dwelling house, consisting of a garage in the basement, first and second floors, which had partially collapsed following a direct hit from an H.E. bomb.

No other Civil Defence Services were present, but the P.C. unhesitatingly commenced search among the debris for persons whom he knew were trapped underneath. He worked for some fifty minutes in a confined space and succeeded in extricating a man and woman and partially freed their son, aged 14. He was then relieved by the Rescue Squad.

Rose worked throughout under the most dangerous conditions, water from a burst pipe pouring over him incessantly. A large slab of concrete, precariously wedged against a glass door was the sole support of the whole of the wreckage of the upper floors and, during the rescue, the slab of concrete moved.

Enemy aircraft were in the vicinity overhead the whole time, and a fire was raging in a block of flats nearby.

William Thomas Elnor Spain, Police Constable, Folkestone Borough Police Force.

During an air raid, two bombs, of very heavy calibre, destroyed a block of eight tenement houses of five storeys high. A tenant of the block of houses had taken refuge in the larder of her house on the ground floor. Upon the explosion, she was there imprisoned, suffering from very severe bruising and shock, and in imminent danger of being buried alive by some still standing, but tottering, walls 40 to 45 feet high. P.C. Spain having arrived on the scene, learning the circumstances, unhesitatingly made his way through, and under

tremendous showers of debris, until he reached the woman who was pinned down. She was terrified, and had almost collapsed. P.C. Spain, although he knew the grave danger he was running of being buried alive, remained with her the whole time, comforting her by his kind words and presence, until the work of the Rescue Party was complete, and she was released. He showed courage of the very highest order.

Harold Isaac William Young, Station Police Sergeant, "L" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

As a result of an enemy air raid a considerable number of cottages and adjoining property were demolished, one person being killed and a number injured. The explosion caused the fracture of a gas main and electrical cables whereby the danger was intensified. Station Sergeant Young, however, regardless of personal safety immediately entered the area affected and worked unceasingly in rescuing people from shelters and others trapped under the debris. Great difficulty was experienced on this occasion as it was impossible to use lights in consequence of an enemy aeroplane in the beam of the searchlights, which was circling overhead, immediately above the scene.

On another occasion two parachutes were detected falling in the same neighbourhood. The S.P.S. on being informed immediately ran towards the direction of the parachutes. When he was a short distance away a loud explosion occurred causing considerable damage over a wide area, involving loss of life and injuries. The explosion was that of land mines attached to the parachutes. Young was blown off his feet and thrown to the ground, sustaining shock. Regardless of his condition, however, he worked unceasingly in rescuing trapped people from under fallen debris. On his return to the station about an hour afterwards he was seen with his face completely covered in dirt and dust and his uniform plastered with grime, he himself being dazed and exhausted. He declined to see the Divisional Surgeon or to report sick.

Station Sergeant Young has rendered exceptional services in connection with the rescue of people concerned in other bombing incidents caused by enemy action.

Awarded the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for Meritorious Service:—

Edward Raymond Riordan Gahan, Station Inspector, "X" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Since the commencement of the heavy nightly aerial bombardment, Station Inspector Gahan has visited and dealt with no less than twenty-two incidents of varying magnitude, being a real leader and stimulus to all with whom he has come in contact.

On one occasion, two heavy bombs demolished three houses and damaged a very large number of others. Several persons were killed and a large number sustained injury. The Station Inspector, efficiently organising soldiers and civilians into a "chain gang," soon had three persons rescued after wholesale removal of debris.

On another occasion incendiary bombs were dropped causing several fires. One of these fires at a factory proved to be serious and Fire Services were in attendance. An H.E. bomb then fell on the premises causing the fire to spread to an adjoining factory and other premises. Small fires also began to break out in many places and the water supply was affected by explosions. The Station Inspector obtained four stirrup pumps and organised local teams of residents to obtain buckets of water from neighbouring houses. In this manner he succeeded in stopping several fires from spreading, being assisted in these efforts by women as well as men. He has also organised a number of evacuations following unexploded bombs and land mines. In one particular instance a very large evacuation was necessary which was carried out efficiently and methodically.

Herbert Charles Lusignea, Inspector, "Y" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Night after night the Inspector has taken charge of all incidents in his Section, and exhibited an inspiring leadership to all ranks serving under him. When he dealt with two unexploded bombs of a new type, the first in the Division, he realised their potential danger, closely examining them at great personal risk and organising evacuation of local residents on a large scale, involving two to three thousand people. This operation was carried out without a hitch.

Commendations.

Those named below have been brought to notice for gallantry or good service in connection with Civil Defence.

John Aspinall, Police Constable, West Riding of Yorkshire Constabulary.

Richard Harry MacDonald Atkins, Police Constable, "V" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Arthur W. Buddles, Borough Police Force, Sunderland.

Harry Gordon Peppiatt Carpenter, Police Constable, "X" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Sidney John Comley, Police Constable, "J" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

George M. Cook, Detective Constable, Borough Police Force, Sunderland.

Leonard George Francis, Porter, Southern Railway.

Charles Frederick Franklin, Police Constable, "X" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Ernest Walter George, Inspector, "X" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Richard David Hammerton, War Reserve, "L" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Thomas Hogarth, Police Sergeant, "G" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Brian Corkery Kelly, Police Constable, "N" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Robert Frederick William Lewin, Police Constable, "X" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Bernard Lowery, Police Constable, "X" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Alfred Thomas Lowes, Police Sergeant, "S" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Albert McKechnie, Station Police Sergeant, "M" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Stuart Mawer, Police Constable, " X " Division, Metropolitan Police Force.
 Thomas Middlemist, Detective Chief Inspector, Borough Police Force, Sunderland.
 Robert Edward Mulliken, Police Constable, " V " Division, Metropolitan Police Force.
 Joseph Alston Murphy, Police Sergeant, " F " Division, Metropolitan Police Force.
 Alexander David Osborne, Police Sergeant, " J " Division, Metropolitan Police Force.
 Robert H. Patterson, Fire Brigade Sergeant, Borough Fire Brigade, Sunderland.
 Alfred Thomas Pearce, Messenger, Civil Defence Service, Beeston and Stapleford.
 Walter Potter, Works Foreman, Ramsgate Corporation Gasworks.
 Frederick Ernest Rayment, Resident Works Foreman, Epping and District Gas Company.
 George Francis Seller, Watchman, Standard Telephones and Cables Limited.
 Alfred Leonard Shipton, Inspector, " X " Division, Metropolitan Police Force.
 Alan R. Simpson, Police Constable, Borough Police Force, Sunderland.
 Stephen Smith, Police Constable, " G " Division, Metropolitan Police Force.
 William S. Smith, Fireman, Southern Railway.
 Maurice Arthur Stevens, Police Constable, " D " Division, Metropolitan Police Force.
 Frederick Henry Stovold, Engine Driver, Southern Railway.
 Frank Owen Sudbury, Food Executive Officer, Pembroke Borough Council Food Office.
 George Clinton Tanner, Area Inspector, Southern Railway.
 Miss Daisy Violet Thompson, Works Restaurant, Standard Telephones and Cables Limited.
 James Easton Thomson, Police Constable, " J " Division, Metropolitan Police Force.
 Harry Richard William Trim, Police Constable, " G " Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

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