



SECOND SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 31st of DECEMBER, 1940

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

FRIDAY, 3 JANUARY, 1941

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
3rd January, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the GEORGE CROSS to:—
Leonard Harrison, Civilian Armament Instructor (Grade I), Air Ministry,
for conspicuous courage and devotion to duty in circumstances of exceptional danger.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
3rd January, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointment to the Fifth Class of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for the following Awards of the George Medal and of the Medal of the said Most Excellent Order, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct in connection with Civil Defence:—

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

Ernest William Hancock, Works Manager, Coventry.

Immediately after an air raid started, Mr. Hancock came into the Works, from outside the town, and took charge of all operations. His conduct and leadership were an example to everyone and contributed in no small measure to the excellent work carried out by all concerned. The Works suffered severely from a number of H.E. and incendiary bombs but in

spite of shortage of water all fires when not extinguished quickly, were prevented from spreading to greater proportions.

Towards the end of the raid he was injured when the A.R.P. central control shelter received a direct hit from an H.E. bomb. He assisted, however, in rescuing his colleagues and endeavoured to carry on with his duties but his injuries made this impossible.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Bernard Joseph Bennie, Leader of A.R.P. Rescue Party, Lewisham.

Leader Bennie and his party were called out to an incident. Houses had been demolished by an H.E. bomb, and eight persons reported trapped. During the exploration of the ruins Leader Bennie received a severe electric shock, but got together his party and commenced rescue work. A heavy concentration of coal gas was present, and soon Bennie was incapacitated. He was dragged out of the debris. After a short time he revived and again resumed his rescue work, until four persons were recovered alive. As it was known that four persons yet remained under the debris, the search continued, Bennie again being gassed and dragged out. During this time enemy planes were bombing and anti-aircraft fire was intense. He showed a great spirit of determination and devotion to duty and was a fine example. A relief party ultimately recovered the remaining casualties.

George Frederick Bolton, A.R.P. Rescue Party Leader, Leyton.

Edward Hector Bent, A.R.P. Rescue Party Leader, Leyton.

During an air raid a bomb fell causing a crater about 15 feet deep and entirely demolishing three houses, while only a party wall of

another was left, this being in a dangerous condition. The premises were three storey buildings, and there were persons trapped in two of them.

Six live and two dead persons were recovered from one house after exhausting rescue work by two parties, considerably hampered by debris continually falling down the sides of the crater.

Six people were on the ground floor of another house when the upper floors crashed down carrying the ground floor about half way into the cellar. This made rescue work slow and difficult as there was danger of further collapse. Some hours later four casualties, suffering only from shock, had been removed by one rescue party. The floor then dropped about two feet leaving two casualties, an elderly man and his wife, trapped by the legs with dangerous debris hanging over them and covering them almost completely. The squads worked unceasingly, hampered many times by further falls of debris. The last casualty was not finally released until after some hours. Great difficulty was experienced in releasing the last victim as she could only be reached along a narrow tunnel.

All the personnel engaged worked well but particular mention is made of G. Bolton, who worked on the extraction of casualties from two houses and who by very hazardous operations provided tunnels through which the medical and first aid men made contact with the casualties, and E. H. Bent, who worked unceasingly, and was himself responsible for releasing three casualties.

George Collier, Chief Fire Officer, Works Fire Brigade, Coventry.

Chief Officer Collier throughout showed great zeal and gallantry in directing the Works Fire Brigade when the city was subjected to a heavy air raid. At one time when endeavouring to prevent flames from spreading he climbed to the top of the building. The building collapsed, and although hurt by his fall, he carried on his duties. Later, he continued to put out incendiary bombs although on three occasions H.E. bombs actually exploded in the building in which he was working. He was injured in the back by debris from one of them, but although in considerable pain he continued to direct his Second and Third Officers. It was not until the end of the raid that he would permit himself to be taken to the Surgery and then on to the Hospital.

In previous raids Chief Officer Collier has also shown great fearlessness and zeal, and he and his Brigade have dealt with several fires with great efficiency.

John Crawford Cunningham, D.S.O., Factory Defence Officer, Luton.

For gallantry in carrying out hazardous duties.

Leonard Frank Davis, Clerk of Works, A.R.P. Rescue Service, Westminster.

For bravery and devotion to duty in dangerous circumstances.

John William Donno, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Lewisham.

After the explosion of an enemy bomb, Donno displayed particularly fine courage and devotion to duty in effecting the rescue of four trapped casualties. Not being satisfied that all had been saved he caused some of the debris to be raised to enable him to crawl in and make a further search; this he did and discovered another casualty which was eventually rescued. During this latter operation Donno was himself trapped and buried, and upon being released was found to be injured and removed to hospital.

Arthur Hames Foreman, Fire Brigade Officer.
Harry Taylor, Fireman.
Sidney Eric Friend, Factory Press Operator.

During an air raid a bomb struck one of two trucks loaded with cordite standing outside a 60-ton Cordite Magazine. The truck immediately caught fire. The Fire Brigade at once turned out and attacked the fire from close range. Both trucks were blazing furiously and the flames spread to the Magazine through the doorway, the door having been wrenched off by the explosion. Regardless of personal danger the firemen, led by the Fire Brigade Officer, rapidly got the trucks under control and then entered the Magazine. One of the cordite boxes had already ignited and the exposed sides of many others were scorched. They extinguished this fire with hand appliances and then returned to and finally extinguished the burning trucks. As one of these had been derailed, it was necessary to remove the unburnt cordite from the truck.

But for the quick and efficient manner in which the Fire Brigade tackled the fire regardless of great personal risk, there is no doubt that the Magazine and contents would have been a complete loss.

George Thomas Groom, Member of A.R.P. Rescue Party, Greenwich.

Groom's party was called late in the night to some houses and shops demolished by an enemy bomb. Two live casualties were known to be under the debris. The only means of reaching them was through a flooded basement. Groom spent some hours in this flooded basement, in parts of which there were over 6 feet of water, and eventually these two stretcher cases were extricated. During all this period an air raid was in progress and bombs were falling round the site. Groom himself had ultimately to be assisted from the cellar and carried to hospital suffering from complete exhaustion.

Joseph Hoyle, Member of A.R.P. Rescue Party, Greenwich.

During an air raid a Hall was hit and a number of people were trapped in a cellar. The whole structure was in an exceedingly dangerous condition and bombs were constantly falling close by all through the night. Despite the fact that it appeared to be impossible to carry out rescue work in the darkness, J. Hoyle insisted on carrying on and worked in through a small aperture. After some hours, the efforts of Hoyle and others of his party resulted in three persons being rescued alive. All through this period Hoyle was aware that there was a likelihood that the whole structure would collapse on top of him but continued to work all night, showing an absolute disregard of his own personal safety. When the Hall was inspected in daylight it was found necessary to employ a special contractor to demolish a large part of the building, owing to the imminent danger of collapse. Hoyle showed an absolute disregard of his own safety in a position of grave danger and insisted on carrying on after his period of duty had expired.

Edward Henry James Moore, Auxiliary Fireman, Ramsgate A.F.S.

Fireman Moore and Auxiliary Fireman Herbert J. Wells were proceeding to report to their station, whilst bombs were falling, when a bomb exploded near them. Wells sustained a very severe laceration of the abdomen from a bomb splinter and was gravely injured. Fireman Moore received two splinter wounds in the right thigh and suffered from shock. The enemy then machine-gunned the two firemen and Moore received three bullets in the left arm, one making a hole through the arm whilst

another severed an artery. A further bullet injured his left wrist. Although bleeding profusely from the severed artery, Fireman Moore dragged his comrade to a more protected spot and then tried to carry him to a First Aid Post. Wells was a very big man and Moore, being much smaller, found the task impossible. Moore succeeded, as quickly as his injuries and condition permitted, in staggering to a First Aid dressing station 350 yards away to report the condition of his comrade, and an ambulance was at once despatched. After first aid treatment had been applied Wells was at once conveyed to hospital, where he died three days later. Fireman Moore was in hospital for three weeks.

Leonard George Potter, Works Chief Fire and A.R.P. Officer.

A delayed action bomb fell on the factory together with two H.E.s. Although he was told there was a chance of the bomb exploding at any moment, Potter called for volunteers and directed the pumping out of water from the hole in which it was lodged. For several hours he led his men in building a sandbag wall round the hole to reduce the effect of the explosion had the bomb gone off.

On another occasion he showed courage and devotion to duty in his handling of a fire caused by an oil bomb which, had he not directed the Fire Brigade efficiently, may have spread to a much larger section of the Works and thus have more seriously held up production of urgent war supplies.

Miss Maude Steele, Supervising Telephonist, Sherborne.

A heavy air bombardment caused many casualties and extensive damage. Miss Steele was in charge of the telephone exchange at the time and showed distinct courage and devotion to duty at the risk of personal danger by refusing to leave the exchange although bombs were falling all round the building. By her action, and that of the temporary telephonist who remained with her and whom she inspired by her courageous attitude, Ambulance, Police, Fire and Air Raid Precautions Services were kept in constant touch with their respective headquarters and other vital services were maintained until the majority of the local lines were put out of action and the exchange became untenable. Even so, when a heavy bomb exploded within the Post Office precincts, Miss Steele proceeded from the refuge room to the exchange hoping she might still be of service. She was magnificent in the face of real danger and by her courageous action contributed in no small measure to the effective and efficient working of the Air Raid Precautions and other Services. She remained in the exchange until the position became absolutely impossible, and even then she was reluctant to leave in case she could still be of assistance.

Awarded the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

Henry John Bennison, Chief A.R.P. Instructor, Walthamstow.

As the result of a High Explosive Bomb striking a house a man was trapped in the wreckage.

The trapped man was sheltering under the stairs of the house upon which the bomb made a direct hit. Whether he could be saved was a matter for the greatest conjecture. Mr. Bennison was despatched to supervise rescue operations.

It appeared that the chimney stack would collapse at any moment on the trapped person, or anyone attempting to rescue him, but Mr. Bennison, with assistance, calmly proceeded to work and extricated the man from his precarious position.

Mr. Bennison, by reason of his training and experience, must have been well aware of the risks which he took.

Thomas Buckingham, Voluntary A.R.P. Warden, Southwark.

Mr. Buckingham has, since the outbreak of war, been Voluntary Air Raid Warden at the offices of his firm in Southwark, where he works by day as foundry trimmer. When a bomb fell near his post he showed great bravery in saving a woman trapped beneath the ruins of her house, by tunnelling through several feet of debris to rescue her. Three days later another bomb fell on a block of buildings, and Buckingham, without thought for his own safety, went in to search for victims, although the building might well have fallen in upon him at any moment.

Benjamin Graham Cunningham, Member of A.R.P. Stretcher Party, Lambeth.

Cunningham has shown courage and initiative on many occasions. At one incident he crawled under a pile of debris and rendered first aid as well as he could to a man who was trapped. He stayed with him until the rescue party were able to release him although there was danger of further collapse of debris. When off duty he habitually goes the round of the air raid shelters in his district. One night he was able to release people trapped in a cellar and rendered first aid before any of the services on duty reached the spot. He gave help on another occasion by burrowing through debris and reaching a woman to whom a Doctor was then able to give morphia. Bombs were exploding in the neighbourhood while he and the Doctor were attending to her.

His courage and devotion to duty have been a high inspiration to the other personnel in his depot.

Leonard A. Divall, Member of Works Fire Service, Harlesden.

During an air raid incendiary bombs set fire to a factory. Soon afterwards more bombs were dropped, setting fire to another building, part of which backs on to the factory.

Mr. Divall showed much personal bravery. By almost super-human efforts he, and the rest of the men in the fire service under his leadership, were able to save the factory from any serious damage by fire.

On another occasion, 14 incendiary bombs came through the roofs of various of the buildings during the night, and under his leadership again, these were all put out without doing anything but scorch damage.

Divall worked hard regardless of dangers from bombs and darkness. In spite of the fact that he had sprained his ankle, he refused to leave in order to have it treated, although he was in considerable pain.

William Dole, Foreman Rigger, Salvage Department, Southampton.

Arthur J. Kelly, Motor Engineer, Salvage Department, Southampton.

For bravery and devotion to duty when engaged on salvage work in face of repeated enemy bombing attacks.

Herbert Alfred Fagg, Foreman, Messrs. Mears Bros, Dover.

When a ship caught fire after being hit by a bomb, Fagg, with other volunteers, answered to a call to load and cart ammunition from the ship to a place of safety. The fire had spread to the wooden fenders along the breakwater which was covered with flame and black smoke. The men drove the dumper loaded with ammunition through the flames until the need for their services was past.

Edward Finn, Assistant Inspector, General Post Office, Liverpool.

During an air raid when all the staff except Mr. Finn and a Head Postman were in the air-raid shelter, six incendiary bombs fell on the

Birkenhead Post Office and started fires on the roof and Sorting Office. Mr. Finn promptly took charge of the situation, recalled the staff, organised fire parties, and eventually extinguished all the fires. His initiative, coolness and fine leadership undoubtedly saved the building from destruction.

Sidney William Edward Hewens, A.R.P. Warden, Camberwell.

During an air raid an explosion demolished three houses. Warden Hewens arrived at the scene of the incident within three minutes of occurrence. On arriving he immediately asked for volunteers to follow him into the coal cellar of one of the houses and without any hesitation whatsoever entered the coal chute, and in spite of the danger from falling debris was instrumental in bringing three adults and two children to safety without assistance.

Moving coal, poor visibility through dust, and the fact that one of the rescued members was hysterical made the rescue more commendable.

Miss Alice King, Voluntary A.R.P. Warden, Gloucester.

An aircraft crashed and burst into flames. Miss Alice King ran quickly to the aeroplane to the rescue of the observer, whose thigh was broken, he having fallen on scrambling out. She dragged him away from the burning aircraft. Owing to the wind, the flames had been blowing in his direction. His hair was singed and his coat smouldering, but this was put out by dragging him on the grass.

Albert Henry Lambert, A.R.P. Stretcher Party Leader, Lambeth.

An express Stretcher Party squad under the supervision of A. H. Lambert arrived at an incident and were told that casualties were lying under the debris in the boiler room where fires were burning. In order to tunnel through to the casualties the men had to pass debris through the hole made by the bomb with water gushing from a broken main nearby. Three other stretcher parties arrived and Lambert, with assistance, commenced clearing the debris, sending out the rest of the personnel, partly owing to the confined space in which they had to work and also because there were large rolls of paper overhead which were an imminent danger to those working underneath. Enemy planes were overhead and bombs dropping in the neighbourhood while these men worked frantically to save a baby, a boy and the baby's grandfather. They continued to move debris, someone watching to give the alarm if the roof and paper above moved. They eventually recovered three other casualties who were unfortunately dead. By their courage and tenacity the stretcher bearers and the driver, in facing all dangers without thought to the extreme risk to themselves, saved the lives of three people.

Walter Taylor, Voluntary Works Fireman, Birmingham.

When a fire was started by enemy attack at some works, Fireman Taylor showed great courage in going into a burning building, part of which had fallen in, to attack the heart of a fire which threatened to destroy the works. He was not at the time on duty with the A.F.S. or at the works. His brave action saved a section of the building.

James Thomson, Senior Diver.

For courage and devotion to duty in the performance of salvage operations.

George Williams, A.R.P. Warden, Chelsea.

During an air raid a High Explosive bomb fell on a public shelter where between 70 and 80 people were taking cover.

A 10-foot crater was formed in the footway immediately against the shelter, a gas main was ignited, and fire took rapid hold of the premises. Among those in the shelter was Warden G. Williams, and had it not been for his courage and presence of mind casualties would have been heavy.

The shelter was plunged into darkness by the explosion. Williams made for the emergency hurricane lamps, and by their light discovered a baby lying at the foot of the stairs. It had been blown from its father's arms, and Williams was just able to save it being trampled to death.

By this time, the gas main had ignited. The flames were licking menacingly inward to the basement. The upper part of the building was already well alight, and the emergency exit was blocked by the crater and debris.

Williams, unconcerned for his own safety, shouted to the public that he knew another way out, and with the utmost calm he led them to safety out of the back of the building, and over the garden walls.

By his devotion to duty regardless of personal danger, nearly 40 people escaped unhurt, and 30 others suffered only minor injuries.

Joseph William Wood, Skilled Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Lewisham.

During an enemy air raid Wood crawled into a demolished house to give drink and encouragement to two children trapped underneath the debris. He did that at great risk to his own life, as the rest of the house was liable to collapse on top of him. He persisted, in a heavy concentration of coal gas, in tunnelling under dangerous debris, as a result of which a small girl, who was trapped, was brought out alive. By this man's untiring efforts, self-sacrifice and devotion to duty, a life was saved.

COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been brought to notice for brave conduct in connection with Civil Defence:—

Benjamin Abbott, Dumper Driver, Messrs. Mears Bros. (Contractors), Ltd., Dover.

Miss Leonora Peggy Allen, Driver; A.R.P. Stretcher Party, Lambeth.

Ernest Victor Ash, A.R.P. Warden, Camberwell.

Albert Edward Bird, Night Driver and A.R.P. Messenger, Coventry.

Edward George Bristowe, Foreman, A.R.P. Rescue Services, Walthamstow.

Cecil Bernard Clark, Police Constable. "J" Division, Metropolitan Police.

Harry Ding, Member, A.R.P. Stretcher Party, Lambeth.

Mrs. Dorothy Elizabeth Elliman, Member of Works A.R.P. First Aid Party, Bristol.

John Harle, Carpenter, Messrs. Mears Bros. (Contractors), Ltd., Dover.

Miss Olive Jones, Nurse, Works A.R.P. First Aid Party, Bristol.

Leonard Evelyn Lowings, Deputy Commandant, Broadstairs and St. Peters A.F.S.

James Stanley Mason, Examiner, Aeronautical Inspection Directorate, Ministry of Aircraft Production.

Harry Ogden, Examiner, Aeronautical Inspection Directorate, Ministry of Aircraft Production.

H. Rose, Chief Main and Service Layer, Ramsgate Gas and Water Department.

Albert Frederick Shepherd, Chargehand, Air Ministry outstation.

Harold Shepherd, Fire Watcher, Works A.R.P. Organisation, Birmingham.

Alfred Harry Smith, Electrician, Coventry.

Norman Robert Smith, Member A.R.P. Stretcher Party, Lambeth.
William George Underdown, Pavior, Messrs. Mears Bros. (Contractors), Ltd., Dover.
Frederick Wain, Chief Officer, Ramsgate Fire Brigade.
Donald Shrewsbury Todd-White, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Leyton.
Sidney Frank Witchalls, Assistant A.R.P. Ambulance Officer, Leyton.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

3rd January, 1941.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the George Medal to:—
Griffiths Charles Jones, Factory Chargehand.
for promptitude and high courage on the occasion of an accident in a factory.

LONDON

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:

York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2; 120 George Street, Edinburgh 2;

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1941

Price Sixpence net

S.O. Code No. 65-35030

