



**SUPPLEMENT**

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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD.**

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
17th January, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the GEORGE CROSS to:—

Albert Ernest Dolphin (deceased), Porter,  
South Eastern Hospital, New Cross.

A high explosive bomb fell on the kitchens of Ward Block 1 at the South Eastern Hospital, killing four nurses who were in the ground floor kitchen and injuring the night Sister and patients in the adjoining ward. A nurse, who was in the ward kitchen on the first floor, was thrown through the collapsing floor into the passage below. Together with other helpers, Albert Ernest Dolphin, one of the porters of the hospital, rushed to the site and found her pinioned by a block of masonry across her legs. While they were working the wall was heard to crack and subsequently collapsed. The workers had ample time to jump clear before the masonry fell, but Dolphin remained where he was and his body was subsequently found lying face downwards across the nurse with his head towards the wall which collapsed on top of him. When found he was dead, but the nurse, who was subsequently extricated, was

still alive, though severely injured. There is no doubt that Dolphin, although aware that the wall was about to collapse, deliberately remained where he was and threw himself across the nurse's body in an endeavour to protect her. This he succeeded in doing at the cost of his own life.

Leonard John Miles (deceased), A.R.P.  
Warden, Ilford.

Volunteer warden, Mr. L. J. Miles, was on duty when he was warned of imminent danger of an explosion nearby. He could have taken a few paces and gone to a public shelter only a few yards away, but instead his sense of duty forced him to run towards the scene to warn members of the public he knew to be in their houses. He had succeeded in warning certain of the residents when the explosion occurred, inflicting serious injuries which proved fatal.

Whilst lying awaiting the ambulance to remove him to hospital, he was conscious and obviously suffering; this did not reduce his sense of duty and when a fellow warden approached him to render whatever aid he could, Miles instructed him to attend first to the fire which had been caused by a fractured gas main.

Warden Miles showed magnificent courage and devotion to duty.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD.*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.**17th 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, for Meritorious Service, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of the persons specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct in Civil Defence.

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

Sidney Albert Phillips, Chief Officer, Eastbourne Fire Brigade.

*Awarded the George Medal.*

Alfred Ernest Blackmer	} Members of Rescue Party, Eastbourne.
Edwin Humphrey May	
Francis Charles	
Frederick Stevens	
Ernest Lawson Turney	

As a result of a raid by enemy aircraft three houses were completely demolished and seven persons were trapped under the wreckage.

The efforts of the Fire Brigade were a great contributing factor to the ultimate release of five of the persons trapped. Chief Officer Phillips acted with much energy and resource, making many excursions under the wreckage, directing operations and generally encouraging his men.

Rescue and other Services were immediately in action at the scene but some time later an unexploded H.E. bomb was discovered 200 feet away. In consequence volunteers were called for.

Blackmer, May, Stevens and Turney were among those to volunteer. Blackmer, Stevens and Turney were concerned in the work of penetrating the wall of a cellar, through a matchboard refrigerator lined with cork and then through another 12-inch concrete wall. This work was carried out in dangerous conditions, in a very confined space with the constant peril of heavy falling debris. Through these efforts, three of the persons trapped were rescued. May laboured unceasingly throughout the night in a most gallant manner. Blackmer and Turney were overcome with the cold and the effects of escaping gas and water in the cellar and had to be taken to the Depot. Some time later, however, they returned to work and gave strenuous aid to the task of releasing a young girl who was pinned down by timber and debris, a weight which six jacks had failed to move. After heavy toil, the timber was at last lifted. The whole of this courageous action was carried out in appalling conditions. In their efforts, which greatly contributed to the ultimate rescue of five of the seven trapped persons, these men laboured in an atmosphere rendered foul by escaping gas, in a cellar filling with water. Further they worked for

a great part of the period with the knowledge that there was a delayed-action bomb only 200 feet away.

*Awarded the George Medal.*

Edgar Frank Ballinger, A.R.P. Warden, Barnes.

During an air raid a high explosive bomb fell, bursting a large water main which caused extensive flooding. Working sometimes up to his thighs in water Ballinger warned persons who were sheltering in basements to evacuate them. His action undoubtedly saved life for the basements were subsequently flooded. On another occasion two high explosive bombs fell, one causing a crater which started to fill rapidly with water. In the crater was a man who was pinned down by a large piece of masonry. With the aid of another Warden, at great risk he worked in the rising water and succeeded in freeing the man who would otherwise have drowned. On other occasions Ballinger has extinguished fires caused by incendiary bombs. All these actions were carried out in darkness and under gunfire.

André Bathfield, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Resident Medical Officer, Royal Chest Hospital, London.

Miss Catherine McGovern, A.R.R.C., Assistant Matron, Royal Chest Hospital.

Miss Patricia Marmion, Staff Nurse, Royal Chest Hospital.

During an enemy air raid a bomb was dropped on the Royal Chest Hospital which largely demolished the In-Patient Block. It covered the patients and staff with debris, burst the water and gas mains, and fractured electric light mains. Blast had filled every part of the building with thick dust so that it was difficult to breathe.

Dr. Bathfield, although badly cut in many places about the face and neck and bleeding profusely, assisted in the rescue, treatment and dressing of patients and staff, and did not leave the Hospital for the treatment of his own wounds until every injured person had been removed. He worked untiringly for the patients and nurses.

At the time of the bombing Miss McGovern was acting for the Matron. She was badly cut about the head, face and body, was bleeding profusely and injured by falling debris. Attempts were made to persuade her that she should be taken immediately to another Hospital for treatment but she refused and continued to help in the removal of injured patients and staff and finally, when it was thought that everybody had been accounted for, and when she herself was unable to walk unassisted, she went through the ruins to each part of the Hospital, supported by a Police Constable, to ensure that there was no possibility of anybody being left behind.

At the time of the explosion Staff Nurse Marmion was in charge of the Men's Ward which was within 20 feet of the position where the heavy bomb struck the Hospital. She immediately took steps to pacify her patients, working her way through the debris to get to them. While doing this a patient, who was an air raid casualty admitted the previous

night and who had lost five members of his family, attempted, in the mental strain of the explosion, to throw himself into the street below from the tottering ward floor, from which the walls had been blasted. Nurse Marmion rescued him and took him to safety. When the Stretcher Parties arrived she assisted them in rescuing the patients, although she herself was cut about the face and bleeding profusely. She then rescued an injured patient from a bed over which a heavy window frame and debris had fallen and, balancing him around her shoulders, carried him down the stairs over masses of debris. She acted with particular courage and coolness in most difficult circumstances and having effectually dealt with her patients she then took steps personally to collect up dangerous drugs which had become dislodged from their protected cupboards in the various Wards and put them in a safe place. Her condition then was such that she had to be taken to hospital. A few days afterwards she was moved to Grovelands Hospital. The same night that hospital was heavily bombed with high explosives and incendiaries which blew in windows and window frames and started a fire in a Ward. Although the floor of the Ward in which she was then a patient was strewn with broken glass she unhesitatingly jumped out of bed and, in her bare feet, she assisted in rescuing other patients and taking them to safety.

Percy Blanchard Coleman, A.R.P. Warden, Malden and Coombe.

While on patrol during an air raid Coleman was blown down by the explosion of three H.E. bombs close together. Recovering from these shocks he hastened to his Post, reporting serious damage by incendiary and H.E. bombs to property, street mains and electric cables. On resuming his patrol he observed a partly demolished building on fire. With extreme personal risk to himself, he entered the blazing debris and rescued a young child from the flames. Having handed the child over to street helpers, he heard calls from the parents, and again entered the burning debris. By his heroic action in breaking through and clearing burning material, he was instrumental in effecting their rescue.

Continuing his work, he rendered valuable first aid to a young child blown into a bomb crater and badly cut by glass and splinters. He continued rescue work until, on the point of collapse, he was ordered by his Post Warden to rest and receive medical attention.

F. Collins, Night Porter, London Homeopathic Hospital.

After extinguishing fire bombs on and about the hospital, Collins had returned to the building when it was hit by a bomb. He immediately dashed to the site of the damage and showed great courage in going among the falling masonry and assisting in the rescue of a doctor and nurse trapped in the Casualty Department. He sustained injuries to his head and knee through the collapse of one of the floors, which precipitated him into the basement. In spite of his injuries, he insisted on carrying on with his duties until relieved some hours later.

John Richard Foley, Stoker, Park Hospital, Hither Green.

When the nurses' sick room at the Park Hospital was hit by a high explosive bomb, the building collapsed almost entirely and caught fire. One of the two sick nurses in the building was seen hanging to a roof beam over a hole from which flames were issuing. She dropped into the debris below, being badly burned in so doing. Stoker Foley, at great personal risk, succeeded in reaching her and getting her to a place of safety. He found the second nurse trapped between beams, and with assistance, succeeded in extricating her. Foley showed complete disregard of danger. Debris of the building, which was still on fire, was falling from time to time and throughout portions of anti-aircraft shell were falling in the vicinity.

Frederick J. Gradden, Deputy Leader, Rescue Party, Wimbledon.

During an enemy air raid a bomb fell on a large house and reduced it to a mass of debris. The whole of the walls, both internal and external, of the house collapsed and broke into fragments, some of which were estimated as weighing half a ton. The roof had also broken into large irregular pieces and collapsed, the ruin presenting a closely packed interwoven mass of beams, masonry, furniture, fittings, pipes, tanks, etc.

Rescue Parties arrived at the scene and heard the faint cries of a person who was trapped under the centre of this ruined mass somewhere near ground level. Repeated efforts were made from various directions to locate the position of the victim, and after a preliminary clearance on the outskirts, Gradden forced a devious route through the debris, having to saw and otherwise remove obstacles to enable him to pull himself along in a prone position. He continued without intermission to make progress in this way for about 20 feet, and, after two and a half hours, he reached the trapped person, finding her so securely held by the debris that she was quite unable to move either her head or her limbs.

He remained with her guiding the other workers who were trying to reach her from above. This particular work had to be done very carefully to avoid a closing up of the opening made by Gradden, who remained in this position for three and a half hours until the others reached the trapped woman. In all, Gradden was working in very dangerous surroundings for a total of over five hours, during part of which enemy planes were in the vicinity. The whole of the debris was impregnated with coal gas and this added to the difficulties. Eventually, as a direct result of Gradden's devotion to duty, the rescue party was able to remove the victim.

Gradden's bravery and skill in most hazardous circumstances undoubtedly preserved the life of the trapped person.

Henry Norman Gregg, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Medical Officer, Emergency Medical Service, Coventry.

When the City of Coventry was heavily bombed by enemy aircraft Dr. Gregg showed a high degree of courage and resource which contributed to the saving of a number of

lives. While fires were raging and bombs falling, he coolly continued to go, partly on foot and partly by bicycle, from one incident to another administering morphia to those trapped in the wreckage, and applying first aid under conditions of extreme difficulty, with complete disregard for the intense bombardment and for the very real personal danger entailed.

Alfred Leslie Holford, Works Foreman Charge Hand, Birmingham.

The enemy dropped a large salvo of fire bombs on Birmingham, setting on fire some works premises. On his own initiative Holford at once attacked the fire with his firm's fire pump. After some time it was found that the premises of another firm adjoining were on fire and the flames were threatening these buildings. Holford at once tackled the new blaze. For two hours he worked alone, in great difficulties, as the only means of approach for the hoses lay over long lengths of roof. He went on in spite of enemy aircraft which were still overhead. The fire was eventually mastered.

Some two hours later further enemy attacks set a third factory ablaze. From a very perilous position on the roof and with the probability that large stocks of material in the burning buildings might at any moment explode, Holford by his tenacity and courage saved this factory also.

Archibald Lennie, A.R.P. Warden, Bootle.

Warden Lennie, who was off duty, reported at his post when an air raid warning sounded, and, on hearing the explosion of an H.E. bomb, cycled in the direction from which the sound had come, arriving on the scene within a few minutes. On being informed that there were some members of the family in a damaged house he immediately set to work clearing the debris and assisted in liberating a man. On hearing cries from a girl, he got in the hole through which her father had been taken and grasped the girl's hand. She could not move but called out that she felt all right. Lennie held her hand and cleared the debris with his free hand. He first freed her face which he covered with his steel helmet, borrowing another from a brother warden. He kept working his way through the debris freeing the girl limb by limb and was so occupied for two and a half hours. During all this time he was in danger of being buried in the debris which kept falling in as he cleared the way.

Lennie's work was an inspiration to the other wardens who were in attendance and his tenacity and resource saved the girl's life.

Robert Lindsay, M.B., Ch.B., Medical Officer, Casualty Mobile Unit, Folkestone.

Two children were trapped under the debris of some houses demolished as a result of enemy action. At great personal risk to himself, Dr. Lindsay crawled through a gap in the debris and sawed through fallen wood-work so that the children might be rescued. His danger was increased by escaping gas.

At another house, which was completely demolished, Dr. Lindsay crawled through a hole made in the debris to the aid of a

trapped boy, cleared the boy's face of earth and rubble, administered morphia to him and directed the operations of the Rescue Party. The boy was eventually released.

Dr. Lindsay acted at considerable risk to himself and it was mainly due to him that the children were rescued alive.

William Pendle, Stoker, Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street.

When this hospital was bombed, the explosion shattered the furnaces and burst gas and water mains. Pendle was in the stokehole when the explosion blew the burning coal from his furnace into the rooms. Three water mains and a gas main were burst, the gas catching fire. Through the openings into the stokehole flames could be seen rising to a height of 70 feet and water in enormous volume burst into this part of the building, filling up the coal bunkers below and then rising rapidly in the stoke-hole itself. Through all this inferno Pendle calmly proceeded to draw his fires, shut off steam and made all as safe as possible, not leaving until this was done. By this time the water was swirling up to his waist and he then had to struggle to the narrow staircase through floating debris to reach ground level.

Norman Stanley Petts, Civilian, Uxbridge.  
John William Livesey, A.R.P. Warden, Uxbridge.

Two houses were demolished by enemy action during an air raid. Mr. Petts and Mr. Livesey were engaged in assisting to rescue some people who were buried underneath the debris. Working together they first excavated a hole and burrowed down towards where they had heard a man's voice. When the hole was sufficiently large one of the men crawled in, followed later by the other. After gaining contact with the buried man, the two men freed him by moving the debris under which he was trapped, having first strutted up the wreckage around him. They finally succeeded in getting him out. The rescue was carried out under great difficulty as the rescuers had to work lying on their sides.

Had the wreckage further collapsed, Petts and Livesey most certainly would have been trapped and, in addition, there was an escape of gas which would have proved fatal to any person buried under the wreckage.

Arthur Leslie Swansborough, Patrol Officer, Southend-on-Sea Fire Brigade.

Following an enemy air attack a number of petrol tanks caught fire and blazed furiously. One tank blew up and P/O Swansborough immediately gave orders for the firemen to abandon their hoses and run. One fireman, in scrambling over oil pipes fell into a crater containing oil and water and, owing to the deep and slippery nature of the sides, it was impossible for him to get out unaided. P/O Swansborough immediately turned back and rescued the man from the crater which, a few seconds later, was a mass of flames from the burning petrol, the heat being so intense that both men received burns on the neck and hands. P/O Swansborough's courageous action undoubtedly saved the life of the fireman.

C. R. Tett, Stretcher Bearer, London Homeopathic Hospital.

When in a street during an enemy air raid Mr. Tett heard the sound of a bomb descending. He dived for shelter under the wall of a public house on the corner, at the same time pushing down two ladies who were near him. The impact followed almost immediately, and the blast caught him, severely shaking him. As the debris was falling he pushed an attaché case over the ladies' heads to protect them.

Although dazed Tett immediately attended as best he could to a number of severely injured persons in the vicinity. He then boarded a badly damaged bus and removed passengers who were injured and applied first aid to the most seriously wounded. Throughout he showed great presence of mind and devotion to duty.

On another occasion when the Hospital was struck by an enemy bomb, Tett, with no thought for his own safety and on his own initiative, accompanied a stoker in crawling into the boiler house and over the boilers, to assist in shutting down the fires and cutting off the steam, an act requiring courage and resource of a high order.

J. H. Young, A.R.P. Warden, Wimbledon.

Warden J. H. Young was on patrol when bombs were dropped in his district. He made his way into the damaged premises of a baker and there found a woman pinned by debris on the chair in the kitchen where she was sitting at the time of the incident. The top of her head and one arm were showing.

Young quickly went to work gently removing the debris and had removed enough to free her when the Rescue Party arrived. Before they could get the woman out, a second salvo of bombs fell and brought more of the building down, burying her again. The space was now so limited for working in, that Young carried on by himself. The house gas pipe had gone, and a strong smell of gas, together with the heat of the bake-house fire not yet extinguished, added considerably to the risks and difficulties. The trapped person was ultimately extricated suffering slightly from shock.

Young next turned his attention to a butcher's shop, where it was feared two people might be trapped. While he was endeavouring to get into the building, the front collapsed, and for some time it was feared Young was caught. After a search he was discovered helping people evacuate from other damaged houses. There he was affected by the fumes from a gas main which caused him considerable discomfort and sickness for a short time.

Recovering from the effects of the gas he helped to evacuate an invalid woman from her house where there was an unexploded bomb. Having done that and helped a family of eight from under the staircase in another of the damaged houses, he went on to satisfy himself that all the people were clear of the area in danger from the unexploded bomb. At this moment the bomb blew up, completely demolishing a house, blocking the shelter in which were the family. Young was unhurt and got to work at once extricating two women from the shelter.

Having done this Young visited the shelters in the vicinity to satisfy himself all were clear. He then went home. He was considerably bruised and scratched by broken glass.

*Awarded the George Medal.*

S. R. Campbell-Little, Chief Engineer, London Homeopathic Hospital.

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

R. Phillips, Stoker, London Homeopathic Hospital.

When the hospital was hit during an enemy air raid, Mr. S. R. Campbell-Little, the chief engineer, although blown down by the blast from the bomb and struck by a flying steel shutter which damaged one ankle and fractured one rib, immediately dashed into the boiler-house and shut off the fires, the water cocks, and the gas mains, thus preventing a gas fire and the explosion of the boilers. But for his action an oil fire would also almost certainly have broken out.

Phillips, who was also injured, accompanied and assisted Little. Although severely cut about the head he crawled over the boilers to reach the control cocks.

*Awarded the George Medal.*

Alfred Frank Stevens, Works Electrician, Birmingham.

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

Arthur Richard Edmund Harris, Works Pipe Fitter, Birmingham.

Alfred Walter Goodwin, Works Electrician, Birmingham.

During a heavy air raid on Birmingham many acts of gallantry were performed by members of Works' organisations. The resultant loss of life and property was very much reduced by their efforts.

When an electrical sub-station was demolished a girl and four men were trapped under a mass of concrete debris. Stevens with an oxy-acetylene cutter made a hole and the girl was released. After further work on the hole the four men were rescued. Later, assisted by Goodwin and Harris, Stevens worked under fire to cut through girders and released a woman and a man who were trapped under another building. A fierce fire was burning inside the building and pieces of concrete and ironwork had to be removed before the oxy-acetylene cutter could be brought into use. The men worked for more than five hours, at times up to their shoulders in oil and water, in dense smoke with fierce fires raging and under continual attack from the enemy.

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

Harold Brown, A.R.P. Warden, Bootle.

George Courtney, A.R.P. Warden, Bootle.

Charles Levi Dash, Senior A.R.P. Warden, Bootle.

Thomas Maddox, A.R.P. Warden, Bootle.

Senior Warden Dash and Warden Courtney, supported by part-time wardens,

T. Maddox and H. Brown were out searching for a delayed action bomb, when it exploded.

On hearing the explosion, the party immediately made for the scene and Senior Warden Dash noticed that the side of a house had collapsed. They at once entered the premises and interviewed the daughter who was found to be suffering from shock, but otherwise uninjured. Sue informed Dash, in reply to questions, that there were eleven more of the family in the house, and a search quickly located seven of the others, most of whom were in the upstairs rooms. These were rescued under great difficulty and at considerable risk to the Wardens for the building had been badly shaken and was in an unsafe condition.

The other four occupants of the house, a man, his wife and their two children, were found to be trapped whilst lying in bed owing to the ceiling having fallen on top of them. The bed was overhanging into the street and the Wardens, expecting a sudden heavy crash, took immediate hold of the falling bed, and using their helmets as a protection and support, lifted the ceiling sufficiently for Warden Maddox, at tremendous risk to all, to release and drag away the trapped persons. No sooner had the people been rescued than the whole gable end of the house collapsed and the bed was then completely covered by the debris. There is no doubt that the prompt action and courage of the Wardens, prevented what might have been serious loss of life.

Edward Charles Channing, A.R.P. Warden, Hayes and Harlington.

Gwendolyn, Mrs. Park, A.R.P. Warden, Hayes and Harlington.

Channing was on duty during an air raid when a splinter from a bomb which fell about five yards from the Post wounded him in the foot. His foot was quickly bandaged by Mrs. Park. She accompanied him to a bungalow which had been demolished, persons being buried under the wreckage.

Although Channing had an artificial arm, he immediately started clearing the wreckage and was not deterred by the fact that another salvo of bombs fell near about this time.

Together with Mrs. Park he succeeded in rescuing an injured woman and a baby which had been completely buried under the wreckage. Their coolness and courage set a high example to all present.

After the casualties had been cleared, Channing was very active in assisting persons in neighbouring houses who had been injured by glass.

William Albert Dunn, Despatch Rider, Cheshire Constabulary.

When three houses were demolished by enemy action there was an escape of gas which hampered the rescue workers. A family, father, mother and daughter, and their dog were trapped beneath the debris of their home.

A rescue man and a police officer were underneath the debris in a very cramped space, clearing a way to extricate the family. They had to come out because of gas exhaustion.

Dunn crept in and worked with the light of a torch—the raid was still on and the enemy planes were hovering overhead—and very shortly afterwards he succeeded in releasing the man, who crawled out, little the worse. Dunn continued the work and was successful eventually, with assistance, in releasing the mother, her small daughter and the dog.

The work required caution and skill as there was considerable danger of displacing parts of the structure, which would have trapped the rescuers themselves.

Charles Nelson Field, Rescue Party Foreman, Southwold, Suffolk.

Alfred William Thomas Runnacles, Member of Rescue Party, Southwold, Suffolk.

A large bomb fell in the centre of the hall of a club, making a crater 30 feet in diameter and between 15 and 20 feet deep. The caretaker was buried in debris in an extremely dangerous position with his legs trapped, but not seriously injured.

C. N. Field and A. Runnacles, members of a Demolition Party, were working nearby. Immediately the bomb dropped, demolishing the hall and adjoining building, Field went in at the back and Runnacles at the front, and found the caretaker pinned under a door a few yards from the crater. Just above were two roller steel joists resting on some loose brickwork. There was every likelihood that these joists would come down at any moment, and in fact a fall took place shortly after they had got the man out. The rescue was effected at great risk, owing to the insecure state of the building.

George Wallis Fry, Second Officer, Folkestone Fire Brigade.

Ernest Alfred Warren, Carpenter, Folkestone.

After an air raid on Folkestone, Second Officer Fry turned out with a tender and crew to some cottages which had been demolished by an H.E. bomb. On arrival he was told that a small girl had been trapped under debris. Although it was not part of his duty as a Fire Officer, he crawled into a small space only big enough for him to kneel in and, with the help of Warren, raised the debris by means of motor jacks until both were able to crawl underneath. Moving the rubble with their bare hands and, in spite of the danger from falling debris, they eventually came upon the head and shoulders of a child and by their gallantry under dangerous conditions, succeeded in rescuing her alive and without serious injury.

Miss Evelyn Harmer, Coal Company's Telephone Switchboard Operator, Southampton.

Miss Harmer was taking cover in a shelter with other employees of her firm, when a number of bombs were dropped near by. Immediately after the raid, the police set up an incident post on the company's premises, and, in order to expedite services, a telephone

operator was necessary to work the switch-board. Although a large number of high explosive bombs had been dropped very near, Miss Harmer volunteered for the work. She remained at this post for three hours, transmitting all the messages to the Report Centre. Despite the fact that the telephone office had been badly damaged by the force of the explosion, that the shelter in which she had been taking cover was badly shaken whilst she was there, and that whilst operating the switchboard, a delayed action bomb exploded within a hundred yards of her post, she remained amazingly cool and collected. There can be no doubt that Miss Harmer's conduct contributed very largely to the success achieved by the A.R.P. services in dealing with the very grave conditions prevailing at the time, and it is safe to say that this young girl set a very high example of cool and selfless courage in circumstances and conditions which might well have shaken the strongest nerves.

Russell John Hopkins, Police Sergeant.	}	"V" Division, Metropolitan Police.
Norman Wade, War Reserve.		

During an enemy air raid enemy bombs fell on some houses, resulting in many being demolished.

At one of them, the wife and four children of a police constable, at that time on night duty, were buried in debris.

P.S. Hopkins and War Reserve Wade, assisted by two members of a Rescue Squad began digging. After much hard work, the two officers succeeded in freeing the eight-year-old son of the policeman. Further search revealed the head and shoulders of a woman and the P.S. called a doctor, who administered an injection, after which the rescue squad left, it being considered hopeless to free the casualty. Nothing daunted, however, the two officers persisted in their efforts to free the P.C.'s wife, continuing to remove the debris by hand. They were rewarded eventually by the complete extrication of the woman, but her injuries proved so severe that she died shortly after admission to hospital.

The rescue work was performed in the darkness and owing to the likelihood of collapse of pieces of wall left perilously poised the two officers were in constant danger of being injured themselves.

Alfred William Humble, Sergeant, Liverpool Fire Brigade.

A serious fire, due to enemy action, broke out at some storehouses in Liverpool.

In spite of the fact, however, that continuous dust explosions were taking place and that the fire appeared to have a hold of the building impossible to subdue, Sergeant Humble courageously handled the position and by prodigious efforts prevented the fire from travelling across a gantry, thereby saving the adjoining building.

There was an ever present danger of explosion from time bombs and had it not been for the gallant action of Sergeant

Humble and his initiative and leadership the fire might well have been far more serious than was eventually the case.

Kenneth Long, Telephone Exchange, Bristol.

Mr. Long returning from duty at about midnight heard the loud scream of a falling bomb. After the fall he went to a fire which was close at hand and joined the Constable and Air-Raid Wardens who were trying to get up the staircase of a burning building. They all had to retreat from the door on the first floor beyond which the second flight of stairs was already enveloped in flames.

A girl could be seen at one of the top windows and Long went up the first flight of stairs again, got through a window and up a sloping glass roof which fortunately was strong enough to bear. He then climbed a wall to a window by which he was able to enter the second floor corridor. There were already flames in this corridor, but he was able to reach the door of the bedroom. This door was burning at the hinges but he got in and rescued the girl whom he handed out to the Constable at the rear window.

Despite the flames he went back to make a further attempt to reach the bedroom of the girl's father and mother. This was the point where the bomb had fallen and from which the fire had spread so rapidly. The effort was hopeless but the Constable had to restrain Mr. Long from making the venture.

Mr. Long exhibited conspicuous bravery at some risk to his own life in attempting a difficult climb over strange buildings and a glass roof in the night, and going inside a building where flames were spreading with great rapidity.

Norman Nowell, Member of Rescue Party, Coventry.

Nowell showed great gallantry and lack of thought for his own safety in tunnelling under fallen debris consisting of an upper floor and the greater part of a roof, to release one person trapped by the ankles; he also tunnelled further to get at a person trapped under the stairs who could not be released from above until bricks and debris holding him from the waist downwards had been cleared. This could only be done by handing back from underneath. The whole operation took nearly two hours. Gas was escaping in the building, but Nowell would not have a relief owing to risk of debris falling whilst changing over. All this was done whilst Nowell was laying full length on the floor. He was affected by the gas but recovered later.

Patrick O'Callaghan, Senior A.R.P. Warden, Sheerness.

When two houses were demolished by a H.E. bomb, Senior Warden O'Callaghan proceeded immediately, with total disregard for his personal safety, and in the presence of danger from escaping gas and water, to explore the debris. He was instrumental in locating two casualties at one house. In spite of gas, water and electric mains being

damaged, he managed to obtain an entry and to rescue a woman from beneath the debris. The woman was quite unable to assist in any way, and he lifted her up through the upper floor and roof of the building, from where she was taken to safety. During the time he was effecting this rescue, there was grave danger of the wreckage collapsing on top of him, one part actually falling after the woman had been removed. He also made certain that the other house was unoccupied.

After the casualties had been despatched to the hospital O'Callaghan organised and took charge of a party of Wardens to search for a bomb which had dropped on the marsh land nearby and which was suspected of not having exploded. The site was ultimately found, the bomb having detonated.

George Ralph Holliday Payne, Patrol Officer, Ilford Auxiliary Fire Service.

Joseph Henry Warren, Sub-Officer, Chelmsford Auxiliary Fire Service.

Frederick George Keen, Leading Fireman, Chelmsford Auxiliary Fire Service.

During a serious fire resulting from enemy air attack the valve of a tank containing 6,000 tons of benzine was alight at the lower extremity of a big container and burning furiously. To extinguish this it was necessary to employ a very hazardous expedient, and upon calling for volunteers some members of the Ilford and Chelmsford A.F.S. Services were immediately forthcoming. A 30 ft. extending ladder was put against the side of the tank, and Patrol Officer Payne and Sub-Officer Warren ascended this to the top of the tank and opened the man-hole there, thus releasing some very dangerous and highly inflammable fumes. They inserted a swan-neck to enable water to be poured into the tank. When this was done Leading Fireman Keen mounted the ladder and packed wet sacking round the manhole to prevent the fumes from escaping. A second swan-neck was placed in position, and Leading Fireman Keen finding that fumes were still escaping, again ascended the ladder and packed more wet sacking around the manhole.

At the time of these operations the tank was leaning over to one side, and in the event of spirit overflowing it would have poured down the side of the tank on to the burning valve, thus igniting the whole tank and endangering the lives of those dealing with the fire.

Charles Walter Saich, Leading Fireman, Brentwood Auxiliary Fire Service.

Cecil Hearn, Patrol Officer, Brentwood Auxiliary Fire Service.

Patrol Officer Hearn and Leading Fireman Saich with other members of the A.F.S. proceeded to the scene of a bomb attack where pipe lines were well alight, petrol was ankle deep and the flames spreading rapidly.

It was necessary to drive a piece of wood into a large shrapnel hole in a tank from which petrol was pouring

L/F Saich mounted the ladder. The first attempt failed and he was saturated with petrol. P.O. Hearn went to his assistance with a second piece of wood and held Saich while he drove it home with his axe. The remainder of the crew fought the fire to prevent it reaching their comrades and by their united efforts successfully saved this and several other tanks.

Miss Joan Westerby, Emergency Medical Service, Coventry.

During an air raid on Coventry Miss Joan Westerby made no less than eleven separate journeys from the depot to different bombed areas. Her coolness and courage and the masterly way in which she drove her ambulance to and from the hospital evoked the highest praise. She was on duty for over 24 hours and only with the greatest difficulty was she persuaded to take a rest. She returned to duty again shortly afterwards.

#### *Commendations.*

Those named below have been brought to notice for brave conduct in Civil Defence.

Kenneth Charles Andrews, A.R.P. Post Warden, Islington.

Samuel Simpton Ashburner, Works Fitter, Birmingham.

Richard William Atkins, Senior A.R.P. Warden, Ramsgate.

Henry Baker, Fireman, Thurrock Auxiliary Fire Service.

Roy McGregor Barron, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Eastbourne.

Luther Frederick Bees, Civilian, Keynsham.

William Percival Bennett, Fireman, Thurrock Auxiliary Fire Service.

Thomas Henry Bewley, Section Officer, Ipswich Auxiliary Fire Service.

Arthur Blair, Auxiliary Fireman, Brentwood Auxiliary Fire Service.

Herbert Stanley Brockis, Fireman, Thurrock Auxiliary Fire Service.

Henry Cole, Chief Officer, Billericay Fire Brigade.

Miss P. Coleman, Nurse, Sutton Emergency Hospital.

William Donovan, Senior A.R.P. Warden, Folkestone.

Harry A. Elmes, Auxiliary Fireman, Brentwood Auxiliary Fire Service.

John Fenton, Esq., M.B., B.Ch., Medical Officer of Health, Eastbourne.

James Henry Fitzgerald, Works Maintenance Engineer, Birmingham.

Lionel Thomas Fowler, Fireman, Thurrock Auxiliary Fire Service.

John Gallagher, Labourer, Messrs. Hickman Ltd., Cricklewood.

George Gough, Locomotive Driver, Coalport, Shropshire.

Roy Meadows Harmston, Second Officer, Newport (Mon.) Fire Brigade.

Roland Victor Harvey, Member of Rescue Party, Eastbourne.

Charles Edwin Hawker, A.R.P. Warden, Ramsgate.

Miss Mabel Hedøethorne, Member of First Aid Party, Brightonsea.

Reginald William Hilder, Wireless Assistant, Signal Company, Eastern Command.



- George Thomas Hill, Chief Officer, Letchworth Fire Brigade.
- Robert William Hogben, A.R.P. Warden, Folkestone.
- Ernest Albert Homewood, Fireman, Eastbourne Fire Brigade.
- Edwyn Hoof, Works Electrician, Birmingham.
- Norman Horry, Voluntary A.R.P. Messenger, Enfield.
- Thomas Jeffery, Police Constable, Eastbourne Police Force.
- Mrs. Ivy Kelley, Nurse, Leyton.
- Ernest King, Leader of First Aid Party, Brightlingsea.
- Emily Winifred, Mrs. King, Member First Aid Party, Brightlingsea.
- Stanley Guillians Landi, Leading Fireman, Thurrock Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Alistair William MacQuarrie, M.B., Ch.B., Medical Officer, Casualty Service, Brightlingsea.
- William Henry Monk, Station Officer, Thurrock Fire Brigade.
- Edward James Moyser, Sub Officer, Southend-on-Sea Fire Brigade.
- John Noah, A.R.P. Warden, Stepney.
- Alfred Walter Norman, Chief Officer, Chelmsford Fire Brigade.
- Christopher Sibley Oliver, Works Manager, Coventry.
- Miss Eunice Richards, Member of First Aid Party, Brightlingsea.
- Geoffrey Roberts, Police Constable, Wallasey Police Force.
- H. F. Rutherford, Secretary, Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street.
- George Harold Scott, Superintendent, Newport (Monmouth) Fire Brigade.
- Tom James Cyril Sherman, Auxiliary Fireman, Brentwood Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Henry Charles Sibley, Patrol Officer, Thurrock Fire Brigade.
- William James Frederick Smith, Fireman, Thurrock Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Laurence Alfred Howard Snowball, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
- William Edward Sweet, Chief Officer, Ipswich Fire Brigade.
- Leslie Ernest Tyler, Auxiliary Fireman, Brentwood Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Charles Keith Vartan, F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Park Hospital, Hither Green.
- Jack Arthur Garrett Waters, Auxiliary Fireman, Brentwood Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Sidney Nelson Waymark, Sub-Officer, Eastbourne Fire Brigade.
- Ernest Williams, Works Browner, Birmingham.
- Roy Williamson, Chief Officer, Thurrock Fire Brigade.
- Oliver Henry Windsor, A.R.P. Stretcher Bearer, Coventry.
- Ronald Stanley George Worster, Wireless Assistant, Signal Company, Eastern Command.
- Horace William Youell, Leading Fireman, Chelmsford Auxiliary Fire Service.

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