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## CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
7th February, 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 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:—*

Pearl Marguerite, Mrs. Hyde, County Borough Organiser, W.V.S., Coventry.

Throughout the many enemy air raids on Coventry Mrs. Hyde has shown conspicuous bravery in shepherding people to public shelters, visiting shelters during actual raids and encouraging the occupants by her unselfish devotion to duty in ministering to their wants.

Mrs. Hyde has assisted in the feeding of homeless people, showing disregard of danger in organising refreshments for the homeless and Civil Defence Workers, and going

out herself when road conditions were perilous from falling masonry and debris, and from the presence of unexploded bombs. She continued this work for several days with but little rest.

### *Awarded the George Medal:—*

Charles Frederick Almond, Special Constable, Metropolitan Police Force.

A house was demolished by enemy bombing. In the wreckage was buried a man whose hand only was showing and who was crying for help. In an endeavour to release the trapped victim, S.C. Almond, who was on the scene, tunnelled below the mass of overhanging debris, which threatened every moment to fall on him. After working alone for some considerable time he succeeded in sufficiently uncovering the man to allow a doctor to administer a hypodermic injection. Eventually a rescue party arrived and took steps to support the wreckage. Even then the Police Officer was the principal worker in securing the eventual release of the casualty. The man was taken to hospital and has since recovered.

There is no doubt that the Special Constable saved his life.

On several other occasions Almond has shown courage of the highest order in rescuing victims of enemy air raids.

Graham Deacon, Special Constable, Metropolitan Police Force.

An H.E. bomb demolished the front and the two top stories of a house. It was discovered that a man aged 60 was trapped in a room on the ground floor which was in ruins. The only method of reaching him was through a small opening which could not be made larger owing to the danger of the whole structure collapsing. It was impossible for anybody except a small man to squeeze through this opening to reach the casualty.

Sergeant Deacon volunteered for the task and with difficulty and great risk to himself, owing to the state of the building, eventually succeeded in reaching the injured man. Having freed him from the debris, Sergeant Deacon sat with him for two hours in a cramped position and helped the doctor in giving medical treatment. Both men were finally extricated after two hours' work by the rescuers.

Sergeant Deacon undoubtedly saved this man's life. Gas was escaping from an adjacent pipe. During the two hours before the rescue party reached them debris was continually falling and at any time the whole building might have collapsed and killed both men.

John Cochrane Easthope, Assistant Engineer, Stoke Newington.

Mr. Easthope was on duty in the Control Room and, hearing that a large number of persons were trapped in a Public Shelter, he volunteered to go to the scene of the incident. He arrived and entered the middle compartment of the shelter through a window at the rear. In spite of the danger of a further collapse of the debris and of the fact that the water was then about 4 ft. deep in the shelter, Mr. Easthope worked his way over and under the debris into this compartment in an endeavour to rescue anybody who might be there, but primarily to carry out a reconnaissance to direct the squads who were working above. He found debris blocking the centre compartment up to a distance of 15 ft. from the point of entry. Several persons were pinned under the wreckage. Mr. Easthope then came out and entered again through the emergency exit into the north compartment and crawled along the top tiers of the bunks in an effort to discover whether any persons were still in that compartment. The water was several feet high and appeared to be rising. Mr. Easthope emerged from the shelter again and reported on the conditions inside.

He then re-entered the shelter and confirmed the position of the debris.

Regardless of the danger of being crushed to death at any instant, or of being trapped and drowned, Easthope made four separate visits to the shelter through the hole he had made, fully aware of the risk he was running while searching for trapped people.

Reginald Gant, Motor Fitter, Southern Railway, Hastings.

Two gas holders were set on fire by an enemy bomb. The Fire Brigade were in attendance and were playing jets of water on to the burning holders. The Gas Company Rescue Party were also doing all possible to restrict the fire.

Mr. Gant climbed up a ladder and on to the top of the third holder. He was followed by two or three men of the Gas Company Rescue Party. They handed him a lump of wet clay and whilst the firemen played their hoses on to a broken plate, Gant went forward and sealed this hole with the clay. Flames were issuing and were about 4 ft. high.

Having succeeded in stopping this hole, the party then came down to the side of the holder where there were two other holes. The first hole was then stopped in a similar way and then the last hole was tackled. This was much bigger and the flames coming from it were at least 6 ft. long. More pressure was put on the hoses and then Gant went forward with a very large piece of clay, and covered the hole at the first attempt. He stayed long enough to make sure the job was a success and then came down with the rest of the men.

Gant's action was very courageous. He ran a great risk and was at times completely enveloped in flames.

Harold Gowland, Member of A.R.P. Stretcher Party, Heston and Isleworth.

Gowland was a member of a Stretcher Party sent to a house which had suffered a direct hit from a high explosive bomb. One woman and two children were extricated from the debris but it was learned that a man and one child were still trapped. With the help of the Rescue Party the man was freed and removed to hospital.

After some time the Rescue Party made a hole just large enough to admit Gowland who immediately crawled in after the baby. This task was exceedingly difficult as one of the walls was leaning over with a big crack in it. There was a possibility that it would come down killing Gowland and the little girl. With great skill Gowland got to work and after about 1½ hours under the debris he asked for a piece of wood to put under the head of the bed to enable him to free the little girl's head which was fixed. It appeared that the wall would fall and Gowland was warned of this, but all his thoughts were for the child and after a further half an hour's work against time and gas, Gowland freed the child and handed her through the hole. For over two hours he had been working in a cramped-up position in the presence of coal gas.

Stanley William Johnson, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police Force.

When several houses were destroyed by enemy action, P.C. Johnson was one of a number of Police Officers who proceeded to the spot to render assistance. On arrival it was learned that two people were trapped beneath the debris of one of the demolished houses. One of them, a man, was found to be so deeply buried that it was necessary to tunnel under the debris to reach him. P.C. Johnson volunteered for this work and eventually succeeded, at great risk to himself, in freeing the man and getting him to safety.

He then burrowed his way still further into the wreckage to rescue a woman. He succeeded in reaching her and then proceeded to give instructions to those assisting as to how the wreckage should be removed.

to save her. Eventually the woman was drawn to the surface and removal to hospital.

Both these rescues were performed in black-out conditions under the lee of a partially-destroyed wall that appeared to be about to collapse on the officer at any moment. P.C. Johnson was underneath the wreckage for half an hour and was in danger the whole time of being overpowered by coal gas. There was little or no chance of escape for him had the wall collapsed. This P.C. has done continuous good and brave work during enemy bombing raids.

Malcolm Manson, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., Medical Officer of Health, Wood Green.

A heavy H.E. bomb fell, causing a tunnel to collapse. A number of people were trapped under the debris and the clay which had fallen through the cavity.

Dr. Manson arrived on the scene within a few minutes of the occurrence, and immediately assumed the direction and leadership of the rescue work. For nearly three hours he worked without intermission actively participating in the release of persons trapped in the debris heap, giving medical aid where it was needed and all the time keeping effective control. Throughout this period he was in grave personal danger from frequent falls of clay. It seemed likely that a further portion of the tunnel would collapse. At one period he was lying full length on the heap endeavouring to release a man partially buried when there was a shout from the lookout man of "Run for it." The Doctor ignored the warning and continued his efforts for the trapped man. There was a large fall of clay and the Doctor was struck by a large piece full in the back. He was partially buried and had to be dragged out feet foremost. He rested for a few minutes, and then, in spite of severe pain, carried on with the work.

Dr. Manson's pertinacity, courage and disregard of personal safety set a wonderful example to the men and was no doubt responsible for the saving of a number of lives which otherwise would have been lost.

He sustained serious injuries during the rescue operations.

Robert James Nicholls, A.R.P. Warden, Willesden.

After bombs had fallen on some houses Warden Nicholls saw two children in the debris in imminent danger, as a heavy beam appeared to be about to collapse on them. He rescued the two children, but the beam fell across him. He sustained slight concussion, a gash above the temple, a broken right arm, a very badly-cut left leg and severe bruises. Despite these injuries Nicholls carried on with his work of evacuating the people in the road, until ordered to return to his post—which he did under protest.

He was attended to by the stretcher party, and was sent immediately to hospital.

Miss Marjorie Eileen Perkins, Works' Nurse, Coventry.

Miss Perkins who was employed as a Works' Nurse, was in charge of the Works' Surgery. During the whole period of an intensive air raid she rendered excellent service to casualties at the Works, in the nearby

streets and at a public shelter a short distance away; this despite the fact that bombs were constantly falling all round. On two occasions Nurse Perkins was flung across the Surgery by blast, the first time being injured internally and the second time being rendered unconscious. After recovering consciousness, although in considerable pain, she carried on, dealing with further casualties both at the Works and outside, cheering and attending to those workpeople who could not be moved and visiting the shelters and encouraging everyone to remain calm. Throughout the night she did her work with utter disregard for her own personal safety. Her courage and devotion to the injured under the most trying circumstances were outstanding.

Miss Grace Rattenbury, London Women's Voluntary Services, and Organiser, Invalid Children's Aid Association.

Miss Rattenbury of the Invalid Children's Aid Association, who is also a member of the W.V.S., volunteered to assist in the evacuation of people from a Dockland area during an extensive fire caused by enemy bombs.

With a W.V.S. van she commenced a "shuttle" service from a wharf to a first line Rest and Feeding Centre. With great determination and courage she continued driving until the last woman and child had been evacuated from the danger zone. All the time the enemy aircraft were continuously dropping bombs over the area. The fire threatened to cut people off from the mainland, and there was only one single span bridge left open.

The road was extremely dangerous on account of fire, bomb craters, and a delayed-action bomb, yet Miss Rattenbury continued her work without hesitation. She remained calm and confident, and by her example steadied everyone. On more than one occasion, whilst assisting Wardens to evacuate families, she had to throw herself down to escape the blast from bombs which fell a few yards away and her car was blistered by the encroaching flames.

Philip David Whitting, Deputy Chief A.R.P. Warden, Hammersmith.

Mr. Whitting has, on more than one occasion, personally assisted in the rescue of people trapped in bombed houses and has performed hazardous and dangerous work in connection with bomb disposal.

#### *Awarded the George Medal:—*

Victor George Bursnall, Superintendent of Works and Staff Officer, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Ruislip, Northwood.

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

Henry Thomas Crouch, Leader A.R.P. Rescue Party, Ruislip, Northwood.

Edward Arthur Poulter, Carpenter, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Ruislip, Northwood.

A Rescue Party was called to a house demolished by a bomb. Mr. Bursnall was on duty and accompanied the Squad under Leader Crouch. They found a huge crater blocking the front of the house. Three members of the family were rescued leaving two

others somewhere in the debris. With the assistance of Leader Crouch and Mr. Poulter, Mr. Bursnall made his way through the pile of debris to a girl who was conscious although pinned over the back of a settee with her legs doubled up behind her. The settee was undoubtedly supporting the whole of the debris of the second floor. After over an hour's hazardous work Crouch, Bursnall and Poulter assisted by others of the Rescue Party, succeeded in extricating the girl. Mr. Bursnall again wormed his way into the debris, gave Leader Crouch the position in which he thought the other woman must be lying, and Crouch, together with the help of others of the Rescue Squad, and in particular Poulter, succeeded, after removing some three or four tons of bricks, in recovering the body.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

William Woods, Chief Officer, Fire Brigade, Twickenham.

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

Ernest Alfred Stevens, Section Officer, Twickenham Auxiliary Fire Service.

Ernest William Weller, Fireman, Twickenham Fire Brigade.

On the occasion of a serious bombing incident when a number of houses and shops were wrecked, Chief Officer Woods, Station Officer Stevens and Fireman Weller were occupied for nearly three hours in rescue work, obtaining access to trapped inmates through a small hole in the debris. All the time there was the greatest likelihood that tons of masonry would collapse on them. Much of this was only supported by a few loose bricks.

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

Christopher Bone. } Telephone Operators,  
Francis McCullough. } Air Ministry Outstation

An R.A.F. Station was dive-bombed by about twenty enemy aircraft. Bone and McCullough, who are employed at the Station as civilian telephone operators, remained at their post (which was only partially protected) until the windows, door and roof collapsed. Bone received a superficial scalp wound and injuries to his shoulder and forearm which incapacitated him for two weeks. McCullough suffered a superficial scalp wound but after receiving attention he returned to the telephone exchange and continued his duties. Although four unexploded bombs were found in the roadway, outside the telephone exchange, McCullough carried on with his duties.

Both men displayed an unselfish devotion to duty without regard to their personal safety.

William Thomas Brown, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police Force.

An H.E. bomb almost completely demolished two houses. P.C. Brown, accompanied by two other police officers, was

travelling along the road a few minutes later and, seeing the damaged property, began rescue work with the assistance of women A.R.P. personnel who were already there.

Shouts for help were heard coming from among the debris and it was learned that a number of people were trapped on the top floor. Without hesitation, P.C. Brown climbed over the wreckage to reach them. The whole structure was in great danger of collapsing but in spite of this Brown succeeded in making a hole in the wrecked roof and helped a man and woman to escape. Both these people reached the ground in safety but before P.C. Brown could get down the whole building collapsed and partly buried the officer in the debris. He was very fortunate not to receive serious injuries.

Bombs were falling nearby and a good deal of shrapnel, during the period that P.C. Brown was carrying out these rescues.

Donald Edward Buckland, A.R.P. Warden, Mitcham.

Edward Silence, A.R.P. Warden, Mitcham.

Wardens Silence and Buckland were on patrol when an explosion was heard. Both proceeded to the scene and discovered two persons trapped beneath the wreckage of a dwelling house. They set to work at once to free the trapped people, despite the danger from the wrecked building, without waiting for the arrival of a rescue party. The work involved much risk and the prompt action of these two wardens, who showed great disregard of personal danger, undoubtedly saved the lives of the trapped persons. Throughout the period enemy planes were active overhead.

Edward William John Cackett, Police Sergeant, Metropolitan Police Force.

When a detached dwelling house was demolished by a high-explosive bomb, P.S. Cackett was one of the party of Police Officers who went to the scene of the bombing to render assistance.

On arrival at the wrecked house it was learnt that several people had been trapped under the wreckage. The only possible way of reaching them was through a small hole that had been made in the debris. This was hardly big enough for a man to crawl through.

Sergeant Cackett crawled down this hole and eventually succeeded in dragging to safety a young girl whom he carried to a waiting ambulance. He then returned, again crawled into the hole and, with assistance of members of the Rescue Squad, managed to free two more individuals who were eventually dragged to safety.

There remained one other man who was trapped in the wreckage. His legs only were visible. Sergeant Cackett persisted in his efforts at rescue and once more crawled down the hole. The casualty was pulled to the surface but unfortunately was found to be dead. Cackett entered the hole yet again to search for another member of the family still unaccounted for, but this time his efforts did not meet with success.

Sergeant Cackett performed excellent services at grave risk to his own life. During

the whole time bombs were falling nearby and there was a serious escape of coal gas into the hole where he was working.

Raymond Thomas Corn, A.R.P. Messenger, Coventry.

This messenger rendered yeoman service during the whole of an exceedingly heavy and sustained enemy air attack on Coventry. Early in the evening telephonic communications ceased and Corn volunteered to carry vital messages. During extremely heavy enemy action Corn made his way to Central Control despite the fact that his route for most of its length was obstructed by fire and debris. He handed in his messages and afterwards he made at least three journeys to a first aid post with casualties and also to call for first aid assistance. Throughout the whole of the night Corn, without any thought of personal danger, gave unstinting help wherever it was needed.

Leslie John Hall, Acting Sub-Officer, Barking Fire Brigade.

Two machines left the station with Mr. Hall as Officer-in-Charge during intense enemy air activity. A bomb fell at the off-side of the towing vehicle on which the Officer-in-Charge was riding. The crew, who had dismounted, were thrown to the ground and Hall was thrown by the blast against a brick pillar some distance away.

The towing vehicle had been seriously effected by the bomb explosion and could not be removed. Hall thereupon ordered the crew to uncouple the trailer pump and manhandle it to the scene of the fire, where he and his men got to work.

When the fire was extinguished Hall was taken to hospital.

Frank Hickman, Squad Foreman, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Bexley.

Following heavy bombing a number of people were trapped under the wreckage of a large building. It was seen that a heavy girder was overhanging a roof and threatening to fall, thus endangering the lives of those engaged in the rescue work. The building itself was in danger of complete collapse and Mr. Hickman at very great personal risk succeeded, by clinging on to what was already a dangerous wall, in loosening the girder and bringing it to the ground so that the normal rescue work could go on without the added danger of the beam falling.

George Luff, A.R.P. Rescue Party Foreman, Gosport.

Thomas Arthur Johnson, Leader A.R.P. Rescue Party, Gosport.

An enemy H.E. bomb of large calibre was dropped and as a result the rear portion of a house collapsed burying beneath the debris a woman who was at work in the kitchen.

A Rescue Party promptly began operations to rescue her.

To extricate this woman the Rescue Party had to cut their way through a small aperture sawing through joists and supporting debris as they went. Lying on their stomachs they removed soil and debris with their hands and the work was so strenuous, apart altogether from the danger, that they collapsed from time to time and had to be dragged out

by their heels. It was only possible for one man to work at a time and as one collapsed he was dragged out and restored and this operation went on for nearly six hours. Foreman Luff and Leader Johnson were outstanding during the untiring efforts of the Party to rescue the victims.

Michael Parkinson, Leader of A.R.P. Stretcher Party, Fulham.

Two houses were hit by a high explosive bomb. The lower stories were demolished and the upper ones partly so. Seven people were sheltering in these houses and were found to be trapped in the basement.

A Stretcher Party under Leader Parkinson and an R.S.D. Party were despatched to the incident and on arrival located the casualties but found it impossible to gain access to them. The upper storey was found to be in an insecure state and it was evident that it would collapse at any moment. Further intense bombardment was in progress at this time. A hole was excavated in the party wall of the basement and through this the casualties could be seen. First Aid was given and morphia administered, but it was found impossible to extricate them. A second hole was then made in the party wall and while this was being done a bomb fell nearby and the upper storey collapsed on the Stretcher Party. In spite of this the work was continued and the casualties extricated from the basement. Both rescue work and First Aid showed an extremely high degree of efficiency in spite of the difficult circumstances, and four of the casualties were extricated alive. The courage and bearing of the men was excellent and complete contempt of danger was displayed.

Jenkyn Shanklyn, Member, Works Rescue Squad, Coventry.

When Coventry experienced a very heavy enemy air attack Shanklyn's party was sent to where a large bomb had exploded and caused heavy devastation to private dwelling-houses. Shanklyn was the outstanding figure of the Rescue Party. He dug his way through the debris of two houses near the big bomb crater; and after an arduous task found two bodies, which he dragged out and carried to ambulances. He searched further, removing bricks from the stairway, and rescued a female alive. She was conveyed to hospital in an ambulance.

Shanklyn continued his work in other parts of the town and throughout showed no regard for his own well-being or safety.

#### COMMENDATIONS.

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

William Hughes Allen, A.R.P. Ambulance Driver, West Bromwich.

Miss Grace Aucutt, A.R.P. Warden, Deptford.

Albert Wilfred Barnes, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Coventry.

William Harold Barnes, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Coventry.

John Cadogan, Officer-in-Charge, Works Fire Brigade, Bethnal Green.

John S. Cameron, Assistant Medical Officer, Emergency Medical Service, Fulham.

William Chadwick, Auxiliary Fireman, Nottingham Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 John Richard Collins, Auxiliary Fireman, Nottingham Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 Clarence Duffield, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Coventry.  
 Harold Edward Furnival, Works Fire Patrol, Manchester.  
 Leslie Frank Hall, Deputy Divisional A.R.P. Warden, Coventry.  
 David Cochran Hanson, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., Medical Officer of Mobile Unit, Emergency Medical Service, Fulham.  
 Bernard James Hill, Auxiliary Fireman, Nottingham Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 Thomas Hodson, Local Authority Employee, Coventry.  
 Sidney Arthur Hucknall, Patrol Officer, Nottingham Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 William Albert Hughes, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Coventry.  
 Alfred Jervis, Hotel House Porter, Birmingham.  
 Thomas Miller, Leader, A.R.P. Stretcher Party, Fulham.  
 Arthur Edward Minhinnick (deceased), A.R.P. Stretcher Party Driver, Westminster.  
 John Morley, A.R.P. Messenger, Redhill, Surrey.  
 Leslie Raymond Phillips, Clerical Assistant, Queen's Hospital, Birmingham.  
 Robert James Rogers, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police Force.  
 Joseph Adler Percy Rosewell, A.R.P. Warden, Woolwich.  
 James Tokley, A.R.P. Shelter Marshal, East Ham.  
 Edward Albert Victor Tuckwell, Leading Storeman, Air Ministry Outstation.  
 Aubrey Alfred Turner, Fitter, Air Ministry Outstation.  
 William Charles Wilson, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Squad, Coventry.  
 Francis Frederick Winstanley, Auxiliary Fireman, Nottingham Auxiliary Fire Service.

# CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
 7th February, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the George Medal to:—

Robert Cross, Coxswain, Lifeboat "City of Bradford," Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

A message was received that a steam-trawler was in distress, and the R.N.L.I.'s lifeboat "City of Bradford" in charge of Coxswain Robert Cross, put out to her assistance. On approaching the trawler it was seen that she was drifting rapidly ashore with seas breaking over her. The wind had increased to gale force, with snow squalls and the sea was very rough.

By excellent seamanship, Coxswain Cross manoeuvred his vessel on to the weather side of the trawler. Nosing the bow of his boat up to the forecastle of the trawler, Coxswain Cross rescued one man. Several times the lifeboat was worked in, and eventually, six men were got into the lifeboat, one at a time, it being impossible for her to stay alongside long enough for two men to be pulled on board together. After the sixth man had been rescued, the lifeboat's port engine stopped with a rope round one of the propellers. With one engine only working, Coxswain Cross' task became exceedingly difficult, but after several more attempts, the remaining three men were safely rescued.

By the exercise of splendid seamanship, Coxswain Cross then got his boat away on one engine. When clear, the rope was cut away from the propeller and the lifeboat reached port safely.

The success of the rescue was due almost entirely to the courage, skill and endurance of Coxswain Cross.

## LONDON

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