



## SUPPLEMENT

TO

# The London Gazette

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FRIDAY, 28 FEBRUARY, 1941

### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
28th February, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following awards and for 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.*

Herbert Stanford, Group A.R.P. Warden, Bristol.

An H.E. bomb completely demolished several houses which caught fire. Cries were heard coming from beneath the debris.

Stanford worked his way through the burning wreckage to the trapped people, handed water to them and gave them encouragement.

It was not possible to release the victims alive by removing the debris from the top, but Stanford entered the next house, knocked out the fire grate, and so obtained access. Five persons were rescued and taken to Hospital.

The whole of these operations lasted three hours and during that time the building was

burning, coal gas was escaping, and the raid still in progress.

The action of the Group Warden showed considerable bravery, initiative and perseverance, and he set a fine example.

David Ewington Barnes, Scientific Officer, Ministry of Supply.

Leonard Walden, Temporary Experimental Assistant II, Admiralty.

William James Wiltshire, Senior Scientific Officer, Ministry of Supply.

For conspicuous gallantry in carrying out hazardous work in a very brave manner.

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

Ernest Biggs, A.R.P. Warden, Southampton.

The Post area had been continuously bombed and in spite of increased bombing Warden Biggs, together with another Warden, went to deal with a fire which had broken out in a garage. A bomb fell about 15 yards away and Biggs suffered very severe injuries, but despite these he endeavoured to carry on. The other Warden was killed. Biggs showed great gallantry and devotion to duty.

William Allan Britton, A.R.P. Warden, Southampton.

Warden Britton showed courage and devotion to duty during the bombing of Southampton. He has rescued persons trapped in demolished houses and has dealt with a number of incendiary bombs.

On one occasion, after he had been slightly injured by a bomb which dropped less than 20 yards away, he effected the release of three persons from a building which had been hit and was on fire.

John Cannon, Member, } A.R.P. Rescue  
James Hughes, Member, } Party,  
John Summerfield, Member, } Liverpool.

During an air raid a large fire developed at some houses where many people had been trapped. Summerfield, Hughes and Cannon went to the rear of the premises and tunnelled their way underneath until they eventually reached two persons completely covered by debris. The tunnel in which the rescue party worked was likely to collapse at any moment and a fire nearby showed signs of spreading. Regardless of their own safety the three men continued their valiant efforts for nearly two hours before they were able to release the casualties.

Reginald Charles Cooper, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

Following a long period during which the Fire Service had been fighting a number of serious fires, a fresh attack caused an even larger conflagration. It was urgently necessary to bring up pumps to new positions and this severely taxed the stamina of men already sorely tried by hours of incessant labour. Cooper, at this critical stage, realised how important it was that extra hose should be readily available and, making stupendous efforts and displaying outstanding initiative, produced from great distances the necessary hose for the successful attack on the fire.

Arthur Delbridge, Deputy Head A.R.P. Warden, Southampton.

During the raids on Southampton, Delbridge did outstanding rescue work, particularly when a direct hit by an H.E. bomb had wrecked a house, which caught fire. Four people were trapped in the wreckage. Delbridge organised a team of eight stirrup pumps which dealt with the fire, and the four people were rescued. He has been conspicuous in actions of this character on previous occasions during enemy action.

Brinley Evans, Fireman, Port Talbot Fire Brigade.

Fireman Evans was a member of a crew engaged in fighting a factory fire when the building on which they were working received a direct hit from a high-explosive bomb. One fireman was completely buried in the debris and as his branch, still charged, was buried with him, he was in considerable danger from drowning, quite apart from his already very precarious position.

Evans immediately began rescue operations and was able to get through the debris to the fireman. He kept the man's head above water whilst he continued to release him, persisting in his efforts without any regard whatever for his own personal safety. After nearly an hour Evans was able to extricate his comrade.

Walter Heath, Volunteer Works Fireman, Birmingham.

Heath was one of two voluntary firemen on duty when fire-bombs fell, setting fire to some timber stored in a yard. In spite of intense bombing, Heath tackled the conflagration and fought it for seven hours with no concern for his personal safety.

Early in the morning a bomb fell in the middle of the fire, demolishing the building. Although Heath and the other fireman were slightly injured by this bomb, they went on fighting the fire with the help of outside services.

Harold Loads, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

A high-explosive bomb fell demolishing a number of cottages. A man was reported buried beneath the debris of one of them. The cottage was in a dangerous condition and adjacent to a gas main which was alight. Auxiliary Fireman Loads, however, burrowed under the brickwork, removed the debris by hand and, with great difficulty, extricated the man who had been pinned by the legs.

Samuel McGill, Inspector, Coventry Police Force.

Inspector McGill was on duty during a severe enemy air attack on Coventry. He displayed exceptional gallantry and leadership in handling the men under him and in organising them for duty at air raid incidents. He went out repeatedly to establish contact whilst bombs were still dropping. Inspector McGill has on other occasions during air attacks on the City performed duties with utter disregard for his own safety.

Frederick Patch, Senior A.R.P. Warden, Southampton.

Mr. Patch was on duty during a major air raid on Southampton. When information was received that a warden had been injured, Patch immediately left the Post and, despite H.E. bombs and incendiaries which were constantly dropping, reached the man and administered First Aid. With assistance, he conveyed him back to the Post. Patch then went out in search of two other wardens who had been injured and, after attending to them, arranged for their removal to a Casualty post. He also helped to put out a number of fires and assisted in the rescue of people who were buried beneath wrecked houses.

Albert Henry Westerman, Acting Sub-Officer, London Fire Brigade.

Sub-Officer Westerman was officer-in-charge of the first appliances to arrive at serious fires which occurred during an enemy

air attack. He showed courage, leadership and resourcefulness. By his actions he was in a large measure responsible for preventing the spread of these fires, and in difficult circumstances he set an excellent example to his men.

#### COMMENDATIONS.

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

- Albert Ernest Bawden (deceased), Special Constable, Coventry Special Constabulary.  
 Harold James Beal, District Officer, London Fire Brigade.  
 Albert Joseph Blundell, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Poplar.  
 Ann Brasnell, Auxiliary, London Women's Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 Albert Croucher, A.R.P. Warden, Southampton.  
 Albert Walter Daymond, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Poplar.  
 Winifred Edwards, Auxiliary, London Women's Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 William Linghorn Griffiths, Section Officer, London Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 Leonard Hannaford, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 George Hannant (deceased), A.R.P. Warden, Southampton.  
 Herbert Homes, Company Officer, London Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 George Bryan James, Deputy Commandant, Coventry Special Constabulary.  
 Sydney Arthur Parsons, Messenger Boy, Tottenham Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 John Edward Rowley, Foreman, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Liverpool.  
 Doris Lilian Smith, Auxiliary, London Women's Auxiliary Fire Service.  
 John Townsend, Temporary Acting Sub-Officer, London Fire Brigade.  
 James Henry Wilson, Divisional Commander, Coventry Special Constabulary.

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names of the persons shown below as having received an expression of Commendation:—

#### *Awarded the George Medal.*

William Moffatt, Assistant Farmer, Haddington, Scotland.

When making a forced landing an aircraft struck a hedge at high speed and caught fire. Mr. Moffatt immediately went to the aircraft and attempted to release the pilot, who, dazed and injured, was unable to escape. He managed to cut away the harness and parachute webbing, and succeeded in dragging the pilot clear of the wreckage. During the whole of this time the aircraft was burning fiercely and live ammunition from the ammunition belts, which were fully loaded, was exploding in all directions.

Mr. Moffatt's action was an example of great heroism and complete disregard for personal safety in the face of great danger.

Carmelo Camilleri, Police Constable, Malta Police Force.

An aircraft crashed and part of it fell into a deep quarry and caught fire. One member of the crew was located in the quarry. He was too seriously injured to help himself, and Camilleri descended by rope into the shaft. He succeeded in effecting the rescue of the airman by tying the rope to him and having him hauled up. After some time the rope was relowered for Camilleri to make his escape. The fire from the parts of the machine which fell into the shaft was blazing all this time and in addition there was considerable danger from possible explosion of heavy calibre bombs which were still on the blazing aircraft.

#### COMMENDATIONS.

The undermentioned have been brought to notice for their brave conduct in rescuing a pilot from an aircraft which crashed and caught fire:—

Hugh King Kenny, Ploughman, Haddington, Scotland.

Alexander Little, Temporary Potato Inspector, Department of Agriculture for Scotland.

Those named below have been brought to notice for their brave conduct in effecting certain repairs at sea which involved great risk:—

Robert Hope Gerner, Second Engineman.

John Caron Williams, Electrician.

#### LONDON

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