



**SECOND SUPPLEMENT**

TO

**The London Gazette**

*Of TUESDAY, the 18th of FEBRUARY, 1941*

**Published by Authority**

*Registered as a newspaper*

**FRIDAY, 21 FEBRUARY, 1941**

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

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
21st February, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards and the publication in the London Gazette of the names of the individuals shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct in Civil Defence:—

*Awarded the George Medal.*

**Robert Francis Carson, Section Officer, Liverpool Auxiliary Fire Service**

Following an enemy air attack fire broke out in the skeleton framework of a damaged elevator.

It was impossible to place a fire escape against the elevator on account of the debris which had fallen from the destroyed roof. The outbreak took place high up in the framework and it was clear that it was not practicable to attack it from the ground. The only solution was that someone should attempt the dangerous climb up the elevator girder-work. Torn steel sheets, broken timbers and displaced ironwork projected at many places and slates and debris were still falling, but, without hesitation, Section Officer Carson placed a hose and branch over his shoulder and successfully made the climb. He extinguished the fire in about ten minutes.

On another occasion when his Division was badly attacked by succeeding waves of enemy aircraft which caused many fires, Section Officer Carson, in the face of intense heat, mounted a stairway on to the blazing upper storey of a shed which contained goods of a dangerous nature. His action prevented the spread of this fire.

He then went to where buildings on both sides of a dock yard were blazing furiously. Regardless of the danger involved, he made his way through the narrow entrance and so made possible the use of suction from the dock. The fierceness of the fire prevented his return by the passage, but he made his way back along the dockwall.

This officer's coolness and disregard of personal safety have had a wonderful effect on the personnel of the Division, while his efficiency in the laying out of hose and so forth have saved much valuable property.

**Thomas Arthur Davies, War Reserve Constable, Liverpool Police Force.**

During an air raid an H.E. bomb was dropped on a large building which was demolished. A number of people were trapped in a public shelter in the basement. Fierce fires broke out and made rescue work extremely hazardous.

Police War Reserve Davies was on duty at the time and immediately ran to the wrecked building. With other police officers he was successful in clearing a passage to

some of the trapped people and in order to prevent further falls of debris he crawled into the aperture he had made and supported the wreckage with his body. Smoke and fumes poured out of the hole. Bricks and earth were continually falling. The Constable refused to give up and he remained in this dangerous position for over an hour, until rendered unconscious. He was instrumental in rescuing many people.

John Eustace Cyril Hayman, Police Constable, City of London Police.

Police Constable Hayman has acted with consistent high devotion to duty and has displayed courage and initiative resulting in the saving of life and property.

He was instrumental in preventing a very serious fire when an oil bomb fell on a five-storey block of offices in the City. He tackled the fire on the fifth floor with a stirrup pump and, in spite of great danger and intense heat, continued his efforts until it was subdued.

On another occasion a large bomb caused considerable damage to a building and fires broke out in the debris. Constable Hayman, who had been thrown down by the blast, immediately took charge. There was a strong leak of coal gas and, although the fire was rapidly spreading and there was grave danger of an explosion, he searched in the building and succeeded in turning off the gas supply. He then organised a "human chain" and, with buckets of water and a stirrup pump, he went into the blazing building at great risk from falling burning timber, and brought the fire under control before the arrival of the Fire Service. During this incident enemy aircraft, which were being subjected to heavy anti-aircraft fire, were overhead the whole time.

On a further occasion, following the explosion of an H.E. bomb, Constable Hayman gave first aid to a severely wounded man whose life was saved by the Constable's knowledge and skill.

Miss Mary Sible Joyce Newman, Assistant Nurse, Southampton.

When an H.E. bomb struck two houses the four occupants of one were killed outright. In the other a man was blown out through the front door into the road. Nurse Newman attended to his injuries. A search was then made of the wrecked house and his son was found suspended almost upside down, and held by his ankles. He was in an extremely excitable condition, and, whilst rescue work was being attempted, Nurse Newman, in spite of debris falling all around, and in the presence of escaping gas from a fractured main, crawled into the aperture to comfort and quieten the casualty. Several times she almost collapsed in the poisoned atmosphere, but carried on and the boy was eventually released suffering from severe shock. Nurse Newman then applied first aid until an ambulance took him to hospital. By her actions and admirable coolness and courage she inspired others to continue with the rescue work.

Owen Edward Parsloe, Works Superintendent, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Bromley.

Walter Thomas Field, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Bromley.

Mr. Parsloe and Mr. Field accompanied a rescue party to a pair of semi-detached houses which had completely collapsed following the explosion of a bomb. On arrival it was learnt that there were six people in the house, two adults and four children. The first floor joists, with the debris from the roof on top, had fallen on to the occupants leaving a space of only two feet between the joists and the ground floor. The only means of entering was by tunnelling under the wreckage.

Mr. Parsloe entered the tunnel, and both he and Mr. Field placed jacks in position in order to raise the debris. Little could be done, however, in this direction without throwing weight on to the head of a boy trapped on the bed. It did, however, assist in the rescue of a woman, whose legs were pinned under the bed. This was effected by cutting through the bedstead with a hacksaw. The release of the boy was much more difficult, and it was necessary for both Mr. Parsloe and Mr. Field to crawl in on their stomachs and release the springs of the mattress in order to effect a rescue from underneath. This, however, let loose other debris. Field managed to wriggle through to the head of the bed and clear away the heap of bricks and plaster. A great risk was taken in carrying out this work as the joists supporting the wreckage appeared to be held up by the rubble. Field had to carry out the work, assisted by Parsloe, lying full length. Ultimately the child's head was freed, and he was pulled out by the ankles without any injury.

The work took about three hours, and owing to the precarious support of the debris over the tunnel, and the shattered condition of the party wall, there was danger throughout the whole operation of the persons working therein being buried.

Alister McWilliam Ross, Patrol Officer, Liverpool Auxiliary Fire Service.

A high explosive bomb dropped in the yard of a Grease Company. Drums of grease and a vat of tar were smashed open by the force of the explosion and set on fire. Within a minute or so the blazing tar and grease were flowing down the street capped by a wall of flame and threatening to spread to the high warehouses adjoining.

A pump turned out in charge of Patrol Officer Ross who gave orders for sand to be put down to dam the flow of tar.

Loud screams were heard coming from a school next to the burning premises, and Ross taking a heavy axe and covered by a water screen from one of the hoses, worked his way up the street to the school door. Breaking it open he found two women who had by this time become hysterical, and he had forcibly to drag them from the building, through the flames, to safety. This accomplished, he returned to the school to assure himself that there was no one else in the building. He then rejoined his pump crew.

The fire was brought under control within two hours. Ross displayed the greatest courage and resource, and was an inspiration to his men.

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

Donald Roy Abbs, Sub-Officer, Tottenham Fire Brigade.

Whilst assigned to the fires at the docks Sub-Officer Abbs was instrumental in getting a number of pumps to work which had been temporarily out of action owing to severe bombing. Delayed action bombs near fires which he has attended have in no way discouraged this Officer. He imparts confidence to all men under his command by his coolness and daring.

William Herbert Atkin, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Bristol.

During an air raid a direct hit occurred on a shop and dwelling-house, completely demolishing them.

Upon the arrival of the Rescue Party the cries of two trapped persons were heard from under the debris, and, as the removal of this from the top was inadvisable, Party Leader Atkin at once began work to break an opening from the cellar of an adjoining house through a 20-inch wall.

In spite of the cellar being full of escaping coal gas, the Party, by working in relays, succeeded in making an opening large enough to remove obstacles and rescue two persons alive.

Atkin directed the operations in the gas-laden atmosphere and finally collapsed from coal-gas poisoning.

It was due to his good leadership that the rescues were effected.

William Arthur Bedman, M.M., Commissionaire, Corporation Transport Department, Southampton.

Bedman volunteered to act as Fire Watcher throughout the night of an intensive air raid. He saw the attack on the town develop, and he left his home, which was in a safe area, making his way through the raid to his office by bicycle. There he found five employees in the shelter. When fire from adjacent buildings had set the Office ablaze Bedman took charge, and, in spite of many difficulties, conducted the occupants safely from the building. He returned to the back of the offices where three buses had been parked, and arranged for two to be moved to safety by corporation drivers. There is no doubt that by his courage, coolness and leadership Bedman was instrumental in getting five persons safely from the building and in saving two buses from damage. These actions took place under heavy bombing and shell-fire.

William Norman John Beesley, Temporary Acting Storehouse Assistant, Southampton.

During an enemy air raid the roof of a building was set on fire and a large area was soon blazing.

High explosive bombs were falling at the same time, but Beesley, who was in charge

of a Fire Party, brought a trailer pump outside the burning building, and attacked the fire from the best position. When water began to fail he hauled his pump more than half a mile over rough ground to a place where water could be pumped from a water-course.

His enterprise and courage were remarkable throughout the fire fighting, and it was largely due to his work that the fire did not spread to other buildings.

Jennie Burnham, Mrs. Cameron, Welfare Officer, Women's Voluntary Services, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester.

Clarence Frederick Russell, A.R.P. Warden, Kirby Muxloe, Leicester.

When a large bomb was dropped in the middle of a village Warden Russell was the first on the scene. He succeeded in rescuing a man who had been badly injured and trapped in a house very close to the burst of the bomb. He managed to get an early report to the Report Post and generally gave the Services a very good start in their work. This probably contributed to the excellent way in which they dealt with the incident.

Mrs. Cameron worked magnificently to provide shelter and food for the homeless. During the night, other H.E. bombs were dropped in the village, fires were raging and aeroplanes were constantly overhead. The occasion was one which called for courage, calmness and efficiency, and Mrs. Cameron displayed all these in a marked degree.

Henry Cox, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Bristol.

A direct hit by an H.E. bomb completely demolished a four-storied house.

The cries of a woman were heard from under the debris in the middle of the basement floor. Her head was located about nine feet below the top. Cox worked his way down through a small opening in the wreckage and found the woman buried to her neck.

At great risk to himself, and whilst bombing was still in progress, he proceeded to remove the debris surrounding the woman, loading it into a bucket lowered by the Rescue Party.

This he continued to do for nearly two hours. Eventually he lifted the woman sufficiently to enable her to be rescued.

Alfred James Harris, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue and Demolition Squad, Leicester.

A number of persons were trapped in a demolished building. A volunteer squad under the leadership of Harris rescued twenty casualties and worked continuously for more than ten hours until exhausted. It was undoubtedly due to Harris's splendid leadership and personal disregard of danger that his squad was so successful in its efforts.

Harold William Heptinstall, Deputy Chief Officer, Thurrock Fire Brigade.

Following an enemy air raid a large fire broke out. Deputy Chief Officer Heptinstall handled the incident in a magnificent manner. It was largely owing to his bravery and fine leadership that the fire which at one time assumed alarming proportions, was extinguished.

Walter Hill, Inspector, Bristol Police Force.

Five persons were trapped when an H.E. bomb fell on an hotel. Inspector Hill and a squad of Special Constables were at once ordered to the scene of the incident. They removed the debris and succeeded in rescuing the licensee's son. The Inspector continued to direct the work of rescue and himself laboured for nearly fourteen hours below ground level, despite the possibility that the badly damaged walls would collapse. Eight bodies were recovered from the cellar.

Inspector Hill showed fearless and determined leadership.

Amelia, Mrs. Matty, Head of Works Night Canteen, Birmingham.

Mrs. Matty was in charge of a Works Canteen when a heavy raid was in progress. She was the only woman that night on the factory site.

Incendiaries had started several fires and there were a number of minor injuries. Mrs. Matty proceeded, in a cool and efficient manner, to help in the first aid work.

She was in the canteen when an H.E. bomb fell which caused considerable damage. A number of men were injured and Mrs. Matty, although herself badly shaken, immediately went to their assistance.

Her cheerfulness and courage were in evidence throughout the night until the raid finished, and were important factors in maintaining morale.

Beatrice Maud, Mrs. Plimmer, Company Officer, London Women's Auxiliary Fire Service.

Mrs. Plimmer showed great courage and coolness whilst in charge of the Women Auxiliaries when large fires and intensive enemy bombing were persistent in the London Dock Area. In addition to maintaining communications, Company Officer Plimmer organised a first aid post and emergency canteen, and saw to the comfort of wounded firemen.

Thomas Brakespear Rippon, War Reserve Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

George Robertson, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

P.C. Robertson was driving a Police van with War Reserve Rippon as passenger, when a number of high explosive bombs fell nearby. Two exploded very close to the van which was considerably damaged and covered with debris. The officers were much shaken but not actually injured. Another constable arrived and reported that nearby premises had been demolished and that he believed people were trapped. All three officers at once went to the incident where they found a house completely wrecked except for a portion of the roof which was suspended at an angle of about 60 degrees from the party wall and in a very precarious condition.

Voices were heard coming from the debris and the three officers, working together, succeeded in enlarging a small hole sufficiently to allow P.C. Robertson to enter the room in which the people were trapped. The atmosphere was very foul as there was a strong escape of gas mingling with the dust caused by the explosion.

P.C. Robertson found five persons in the room, four of whom were under beds, surrounded and heaped up with debris, and one entangled in the bed springs. P.C. Rippon then crawled in and helped Robertson to release the trapped people. The roof collapsed after the rescue work had been completed. Both these men have on previous occasions exhibited coolness and presence of mind under dangerous conditions and have been an excellent example to fellow officers.

John Chasue Sargent, Second Officer, Tottenham Fire Brigade.

Second Officer Sargent supervised the fighting of oil fires during very heavy bombing. He has attended the large majority of all the serious fires in his district and on at least six occasions has nearly lost his life in such endeavours.

Jesse Samuel Weston, Inspector, Leicester Police Force.

Inspector Weston took control at a point where very severe bomb damage and a heavy death roll occurred and continued to direct operations throughout the night, while bombs were still falling in the area. He was an inspiration to all those at the incident because of the extremely calm and collected way in which he organised his men, directed Rescue Parties and other helpers and arranged for the evacuation of large numbers of people after unexploded bombs had been discovered. He acted with great devotion to duty and a disregard of his own safety.

#### COMMENDATIONS.

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

- Leslie Joseph Arkinstall, Auxiliary Fireman, Birmingham Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Sidney Squires Baker, Temporary Acting Sub-Officer, London Fire Brigade.
- Donald Herbert Carlill, Depot Leader, A.R.P. Stretcher Party, Bromley.
- Hilda Ann May Carter, Auxiliary, London Women's Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Alfred James Churchward, Despatch Rider, London Auxiliary Fire Service.
- John Ernest Dane, Commandant, A.R.P. Stretcher Party, Croydon.
- Stewart Neish Davidson, Fire Patrol Member, Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.
- Eric William Filer, Despatch Rider, London Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Frederick George Ford, Leading Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.
- John Bailey Garner, Divisional A.R.P. Warden, Leicester.
- Ernest Berry Garrett, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Medical Officer, A.R.P. Casualty Service, Leicester.
- George Douglas Godwin, Temporary Clerk, Grade II, Southampton.
- Thomas Edward Greenslade, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.
- Miss Hilda Ivy Griffith, Telephonist, Tottenham Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Joseph George Griffiths, Auxiliary Fireman, Tottenham Auxiliary Fire Service.
- William Hale, Leader, A.R.P. Stretcher Party, Croydon.
- Allan Charles Harmer, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

- Ernest Walter Harris, Auxiliary Fireman, Tottenham Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Hilda, Mrs. Hefford, Member, A.R.P. Casualty Mobile Post, Leicester.
- George Hodgkin, Section Leader, A.R.P. Casualty Service, Croydon.
- Richard James Hubbard, Section Officer, Tottenham Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Lawrence H. Jones, Depot Foreman, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Bristol.
- Henry William Knight (deceased), Station Officer, London Fire Brigade.
- William Reid Lay, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Leonard Lee, A.R.P. Ambulance Officer, Leicester.
- Eva, Mrs. Lewis, A.R.P. Warden, Southampton.
- Harold Moore, Bus Driver, Corporation Transport Department, Southampton.
- George Pocock, Senior Fireman, London Fire Brigade.
- William Rock, Motorman, Corporation Transport Department, Southampton.
- Miss Joan Ethel Sargent, Telephonist, Tottenham Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Peter Scott, A.R.P. Messenger, Southampton.
- Thomas Daniel Simmonds, Section Officer, Southend-on-Sea Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Herbert Norman Stockwell, Telephone Operator, Southampton.
- Charles Thomas Taylor, Bus Driver, Corporation Transport Department, Southampton.
- Robert James Thornley, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Alfred Titcombe, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Bristol.
- Miss Carrie Wells, A.R.P. Ambulance Officer, Leicester.
- Sidney Weeks, War Reserve, Bristol Police Force.
- Mamie, Mrs. Williams, Ambulance Driver, A.R.P. Casualty Service, Portsmouth.
- Stanley Reginald Yarde, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Bristol.
- Anita Young, Auxiliary, London Women's Auxiliary Fire Service.

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