



**SUPPLEMENT**

TO

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

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

*14th February, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointments to 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, 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 Commander of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—*

Major Frank Whitford Jackson, D.S.O., Deputy Chief Officer Commanding the London Fire Brigade.

Since the outbreak of war the Command of the London Fire Brigade has rested with Major Jackson, and to him has been entrusted the responsibility of coping with the many and difficult situations created in the London area by the enemy's attacks. The London Fire Service has successfully dealt with outbreaks of fire on a scale and in such numbers as have never previously been experienced. Particularly noteworthy was the manner in which, in spite of severe handi-

caps, the public Fire Services operated on the occasion of the enemy's incendiary attacks on the City of London on the night of the 29th December, 1940.

It is to Major Jackson's able and inspiring leadership that the success of the London Fire Service is in large measure due. His leadership of the Service throughout has been distinguished. He has shown marked personal gallantry on a number of occasions, and in the fullest sense has shared the dangers of his officers and men.

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

William Backhurst, Chief Superintendent, Post Office, Portsmouth.

Mr. Backhurst was in his office when an air attack began. He immediately assumed command and remained in charge of the operations throughout the night. He mustered the staff and issued directions, and by his coolness in the face of great personal danger so inspired and encouraged his team that, despite the intensity of the bombardment, Post Office buildings with valuable equipment were saved.

Exceptional enterprise and energy were displayed by the Post Office Staff, and it was in no small part due to the outstanding qualities of Mr. Backhurst that the seemingly impossible was achieved.

*Awarded the George Medal :—*

William Henry Allen, Police Constable, " G " Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

A high explosive bomb exploded resulting in the demolition of property and a number of casualties.

So extensive was the devastation that the Rescue Squad were of the opinion that any persons trapped beneath the wreckage must be dead. P.C. Allen, however, called aloud several times, and was certain he heard a faint reply. Allen believed the response to his shouts came from the basement of what had been a shop, and aided by the other officers, commenced to clear some of the debris in a corner.

At great risk to himself, Allen crawled into the hole and found, beneath the wreckage, two elderly men and two young girls pinioned by debris. Allen passed the two girls and one of the men, who were uninjured, through the hole to the men above. The remaining casualty he found to be suffering from a fractured forearm and severe head injuries, and he called for First Aid kit. This was passed down to him and the P.C. bandaged the unconscious man's arm and head, and effected his rescue in a similar manner to the others. Reassuring himself by further search that no more people were left in the basement, the P.C. crawled back to safety.

Miss Charity Bick, A.R.P. Despatch Rider, West Bromwich.

During a very heavy air raid, Miss Bick played an heroic part under nerve-racking conditions. At the outset when incendiary bombs began to fall she assisted her father, a Post Warden, to put out one of these, in the roof of a shop, with the aid of a stirrup pump and bucket of water. The pump proved to be out of order, but nothing daunted she proceeded to splash the water with her hands and eventually put out the fire. While endeavouring to get out of the roof the charred rafters gave way and she fell through to the room below and sustained minor injuries.

Miss Bick and her father then returned to the A.R.P. Post. Almost immediately high explosive bombs began to fall and a terrific explosion nearly shook them off their feet. They discovered that a bomb had destroyed two houses opposite and another one nearby. The Wardens attached to the Post were all on duty, so she borrowed a bicycle and rushed out to take a message to the Control Room amidst shrapnel from guns and falling bombs. She made repeated attempts to get through and several times had to dismount and fall flat on the ground for safety. Covered with dirt and grime she eventually delivered the message.

She made three journeys from her Post to the Control Room, a distance of approximately one and a quarter miles, during the height of the raid, and made further journeys afterwards.

Miss Bick, by acting as a means of communication between the Wardens' Post to which she was attached and the Control Room, did very valuable work and released other Wardens for duty. She displayed outstanding courage and coolness in very trying circumstances.

Sidney Ernest George Bradford, Despatch Rider, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

A high explosive bomb demolished a house and people were buried in the wreckage. Despatch Rider Bradford, who was off duty at the time, and taking shelter nearby, immediately went to their assistance, and by hanging head downwards, whilst someone held his legs, cleared away wreckage for a period of one hour, after which he was overcome by gas. He received first aid treatment and wanted to carry on but was not allowed to do so. Through Bradford's efforts two people were rescued with only minor injuries.

Frederick Maurice Burgess, Police Sergeant, " J " Division, Metropolitan Police.

A very large bomb exploded, demolishing a number of houses.

Police Sergeant Burgess, in company with a Police Constable, went to the scene and heard shouts coming from the debris of one of the houses. He answered and learned that eight people were trapped in a basement shelter and were unharmed, but that water from a broken main was entering at a great rate. The two Police Officers, with Air Raid Wardens, pulled away debris and eventually found a hole through which the Sergeant was able to crawl into the basement. He helped the eight people on to a ledge from which they were pulled to safety.

Part of the basement shelter threatened to collapse at any moment, and the Sergeant was compelled to support it with his shoulders whilst the entombed people made good their escape.

Having assisted them to safety, the Sergeant himself was pulled out. Almost immediately afterwards the remaining portion of the basement collapsed.

Henry Burgoyne,	} " D " Division, Metropolitan Police.
Police Constable,	
John Philip James,	
Police Constable,	

A high explosive bomb was dropped on a block of flats and demolished one end of the building. The debris was piled up with the roof lying at an angle across the top. Gas supply pipes in the premises were broken and a considerable amount of gas was escaping.

P.C. James arrived on the scene and commenced searching the wreckage for victims. He was overcome by gas, however, and was compelled to retire for first aid treatment. P.C. Burgoyne then arrived, and, after further search, a cry was heard from someone buried immediately under the roof, which appeared likely to slide further towards the ground at any moment.

P.C. Burgoyne began to clear debris from under the roof, and made a hole large enough to get into. He then went under the roof and continued to remove rubble from the spot from which the cry came. Meanwhile P.C. James had recovered from the effects of gas, and returned to the incident. He entered the hole with Burgoyne and helped him in his work. The roof began to slide, and the two police constables had to arch their backs and prevent it from falling further. A.R.P. workers then held up the roof until it was propped up by a wooden strut.

Still working down into the debris, the officers, at great risk to themselves, and now assisted by a Superintendent, eventually extricated a woman. She died on the way to hospital. Digging still further, they came to an unconscious woman who was pinned by a block of brickwork. A rope was tied to this and passed to the A.R.P. workers and police outside, who pulled one end of the block up to an angle of 45 degrees and held it in that position until the three officers had crawled underneath and freed the woman. With great difficulty two of the officers lifted the unconscious woman from the hole in which she was lying and placed her on a stretcher. She eventually recovered.

P.C. Burgoyne then re-entered the opening and continued to dig until he came to other victims. During the whole time this work was being carried out, enemy aircraft were overhead and anti-aircraft fire was incessant.

Arthur Walter Curtis, Leader A.R.P. Rescue Party, Croydon.

Thomas William Ingram, Labourer A.R.P. Rescue Party, Croydon.

Following the explosion of a very large bomb, a detached house completely collapsed. The walls were composed of concrete about 18 inches in thickness, and the whole of the debris fell on to, and heaped over, the floor joists above the basement shelter under the house.

Six people had been sheltering in two compartments, one at the front and one at the rear of the building. Huge pieces of concrete were supported only by the joists which, it was obvious, were likely to collapse.

It was evident to the Leader, Mr. Curtis, that if the people trapped in the basement were to be rescued, there was no time for the ordinary methods of dealing with such a position, and that great risks would have to be taken.

Curtis called for a volunteer to assist him, as only two people could work at one time. Every member of the squad stepped forward, and T. W. Ingram, labourer, was selected because of his small stature.

Curtis and Ingram then proceeded to tunnel their way through the debris in constant danger of their lives, as the pieces of loose concrete above them were of such a size that had they fallen the men would have been crushed.

In due course these two men were able to rescue three persons from the front portion of the basement. They worked with entire disregard for their personal safety.

Ivor Thomas Davies, Engine Driver, Great Western Railway, Birkenhead.

Frank Reginald Newns, Engine Fireman, Great Western Railway, Birkenhead.

Driver Davies and Fireman Newns were working on shunting engines when serious fires were caused by enemy action involving Railway and Dock Warehouse properties.

A large number of incendiary bombs fell, some amongst a train-load of ammunition and various trucks containing petrol in tins.

With complete disregard for their own safety, Davies and Newns helped to operate

a stirrup pump which was directed on a burning wagon containing aerial bombs. When these were sufficiently cool, they levered them apart and removed the incendiaries.

Throughout these operations, which were carried out during a severe enemy attack, Davies and Newns showed a very high degree of courage, and their prompt action undoubtedly eliminated the risk of heavy explosions.

William Henry Daysh, Member of Works A.R.P. Party, Portsmouth.

On an air raid alarm being given Daysh took up his post together with the Foreman Carpenter. Some stores received a direct hit by H.E. and incendiary bombs, and there was an immediate, fierce fire. The other man was seriously injured, and rendered unconscious by injuries from which he died later in the same day. Daysh received less severe injuries, but remained with his fellow workman endeavouring to get him out of the burning building. Finding he could not move him single-handed, he left the building to obtain further help. The first floor, however, was on the point of collapsing and inflammable material on which the carpenter was lying was beginning to burn. Daysh re-entered the building and carried on with his efforts to save the injured man. More debris fell trapping him by the leg, but he continued his efforts. In the meantime the Fire Party had arrived on the scene and had to extricate both men. Daysh said nothing about his own injuries. Although he had once got clear of the burning building himself, he re-entered it knowing that conditions were much worse, rather than abandon his workmate. Daysh sustained broken bones in the left foot and lacerations.

William Edward Douglas, Station Sergeant, Metropolitan Police.

When a number of bombs were dropped, Douglas, who was off duty at his home, heard them fall, and quickly made his way to the scene. Upon his arrival, he was informed that a man and two girls were trapped beneath the debris of a house, which was completely wrecked. Lying on top of what had been the ground floor was the ceiling, and, on this, the first floor and top part of the house was resting.

Douglas found a small gap at the back of the premises beneath the ceiling and immediately commenced worming his way underneath towards the entombed people. By handing out pieces of brickwork, timber and furniture, he was eventually able to reach a spot which had formerly been the ground floor back room. There, with the aid of a torch, he found two young girls pinned down by brickwork and furniture. Although still lying flat he was able to free one of the girls, enabling her to crawl out of the wreckage to safety. The Sergeant continued working inside for another thirty or forty minutes, and with the aid of people working from the outside, the second girl was dragged to safety through the top of the wreckage of the house. The Sergeant then found the man, but he was dead, having been crushed and suffocated. Douglas then crawled out, after working strenuously inside the confined space for over an hour.

In moving debris as he did Douglas took grave risks, for had there been further collapse he would have been crushed.

Frank Edward Evans, Senior Station Officer, Brentford and Chiswick Fire Brigade.

During a fight with one of three fires which were raging simultaneously, a large corrugated iron and wooden structure, containing paraffin wax, was involved. The building collapsed and the molten and ignited wax began to flow towards the river bank, and into some disused sludge tanks containing quantities of inflammable material. The burning wax which had flowed into the river was for a time held up by a number of barges, but eventually the mooring ropes burnt through, and as the barges began to move on the stream, the burning wax flared up around men on the wharf and endangered two pumps which were at work.

Station Officer Evans and a Patrol Officer made every endeavour to save these pumps, and it was only when they were blinded by the heat and smoke that they gave up the attempt. In retreating, Station Officer Evans stumbled, fell into the wax, and was burnt on the hands and face. Assisted by the Patrol Officer he succeeded in collecting the personnel and reorganising them at strategic points to deal with the fires. Having done this he received first aid, and, later, he returned to the scene of the fire, where he remained until it was extinguished, some eleven hours afterwards.

George Grimwood, Lengthman, London Passenger Transport Board.

Following a bombing attack, Grimwood volunteered to enter a deep crater on the track of a station, where there was an unexploded bomb, to examine the under-side of the track for signs of damage. Next day, when it was necessary for a hole to be dug in the pit of the crater Grimwood volunteered to do this work, which was highly dangerous. His courage and cheerfulness were an example to all with whom he came in contact.

Harold John Hardwick, Special Constable, Warwickshire Special Constabulary.

Alfred John Knight, A.R.P. Warden, Warwickshire.

A large calibre high explosive bomb fell at the side of a railway marshalling yard and an oil bomb fell on the middle one of three working-class cottages.

Although several people were soon on the scene, the Warden and Special Constable were first there and, realising that the occupants—a very old couple—were probably in bed, quickly gained entrance to the house by forcing the back door. Although the stairs and casing were fiercely burning and in a dangerous condition, the men succeeded in reaching the upper floor and made their way through the flames into the bedroom, where they saw the old lady obviously dead in bed. Her husband, in great agony, had managed to crawl on to the landing. Without any regard for the danger to themselves from the tottering and burning staircase, the Warden and the Special Constable carried him to safety.

In taking the action they did they displayed great coolness and courage.

William John Higgot, A.R.P. Warden, Leicester.

Warden Higgot arrived at an incident immediately after a bomb had exploded and, without regard for his own safety, entered one of the buildings, which was a mass of ruins and in an unsafe condition. He came out on the first occasion with two children, one under each arm. He then returned once more and put out a fire that had started in the upper part of the premises. He next went to a neighbouring building and extinguished a fire there. Subsequently he did extraordinarily good work and extinguished another fire where a large bomb had exploded at the corner of two roads. He showed a very high degree of courage and efficiency.

Charles Henry Higgs, Foreman Mainlayer and Gas Fitter, Clacton Gas and Water Department.

The side of a large Gas Holder had been ignited by a hot bomb fragment and a fierce flame was burning from the crown of the holder.

The Fire Brigade had made ineffectual attempts to extinguish the flames with water and with foam when Higgs volunteered to climb the fire escape and tried to extinguish the flames with clay. He almost succeeded the first time but the heat drove him back. He came down and made a second attempt from the fire escape but again did not quite succeed. He then went up an ordinary ladder propped against the side of the holder and, with hoses playing on him and the holder side, succeeded in putting the flames out with clay and stopping the escape of gas.

The position of the holder was such that Higgs was working on a ladder about 40 feet from ground level when he made his final and successful attempt. Higgs is not normally employed in the Gas Works but he volunteered for this duty.

Barnett Lewis, Leader A.R.P. Rescue Party, East Ham.

Allister William Christie, Member A.R.P. Rescue Party, East Ham.

A large H.E. bomb fell on three shops under which were two public shelters containing over sixty persons. The roof of the shelters collapsed. The bomb also caused a water main to burst which flooded them to a depth of approximately 2½ feet before it could be turned off. Those who were not injured were quickly got out, but one man was trapped and in danger of being drowned, while four other men were pinned by the legs.

Lewis waded through the water to the first man, and finding that he was wedged in with large pieces of brickwork and timber, jacked up the dangerous roof and by sheer strength forced the brickwork away. He then found that the timber was still holding the man down. He crawled back and obtained a saw with which he cut this away, thus freeing the man just as the water reached his head. Lewis no doubt saved his life.

Meanwhile another member of his Rescue Party, A. W. Christie forced his way through the half demolished party wall of the shelters to the four trapped men, and, finding he

could not release them at once, cleared the way so that a doctor could crawl in to them and administer morphia injections. In the confined space Christie could only use a brace and bit and a keyhole saw. He worked like this for over four hours for most of the time in water, and in great danger, owing to the mass of debris lying above the broken roof. Though two of the four men died from their injuries, he managed to release the other two, who were brought out and sent to hospital.

Reginald George Olver, A.R.P. Warden, Erith.  
Arthur Simons, A.R.P. Warden, Erith.

A high explosive bomb burst close to the corner of a house completely demolishing it. The house had consisted of a basement and three stories above.

The first people on the scene were two Wardens, A. Simons and R. G. Olver, who immediately made a search of the front of the house, and hearing cries, located three trapped people buried in the basement where they had taken shelter, a father, mother and her baby. The Wardens immediately began to force an entrance through the debris with their bare hands, in spite of the fact that a considerable amount of wreckage was hanging precariously above them, and that an air raid was in progress.

Making little headway, one Warden rushed home for some tools, and with these, they managed to dig away bricks and other debris and to burrow a narrow tunnel through the wreckage. Simons located the baby, which he was able to drag out after breaking the bars of the cot, and to hand to Olver who was then hauled to the surface by a Police Constable and others. Olver again entered the tunnel, and between them they dragged the father through the broken beams and other debris and got him to safety. They returned for the third time, and after manipulating much of the loose wreckage, lifted the mother to within reach of other helpers.

The raiders were overhead all the time and the only lights which could be used were dimmed lamps.

There is no doubt whatever that throughout the rescues these two Wardens were in imminent danger of being crushed, if not killed.

Frederick James Skelton, Company Officer,  
London Auxiliary Fire Service.

When a fire station was hit and set on fire by a bomb, Company Officer Skelton showed great courage in attempting to rescue two firemen who were trapped in the building. He was badly burned in his gallant effort.

John Alfred Cecil Skinner, A.R.P. Warden,  
Woolwich.

A heavy H.E. bomb was dropped, demolishing three houses.

Warden Skinner was off duty at the time, but was within 20 yards of the bomb explosion, and, in spite of an obvious shaking, he contrived to get a message for assistance to the Warden's Post through a passer-by. Without loss of time, he entered the wrecked building with complete disregard of perilously balanced wreckage and walls in imminent danger of collapse. Unaided he rescued one man and two women, all injured, and brought them to

safety and then continued searching for any further occupants.

Warden Skinner, realising that certain overhanging portions of the building and roofing were dangerous, himself took steps to demolish these, and in doing so exposed himself to considerable danger. He also extinguished fires in grates and prevented ignition of the wreckage.

The prompt, courageous and resourceful action of this Warden undoubtedly saved three people from further injury or death, and prevented the extension of material damage.

Arthur Thomas Smith, Senior Gas Fitter and Plumber, Lea Bridge District Gas Company.

On numerous occasions Mr. Smith has been responsible for the repair of gas mains damaged by enemy action. His duties have been carried out in circumstances of extreme danger, and in many cases he has worked in the presence of escaping gas in flooded mains. He rescued three persons trapped in a cellar with gas freely escaping from a broken main, and was himself affected by the fumes. On more than one occasion Smith has climbed gas-holders, damaged by incendiary or H.E. bombs, and stopped leaks from which ignited gas was escaping.

Miss Evalyn Gertrude Thomas, Matron, West Bromwich and District General Hospital.

William Stanley Walton, M.D., M.B., B.S.,  
Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer, West Bromwich.

Enemy bombing started large fires in two buildings near the West Bromwich and District General Hospital.

Dr. Walton, who was in the Control Room, left to carry out a further survey of the work of the Casualty Services. He assisted in extinguishing incendiary bombs and then saw the glare of a fire which appeared to him to be proceeding from the District Hospital. He went there immediately and ascertained that the Hospital Laundry, immediately opposite to the District Hospital, was in flames, together with other buildings near by. He went to the hospital, and while he was discussing with Miss Thomas, the Matron, the advisability of evacuating it, a high explosive bomb fell which demolished the Hospital Laundry, and he and the Matron were blown in different directions. He then decided that the Hospital should be evacuated.

Dr. Walton and Miss Thomas undoubtedly provided the leadership and the initiative which was a very great factor in the successful carrying out of this difficult and dangerous task.

The Doctor made many journeys to the First Aid Post and to the Transport Department to put in train the arrangements for the provision of Ambulances, and showed a complete disregard for his personal safety. Miss Thomas herself very coolly supervised the nursing arrangements and the removal of the patients ready for evacuation, and set a splendid example to her Nursing Staff. During all this time the Hospital was subjected to constant attack.

George Richard Titcombe, M.M., A.R.P. Post Warden, Hampstead.

When a number of H.E. bombs fell in his Post area, Warden Titcombe showed great

courage and coolness in controlling and co-ordinating all the incidents and, by skilful direction of rescue operations carried out at considerable personal risk, he was the means of saving life. He was in the open street under barrage and enemy bombardment for some hours near an unexploded bomb. When it was reported to him that a nurse and child were under a demolished building, a block of flats, and that it might be possible to crawl inside, he, for the first time, left his post and made an heroic effort to reach them.

He rallied Wardens and led them into buildings, bringing out trapped persons. Many of the houses seemed to be in danger of collapse but he did not hesitate for a moment and set a splendid example to all around him.

Walter Thomas Toone, Exhausterman, Portsmouth and Gosport Gas Company.

Toone climbed on top of a gasholder during an enemy air raid and extinguished flames from holes caused by an incendiary bomb, by throwing a wet coke sack over them. He then fitted a plate and clay over the holes to effect more permanent repair.

During this time the holder was ringed by fires and bombs were falling in the vicinity.

There were two further holes in the holder crown, from which gas was escaping, but not on fire, and these also he repaired.

George Alfred John Voizey, War Reserve Police Constable, "F" Division, Metropolitan Police.

Two houses were demolished by an H.E. bomb resulting in many people being buried beneath the wreckage.

A Sergeant and two War Reserve police constables, one of whom was Voizey, were immediately directed to the scene of the bombing. On arrival, the Sergeant summoned the necessary Civil Defence Services and then commenced a search for casualties. The only possible way of getting to any trapped victims was through the debris. It was clear that in so doing, a great risk would have to be taken as any further loosening of the crumbling ruins would probably result in a subsidence endangering the life of the rescuer.

War Reserve Voizey, the smallest member of the police trio, at once volunteered to enter the only opening. He made his way slowly into the broken building towards two trapped women whom he found in the basement. Coal gas fumes were very heavy, the escape being from a fractured main, but by making a tunnel through the debris with the passage of his own body, the P.C. enabled a supply of air to filter into the basement where the gas was most heavily concentrated. Realising, however, that the task of extricating the two women would entail prolonged and sustained effort and would take a considerable time. Voizey administered stimulants passed to him by Wardens who had subsequently arrived on the scene. He then applied himself to the clearing of heavy wreckage that was pinioning the two women. In these efforts he persisted despite the conditions, which were very trying, as he was gradually falling under the effects of the coal gas.

Before he completed his task, Voizey had to be helped from the hole in the debris in a very exhausted condition. One of the two women was eventually brought out alive.

Frederick William Yates, Commandant, A.R.P. Rescue Squads, Croydon.

Commandant Yates was called to take squads to a public basement shelter which had been bombed.

Two heavy high explosive bombs had fallen on a house, wrecking the side and front, leaving the remainder in a very dangerous state. About 60 people were trapped in the shelter, the entrance and exits all being blocked by debris. Mr. Yates took charge of the work and showed great initiative in arranging it in such a way that the people could be released as soon as possible. It was necessary to cut a hole through a brick wall and this was carried out in spite of the danger of the building collapsing. When the shelter was reached, the air was very foul. Several members of the Rescue Parties were overcome whilst working and had to be treated at a first-aid post. Mr. Yates worked under these conditions without a break for about seven hours until every live person had been released. One man was suspended by his feet which were trapped between pieces of timber. There was just sufficient room for Mr. Yates to crawl under and raise him while others released him. After this, the rescue party had to drag Mr. Yates out of the debris by his legs.

During the whole time, the structure was in imminent danger of collapse.

*Awarded the George Medal :—*

Kenneth George Giblett, Unestablished Skilled Workman, Post Office, Bristol.

Samuel Frank Pople, Night Supervisor, Post Office, Bristol.

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

Percy James Pallant, Night Telephonist and Call Office Attendant, Bristol.

Austin Raymond Ashley, Skilled Workman, Class I, Post Office, Bristol.

Mr. Giblett was the Officer-in-Charge of a Post Office Fire Brigade during a heavy air raid on Bristol. Stores adjacent to a Post Office building were reported burning, and as soon the Post Office Fire Brigade had run out hose and orders had been issued for the Fire Brigade and the owners to be advised, Mr. Giblett secured volunteers, broke in and tackled the fire from inside. Owing to lack of equipment within the premises and the nature of the stock, the efforts of the volunteers were unsuccessful in saving the building, but not until it was clear that the roof was falling in did the party withdraw. Giblett, with his team, continued with water from buckets, showing no sign of fear, despite appalling conditions due to high explosive and incendiary bombs. He carried on throughout the night without thought of personal injury. There is no doubt that Giblett directed the work of the Post Office Fire Brigade with great courage and initiative. He set a fine example which others were proud to follow, and he was primarily instrumental in saving the building from destruction.

Despite the constant threat of danger from bombs and fire, Mr. Pople returned to the building, which had been evacuated, and succeeded in restoring communications with London. He then ascended to the roof of the Exchange, with others, to map out a plan of action in the event of the roof catching fire, but owing to the heat and insufficient water pressure, the plan was abandoned and Pople organised a bucket chain team. The flames from the Stores were by this time about 30 feet high and blowing towards the roof. Pople and his men showed no sign of fear, and he undoubtedly played a principal part in saving the valuable equipment from destruction.

Mr. Pallant stood out among the team who supported Giblett and Pople.

Mr. Ashley, as a member of the Post Office Fire Brigade, participated in an attempt to control the outbreak, but when reports were received that certain power supplies had failed, he returned to the building and restored the supply. He then continued essential maintenance duties, prepared records for removal to a safe place, took steps to prevent water damaging equipment and assisted in organising a bucket chain to fight the fire. Ashley displayed courage and initiative, and, with no thought of personal danger, helped to maintain essential services.

*Awarded the George Medal :—*

Gilbert John Griffiths, Assistant Engineer, Post Office, Coventry.

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

William John Williams, Skilled Workman, Class I, (temporarily acting as Inspector). John William Wilkins, Unestablished Draughtsman.	}	Post Office.
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During the concentrated air raid on Coventry Mr. Griffiths, although not scheduled for duty, travelled from his home to his office, a distance of 1½ miles, through the heaviest of the bombing. He remained there during the raid, directing and encouraging the two men on duty, Mr. W. J. Williams and Mr. J. W. Wilkins. Thanks to their combined efforts, communications were established and maintained after the normal channels had been interrupted. In this way the Civil Defence services came into action without delay. During the night, a fire reached the building from below. With great difficulty Mr. Griffiths and his two colleagues got it under control. During their efforts to extinguish the fire, Williams was overcome by smoke and fumes and had to be rescued by Griffiths and Wilkins. Later it broke out again and, after further efforts to check it had been made, they succeeded in obtaining the services of the Fire Brigade. Thanks to these efforts, the office was saved from destruction and the local communications, which were of vital concern to the Civil Defence Services, continued to function both during and after the raid.

Despite his exertions during the raid, Mr. Griffiths played a conspicuous part in the restoration of the services during the days immediately following.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Gilbert Joseph Stephen Little, A.M.I.E.E., Chief Regional Engineer, Manchester.

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

Arthur Whitely, Regional Headquarters Inspector, Manchester.

Edward Long, Skilled Workman, Class I, Post Office, Manchester.

Mr. Long was on duty when a heavy raid developed. High explosive bombs were dropped near the building, shattering the windows, and several fires were started by incendiaries in its immediate vicinity. There were fires on the roof of the building. Long immediately took charge of the fire-fighting operations and in addition posted men at all danger points, he himself going from point to point directing the work and giving assistance. No water was available in the building except in the basement and Long arranged for water to be taken to the roof by lift, and for all inflammable material to be removed. By this means the roof fires were kept under control. It later became apparent that outside assistance was necessary, and while waiting for the Fire Brigade, Long reorganised the staff. Half continued to fight the fires, the remainder concentrated on saving the valuable records. During all this time they were surrounded by blazing buildings and there was grave danger from a burning garage nearby.

Mr. Whiteley went with two colleagues to ascertain if it would be possible to save valuable equipment. In spite of the danger from falling masonry and of the clouds of smoke, this party succeeded in entering the building. They found that the ground floor was still intact although the apparatus was too heavy to be removed without assistance. Whiteley was of the opinion that the whole building could be saved if further assistance were forthcoming.

Due to his persistence a further expedition, headed by Mr. Little, was made to the building during the afternoon. Smoke from surrounding fires was still very thick, there was considerable danger from falling masonry and warning had been given by the Fire Brigade that it was dangerous to approach the building, which was still intact although there were fires on the upper floors. Mr. Little and two colleagues, ignoring the warnings, succeeded in getting in through a broken window and made a rapid inspection. He then took immediate steps to get assistance and organised parties of volunteers from other Post Office offices in Manchester. Mr. Whiteley took charge of those fighting the fire on the roof. After strenuous efforts the fires were extinguished and the building and plant were saved.

*Awarded the George Medal :—*

Percival Henry Martin, Overseer, Post Office, Bristol.

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

Ernest Francis Filer, Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist, Bristol.

Fire was started by an incendiary bomb in a Post Office building. The first to reach the scene was Mr. Martin who, as Warden, was touring the building to ensure that all floors were evacuated. On finding the fire, he reported it by telephone and at once proceeded to attack the outbreak with an extinguisher. No water was available from the fire hydrant system owing to lack of pressure. A fire bucket team was organised and Mr. Martin took the lead in holding the fire at bay from 7.45 p.m. until 10 p.m., when assistance was obtained from the Fire Brigade. Burning material from the roof was falling upon the men, yet Mr. Martin and his team stuck to their posts, and he showed considerable ingenuity in devising means of fighting the fire. There is no doubt that he was primarily responsible for preventing the fire from spreading much more widely and possibly destroying the Office.

Mr. Filer is the Captain of a Post Office Fire Brigade, and took a leading part in organising efforts to extinguish the fire.

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

Arthur Percy Barber, Chief Carbonising Foreman, South Metropolitan Gas Company.

When neighbouring premises were being showered with incendiary bombs, a large fire was raging in a rubber tyre yard on the side of a canal opposite the Works in which A. P. Barber is employed. Along the bank of the tyre yard were several fully laden timber barges, and the flames had reached the leading barge, which had begun to burn. Immediately opposite the fire in the tyre yard was a plant through which a large volume of coal gas was passing. Barber had extinguished several bombs on his own side of the canal, and he immediately realised the potential danger from the burning timber barges.

He succeeded in reaching the leading barge, but found the heat too intense for him to reach the canal bank. He discovered that the barge was moored to the bank by a stout chain. He found a hammer and chisel and, with flames playing around him, cut through the chain whilst members of the Works Fire Squad sprayed water on him to keep the flames back.

By his action and outstanding devotion to duty Barber prevented extensive damage.

Charles Giles Bodman, Police Sergeant, Pembrokehire Police.

William Glyn Humphreys, Police Constable, Pembrokehire Police.

Immediately after the dropping of bombs in the dark by the enemy aircraft, when, amongst others, a doctor's house was entirely demolished, killing the doctor's wife, these two men, at great personal risk, set about their work in a cool, calm and methodical manner.

They were in imminent personal danger by reason of collapsing walls and falling debris. This, however, did not deter them from entering the burning building in order to try and save life. They knew that, somewhere in the burning wreckage, the doctor was to be found, either alive or dead. They toiled incessantly while further bombs were dropped until they found him in a semi-conscious state, buried under the debris.

Sidney Bond, A.R.P. Warden, Bermondsey.

Throughout the extensive bombing of the Dock Area this man, who had already shown himself a most excellent warden, displayed great bravery in assisting to evacuate the large number of people who were almost surrounded by the burning wharves and docks. For hours Bond remained in the area, and but for the damping of his clothes, he would have many times suffered severe burns. He remained until he saw the last of the people away.

He himself was eventually found in a very dazed condition and it was necessary for him to have hospital treatment.

John William Booth, Goods Porter, London Midland and Scottish Railway, Sheffield.

A number of high explosive and incendiary bombs fell within the precincts of an L.M.S. Goods Station. Booth was responsible for removing a number of horses from an open yard to a place of safety. He also extinguished incendiary bombs, and rescued an injured workmate from the vicinity of a railway arch which had sustained a hit from an H.E. bomb. He afterwards helped to extinguish a number of fires in the Goods Yard.

Alfred William Campbell, Caretaker, Portsmouth and Gosport Gas Company.

Campbell was acting in the capacity of Fire Watcher during an intense air raid.

He was personally instrumental in putting out fires caused by incendiary bombs and sparks which were blown by a fairly high wind from intense fires raging at adjacent buildings. He not only assisted in saving the Chief Offices of the Gas Company with its valuable records from total destruction in the face of great danger, but climbed on to the roofs of adjoining buildings and at great risk to himself put out fires which had taken hold by reason of the sparks dropping on to dry felt and other inflammable material.

At one time, Campbell was advised to evacuate the Gas Offices, owing to the danger of fire, but he resolutely refused to leave the building which, had he done so, would have been totally destroyed.

William Charles Cesana, District Officer, London Fire Brigade.

District Officer Cesana has attended a series of fires and on numerous occasions he has been solely in charge until the arrival of a senior officer. At all times he has carried out his work in a very efficient and cool manner. He especially distinguished himself at a large fire in a danger building in which quantities of H.E. shells of various calibre were involved. At this fire violent explosions were continually taking place, and until the arrival of a senior officer,

Cesana handled the resources at his disposal with good effect, doing much towards the final extinguishing of the fire.

Charles Murray Codling, Gasholder and Governor Control Attendant, Coventry Corporation Gas Department.

During an intensive air raid on Coventry Codling proceeded to inspect a gasholder. An incendiary had pierced the crown, igniting the escaping gas, which flamed to a height of approximately 20 feet. He ascended the vertical iron ladder attached to the frame of the holder to a height of 40 feet. Whilst walking across the crown of the holder with wet clay blankets in bags, he was knocked off his feet by the "blast" of a bomb which exploded near by. He got up and dropped a clay blanket over the aperture in the crown, which momentarily extinguished the flame at this point. The pressure in the holder, however, lifted the clay bag and the gas ignited again from the flame overhead. He descended from the holder and reported.

With two other men Codling then proceeded to make another attempt to extinguish the flame on the gasholder crown with clay, and they were within 12 feet of the holder when it collapsed into its water sealing tank in a sheet of flame.

Aileen Jean, Mrs. Costigan, A.R.P. Warden, Coventry.

Mrs. Costigan was on duty for the whole of the time that Coventry was subjected to a severe enemy air attack. Many bombs were dropped in the district where she worked, but throughout the whole of the raid, and in spite of falling H.E. bombs and flying shrapnel, she assisted in extricating people who were buried under demolished houses. With the utmost indifference to her own safety she gave first-aid to the victims and repeatedly went to her home to obtain hot water, dressings and so forth. Her coolness under such hazardous conditions gave great confidence. As the First Aid Post in her district had been demolished and the Rest Centre nearby had been burnt out, she attended to the needs of many people throughout the night, going through the streets, time and again, for this purpose.

Cyril Terence Stewart McBride Cruickshank, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Samuel Davies, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Charles Thomas Francis, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

A large number of high explosive bombs fell, causing extensive damage to property and numerous casualties.

Police Constables Davies, Francis and Cruickshank, who were off duty, heard the bombs fall and immediately ran into the street to see if any help was required. They made a quick search of the surrounding property, and soon found that a house had received a direct hit. It was learned that three people were in the basement, underneath a considerable amount of wreckage. The officers hurriedly pulled aside loose debris outside the front window of the basement, and climbed in one by one. They discovered that part of the basement had col-

lapsed under the weight of the top part of the house, and there was danger of a further collapse.

They found a man and a woman who had managed to extricate themselves from the wreckage, who informed them that another woman was still beneath the debris. The officers could hear the groans of the third victim.

Cruickshank and Francis crawled under the collapsed floor and cleared away sufficient wreckage to enable them slightly to lift and support the floor on their arched backs. P.C. Davies was then able to crawl underneath and reach the woman. When he reached her, however, he found that she was trapped below a heavy piece of furniture which had fallen from the floor above, and that it would be necessary to move this obstacle before the woman could be released. There was a risk that when it was moved a further collapse would take place. As however the woman was seriously injured the P.C. took this risk and shifted it, releasing her and getting her to safety through the window.

The officers then left the basement and made their way outside. Within a few seconds the floor collapsed and completely filled the basement.

The rescued woman was taken to a nearby shelter and P.C. Davies rendered first aid.

Duncan Dunn, Police Constable, "V" Division, Metropolitan Police.

A bomb fell in some gardens, completely demolishing several houses and seriously damaging others.

P.C. Dunn, accompanied by other officers, arrived on the scene very shortly afterwards in a police car, and heard cries for help coming from underneath the wreckage. They commenced moving the debris and eventually found a hole, through which P.C. Dunn was suspended head first by the other officers. He discovered a coal fire still burning, and, owing to the danger it presented, his first action was to extinguish it with a pail of water.

Still suspended by his feet, he pulled more debris and rubble aside and freed the trapped victims. One by one, all four people were rescued and taken away, suffering from slight injuries only.

P.C. Dunn volunteered and carried out this extremely hazardous task with intelligence and courage.

Frederick William Elliott, Leader A.R.P. Rescue Party, East Ham.

An H.E. bomb exploded, totally wrecking a house. A woman had taken shelter under the cellar stairs which had partially collapsed and were loaded down with the debris. Elliott forced a way through the floor and getting under the stair pushed it upward and held it by sheer strength until a rope could be passed round the top tread and assistance given to hold it up. He then enlarged the hole and passed the woman out to the care of the stretcher bearers. Immediately afterwards fire broke out in this cellar, which was extinguished by the Fire Brigade who were in attendance. Elliott performed an almost superhuman feat and displayed grit, determination and endurance in

high degree, knowing that everything depended upon his efforts. He was in a state of collapse immediately after the rescue.

William Thomas Holmes, Police Constable, "V" Division, Metropolitan Police.

Following the explosion of a large delayed action bomb, a baby was heard crying in the debris of a building and there was reason to believe that other persons might be trapped. It was difficult to know where to begin the clearance, but after a while it was found possible to make a small opening. This was gradually enlarged until it was big enough to enable P.C. Holmes to go down into the ruins. By passing pieces of rubble back through the hole, Holmes eventually reached a woman, and, getting her near to the entrance, helped her to reach the other police officers beyond. Holmes then returned and found a baby's cot pinned down by a large piece of brickwork. By lifting this with one hand he was able to free the child with the other and bring it out. The P.C. then entered the hole once more. After a short search he found a man who was pinned down by a large piece of brick wall and timber work. Holmes lifted this and enabled the man to free his head from the fallen timbers and raise himself. He was helped out in the same way as the others.

During the time Holmes was working his way beneath the debris it was evident that the wreckage might subside and trap him at any time.

Arthur Ernest Charles Jackson, Special Constable, Metropolitan Special Constabulary.

This Special Constable has displayed conspicuous courage and devotion to duty in a number of incidents over a long period. During the past three months he has attended no less than twenty-one scenes of explosion caused by enemy action. His conduct and work throughout have been of a very high order. He is always cheerful and calm in the face of danger. He has set a wonderful example which has been an inspiration to his fellow officers and all with whom he has come in contact.

Norman Jaeger,  
Leader.

Alexander Muirhead  
Kerr, Member.

Richard Rance,  
Member.

Miss Maisie Eirene  
Coppock, Driver.

Mary Denise, Mrs.  
Goodbody, Driver.

A.R.P. Stretcher  
Party, Lambeth.

A.R.P. Mechanised  
Transport, Lambeth.

A building was hit by a high explosive bomb. All the old part of the building collapsed, leaving a tower at one side precariously standing. A great many people were trapped in the debris. Rescue parties were quickly separated and worked independently. A stretcher party under Leader Jaeger with one extra driver who joined them, proceeded to dig a tunnel with their hands to where they thought the casualties would be, removing the masses of concrete, rubble and brick by hand. They freed about fourteen people through this tunnel, passing them from one to another. There was a

heavy barrage the whole of the time and other bombs were dropping nearby.

The Party were working for over ten hours with the knowledge that they might themselves be buried at any moment by the collapse of the debris.

Arthur John Kempson, Temporary Welder, London Passenger Transport Board.

George McCullough, Temporary Welder, London Passenger Transport Board.

A bomb of very heavy calibre severely damaged the booking hall, tunnel and a train at a railway station. A number of persons was trapped under the large quantity of debris which fell, and as the remaining structure was in a very precarious condition, rescue work was extremely dangerous.

Kempson and McCullough gave most valuable assistance to the rescue parties in burning away, with oxy-acetylene apparatus, large quantities of steelwork in order that the trapped persons might be released. At times they had to work at a considerable height on flimsy structures under heavy gunfire with enemy aeroplanes overhead. The help they gave made it possible to release many of the trapped people, who were still alive.

Henry James Langan, Works Packer, Mitcham.

Incendiary bombs fell on a factory and one lodged on top of a drum of inflammable material forming part of a stack. The drum was set alight, and was burning fiercely when H. J. Langan climbed on top of the stack, got behind the drum, and at considerable personal risk pushed it over to the floor clear of the rest of the stack. A second employee then rolled the burning barrel out of the store into the open, where it burnt itself out.

Joseph Levy, A.R.P. Sector Warden, Hampstead.

When a great many houses were demolished and several others partially wrecked Sector Warden J. Levy led a small band of Warden rescuers into every one of them and brought out a number of slightly injured and badly shocked persons. In some cases parts of the buildings were actually falling as Levy went in. On one occasion he himself was trapped by falling beams, but he managed to extricate himself and immediately went into the next building and emerged helping an elderly lady. The Rescue Parties had not at this time arrived, and for about twenty minutes this young man continued his rescue work heedless of the risk to himself. Even when the Rescue Parties arrived, although he was bruised and cut, he begged to be allowed to help them.

Samuel Marks, War Reserve Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Thomas Henry Meek, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

High explosive bombs and an oil bomb caused extensive damage to property and numerous casualties.

Police Constables Meek and Marks and another officer immediately proceeded to the scene and searched several hours for victims.

They helped five elderly women and a family of three to safety, and then noticed a coal fire burning in the grate of a ground-floor room of a half demolished house. As a considerable amount of gas was escaping they took steps to extinguish the fire, and when clambering over a pile of debris, heard cries coming from the first floor room above, the floor of which was suspended over the crater.

Guided by the cries, they found a man wedged in the joists of the floor, pinned down with rafters and brickwork. Meek and Marks clambered on to the floor and hurriedly cleared debris from the man's chest and thighs, but then discovered that he was still pinned down by a rafter. With the aid of a saw obtained from a Rescue Squad, they eventually freed the man, placed him on a stretcher and carried him over the debris to a doctor who was in attendance. Shortly after the rescue work had been completed the rest of the house fell to the ground.

Emanuel Morris, A.R.P. Warden, Hackney.

A high explosive bomb fell upon a block of flats. Mr. Morris, who was on duty in his sector Post, went immediately to the scene and discovered that the front entrance to a public shelter had been completely blocked by wreckage. He then proceeded to the emergency exit at the rear, and found that a number of people had managed to open the exit and were leaving the shelter.

At some considerable personal risk, he entered and found persons trapped under wreckage. Morris was warned by the A.F.S. that he was entering the shelter at the risk of his own life. Working in two feet of water, he then released a woman who was pinned down by a beam of wood. He moved the beam and placed her on a bunk, and proceeded to the release of at least two more women, whom he also rescued from the water and placed on the bunks.

As the water was then up to his armpits, he left the shelter on the instructions of the Fire Brigade.

Richard Gordon Rickards, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

High explosive bombs were dropped by enemy planes, demolishing several houses and causing numerous casualties.

Police Constable Rickards, who was off duty in his home nearby, on hearing the noise of the explosions, ran to the scene. On arrival he heard groans coming from beneath the wreckage of a house which was partially demolished. Without hesitation, and at considerable risk of being buried under falling debris, the officer managed to work his way through the rubble into the front passage. There he found an elderly lady lying on the floor suffering from injuries, but conscious. The P.C. helped her through the wreckage, and had just reached the road when another H.E. bomb fell nearby, causing the remainder of the building to collapse, completely filling the passage and the channel the officer had made through the debris.

Rickards escorted the lady to a shelter, and returned to the scene to give further help.

Alfred Ernest Sharman, Tram Driver, London Passenger Transport Board.

Bombs were dropped on a Central Bus Garage. Fire broke out and the roof of the garage began to collapse. Driver Sharman, who was waiting to report for duty, proceeded to the scene. A number of buses as well as the garage building were then on fire and Driver Sharman proceeded single-handed to start up buses nearest the fire and to drive them out of the only available exit, negotiating a bomb crater outside. Some of the vehicles which were on fire were driven out of the garage by Driver Sharman despite the danger of further bombs falling and the risk of petrol explosions. The prompt and courageous action of Sharman saved a large number of buses and restricted the extent of the fire.

Sharman is a tram driver and is not employed at the garage at which these incidents occurred.

Thomas Morton Skelton, Inspector, Liverpool City Police.

Walter Evans, A.R.P. Warden, Liverpool.

An H.E. bomb demolished three houses, causing a number of casualties. Fire added to the difficulties. Inspector Skelton was lowered by a rope into a hole and with the aid of a stirrup pump was able to check the fire and effect some relief to trapped persons by cooling them with water. He had to retire eventually owing to smoke and heat. The trapped people were on the first floor, their escape being due to the fact that the ceiling had not fallen flat on the floor.

Meanwhile Warden Evans and a soldier found another entrance through which they were able to crawl and communicate with the trapped persons. Fire again hindered operations and the stirrup pump had to be brought into play.

A child was first extricated, then the father, whose foot was caught by an iron fender. It was necessary to prop and clear away debris and the rescuers had to pass over his body to reach the fender. Eventually, after about two hours, he was dragged away. The mother was trapped face downwards on a wooden bed and mattress with her baby beneath her. After one of the legs of the bed had been sawn through it was possible to drag her away. The baby, however, was dead.

Raymond Francis Taylor, Police Constable, "A" Division, Metropolitan Police.

Large numbers of incendiary bombs were dropped on flats over garages and residents started the task of extinguishing those bombs which had fallen in the roadway. It was discovered that two incendiary bombs had fallen on the roof of a building and were burning fiercely.

Police Constable Taylor came on the scene and quickly appreciated the danger. He tried the doors and found them securely locked. Dressed only in pyjamas, he scaled an old stack pipe on to the roof. The stack pipe was only secured to the wall by small brackets which might have given way at any moment.

Having reached the roof, he made his way over a cornice stone to the incendiary bombs, which were blazing fiercely. He succeeded with a piece of slate in scooping up the bombs and throwing them down into an adjoining garden where they were extinguished by the residents.

Miss May Ellen White, Caretaker-Operator, Kirby Muxloe Telephone Exchange, Leicester.

Miss White was alone on duty in a Telephone Exchange when heavy bombs exploded, one of them only 90 yards away from the house. The explosion blew in the windows, wrenched doors off their hinges, including the door into the exchange room, and dislodged the slates on the roof. Glass and debris fell all around her at the switchboard, and she suffered severely from shock and the effects of blast. Nevertheless, Miss White realised that the maintenance of telephone communication was of vital importance to the local A.R.P. services and, although bombs continued to fall in the district, she remained at her post and continued to work the exchange single-handed until 7 a.m. the next morning. There is no doubt that Miss White's gallant and courageous conduct in staying alone at her post in her partly ruined house to deal with the numerous emergency calls was of the greatest possible assistance to the Civil Defence authorities.

Thomas John Wilkinson, Night Supervisor (Telephones).	} Coventry.
Michael McNicholas, Night Telephonist and Call Office Attendant.	

During the whole period of the concentrated air raid on Coventry Mr. Wilkinson with Mr. M. McNicholas, remained on duty on the top floor of a Post Office building, the roof of which was partly of glass. Buildings all around were demolished or set on fire, and there was continual risk of danger not only from bombs, but from falling debris. Mr. Wilkinson's and Mr. McNicholas' devotion to duty ensured throughout the night the communications upon which the successful functioning of the Civil Defence Services so largely depended.

Beatrice, Mrs. Withers, A.R.P. Warden, Birmingham.

During an air raid Mrs. Withers went to a Post to ask that an ambulance be sent to take a woman to hospital.

After leaving the Post, Mrs. Withers returned to await the arrival of the ambulance. Whilst standing on the pavement a bomb dropped a few yards away and exploded. A flying fragment struck Mrs. Withers on the head. It tore a piece out of her steel helmet and rendered her unconscious. Immediately on recovering, however, she went to the house outside which she had been standing, fighting her way through the debris, as the building had been very badly damaged by the explosion. With the help of another Warden she forced open the door and under very difficult conditions got the sick woman, her baby, and four other children to the safety of a shelter.

Without resting for First Aid attention, Mrs. Withers went back and assisted in the rescue of other people who were trapped in their houses.

During the whole of the time, enemy aircraft were overhead and bombs were falling all round, doing considerable damage.

In carrying out her duties amidst this intense enemy activity, and despite her own injury, Mrs. Withers displayed a high standard of courage and devotion to duty.

#### COMMENDATIONS.

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

Frederick John Allen, Works Assistant Fire Brigade Officer, Woolwich.  
 Victor Walter Allen, A.R.P. Sector Warden, Hampstead.  
 Herbert George Allison, Works Auxiliary Fireman, Woolwich.  
 Alfred Francourt Ball, Deputy A.R.P. Post Warden, Islington.  
 Sidney Robert Barker, Depot Operative, Petroleum Board.  
 Frank Bayliss, Leader and Works A.R.P. Officer, Leicester.  
 Frederick Beetch, A.R.P. Warden, St. Pancras.  
 Pearl C., Mrs. Bond, Ambulance Driver, Croydon.  
 George Ernest Briggs, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Derby.  
 Edward Sydney Butler, Head Postman, Post Office, Coventry.  
 John William Richardson Chisholm, D.C.M., M.M., Industrial Worker, Enfield.  
 Thomas William Church, A.R.P. Post Warden, Islington.  
 James Edwin Clark, A.R.P. Warden, Fulham.  
 Miss Gwendoline Clarke, A.R.P. Warden, Acton.  
 Miss Marjorie Clarke, A.R.P. Warden, Acton.  
 Henry Coates, A.R.P. Warden, Stepney.  
 William Crosby, Senior A.R.P. Warden, Liverpool.  
 George Herbert Daniels, Works Auxiliary Fireman, Woolwich.  
 Kyle Dawson, A.R.P. Warden, Deputy Sector Leader, Leicester.  
 William George Dockerell, Hired Skilled Labourer, H.M. Dockyard, Admiralty.  
 Frederick James Dunstone, Works Mixer, Mitcham.  
 Frank Hearn Durham, Superintendent, "D" Division, Metropolitan Police.  
 Cecil John Fisher, Hired Engine Fitter, H.M. Dockyard, Admiralty.  
 Winifred Elizabeth, Mrs. Flewitt, A.R.P. Warden, Leicester.  
 Joseph William Frost, Chief Mains Inspector, Coventry Corporation Gas Department.  
 Jocelyn Everard Gambier, Acting Area Engineer, Post Office, Bristol.  
 George Robert Green, Auxiliary Fireman, Barking Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 Eric Norman John Guggenheim, Deputy A.R.P. Post Warden, Hampstead.  
 Martin Spensley Hair, Auxiliary Fireman, Liverpool Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 Marjory, Mrs. Hanford, Y.M.C.A. Canteen Service, Loughborough.  
 Frederick John Hemmings, Works Foreman, Bristol.

- George Walter Hitchen, Hired Engine Room Fitter, H.M. Dockyard, Admiralty.  
 Trevor Howells, Senior A.R.P. Rescue Party Leader, Paddington.  
 Mary, Mrs. Johnston, Ambulance Attendant, Croydon.  
 George Albert Lewis, Member, Works Fire Brigade, Woolwich.  
 Phillip Lewis, A.R.P. Messenger, Stepney.  
 Albert Lissimore, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Mitcham.  
 Miss Alice Lomax, A.R.P. Warden, Leicester.  
 Elizabeth, Mrs. Marshall, Night Sister, City Isolation Hospital, Coventry.  
 David Middelgaw, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Squad, Leicester.  
 Leonard Myers, Leading Fireman, Tottenham Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 Harold Nice, Auxiliary Fireman, Barking Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 Malcolm Palmer, Auxiliary Fireman, Liverpool Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 William George Perry (deceased), Auxiliary Fireman, Bristol Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 William Leonard Plumridge, Patrol Officer, Brentford and Chiswick Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 Stanley John Pearce Pope, A.R.P. Warden, Gravesend.  
 Leslie Edwin Poulter, Deputy A.R.P. Post Warden, Hampstead.  
 Edward James Rich, A.R.P. Warden, Penge.  
 Miss Joan Roderick, Voluntary Mobile Canteen Attendant, Croydon.  
 Miss Violet Maud Ryan, Ambulance Attendant, Dagenham.
- Leslie Thomas Saunders, Industrial Worker, Enfield.  
 Robert Shaw, Works Auxiliary Fireman, Woolwich.  
 Edith Lilian Smith, Auxiliary, Women's Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 Leslie Arthur Steel, Deputy A.R.P. Post Warden, Hampstead.  
 Watson Strother, A.R.P. Controller, Bethnal Green.  
 Alma Muriel Thompson, Telephonist, Tottenham Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 William Thorpe, Roadman, Kent County Council.  
 George William Tuck, Auxiliary Fireman, Barking Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 Reginald Albert Vrolyk, Hired Engine Fitter, H.M. Dockyard, Admiralty.  
 Robert Edward Waite, Auxiliary Fireman, Barking Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 Ernest Sidney West, Leading Fireman, Norwich City Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 Clarence Victor Wilkins, A.R.P. Sub-Controller, Bethnal Green.  
 Arthur Richard Wilson, Signal Lineman, London Midland & Scottish Railway, Plaistow.  
 George William Charles Woolston, Industrial Worker, Enfield.  
 Charles Patrick Wright, A.R.P. Motor Cycle Despatch Rider, Birmingham.  
 Stanley Walter Yeates, Chief Superintendent Post Office, Bristol.  
 Frank Edward Young, A.R.P. Warden, Islington.

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