



SUPPLEMENT

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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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

7th March, 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 Additional Members of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

Percival Chatfield, Chief Superintendent of Police, Southampton.

Throughout the intensive bombing of Southampton, Chief Superintendent Chatfield has shown great qualities of leadership.

He has shared whatever peril his men have been called upon to face, and his outstanding courage and coolness have been an inspiration to all members of the Southampton Police.

George Drury, Regional Fire Brigades Inspector, South Western Civil Defence Region H.Q., Bristol.

During heavy air raids on Bristol, Mr. Drury displayed operational efficiency of a high order, involving ability in organisation, ingenuity and resourcefulness. In addition he has shown high courage and endurance.

He attended, personally, a number of large fires, arranged water supplies, organised additional assistance and, with the co-operation of the authorities, evolved an extremely effective fire fighting organisation.

Arthur Frederick Matts, Commandant, Coventry City Special Constabulary.

Commandant Matts has been on duty throughout the enemy air attacks on Coventry. He has shown complete indifference to his own safety, inspiring all under him by his leadership, initiative and devotion to duty. The efficiency of the Coventry City Special Constabulary is due, very largely, to Commandant Matts' services.

Henry Martin Smith, Home Office (Fire Brigade Division) Regional Inspector, Southern Civil Defence Region.

During heavy air raids on Portsmouth, Mr. Smith's services were invaluable. He visited many fires giving advice and help

wherever possible. His administrative ability, bravery, and leadership were outstanding, and he showed great devotion to duty with complete disregard for his own safety.

Awarded the George Medal.

Leslie Croft, A.R.P. Warden, Sheffield.

A high explosive bomb wrecked a house, forming a crater about 30 feet in diameter which filled with debris and across which a fractured gas main blazed. Five people were trapped underneath.

Warden Croft entered the crater, burrowed into the debris with his hands, made a tunnel down to the cellar and removed three injured people to safety. He then returned and attended to two more injured persons. The condition of the debris was such that extreme care had to be exercised when getting into the cellar, otherwise it would have collapsed and buried all inside with little hope of their recovery.

During this time enemy aircraft were dropping bombs nearby, obviously using the fractured gas main as a target.

It was due to Croft's high courage in the face of fire, bombs and the possibility of being buried alive, that five persons were saved.

Leslie Harold Currie, Sheffield.

A house was hit by a H.E. bomb and reduced to a heap of ruins. Five people were trapped underneath. Currie, at great personal risk, crawled under the wreckage and started to saw through wooden joists, propping the debris above him as he worked. For nearly three hours Currie toiled in this position without relief, before the first victim was released. He continued in his work and, shortly afterwards, a woman, a boy and a girl were rescued. He then cut through a beam and eventually extricated the body of a boy. Currie showed great courage and persisted in his efforts until satisfied that all the casualties had been freed.

Oscar Madeley Holden, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health, Croydon.

Miss Wendy Pauline Hollyer, A.R.P. Telephonist, Croydon.

A heavy calibre bomb hit a Report Centre, completely demolishing it. There were five telephonists in the room at the time, three of whom were killed instantaneously and two ultimately rescued alive. One of the latter was trapped under tons of debris, but was able to communicate with the Rescue Party personnel. It was seen that she had been severely injured. Dr. Holden, at great personal risk, crawled under the wreckage and proceeded in the most difficult conditions imaginable, to administer morphia to her. Owing to the abnormally confined space in which he had to work, Dr. Holden was only able to come out by crawling backwards. During the time he was working, debris was continually shifting and he was in great danger of being buried under the ruins.

Miss Hollyer was in the room adjoining and this was wrecked. She received severe wounds in the neck from a large window frame and other woodwork which was "blasted" across the Message Room, but, in spite of this and while still pinned under wreckage, she managed to reach the telephone

and accepted a message. She then tested the other telephones and, finding some of them in working order, cleared sufficient space to enable her to carry on. This she did throughout the evening and night until she was relieved the following morning. Miss Hollyer refused to leave her post—even to have her wounds dressed—until arrangements were made for another telephonist to take her place. Her devotion to duty in such circumstances allowed the vital Communication Service to function without interruption.

Samuel Radford, Police Constable, Sheffield Police Force.

A bomb fell, destroying a number of houses. Some of the people buried in the debris were able to crawl out without much assistance, but a youth was trapped in the wreckage. P.C. Radford, at considerable risk to himself, worked for more than three hours until he freed him. Two or three times the Constable himself was partly trapped. A fire started which was kept under control by means of stirrup pumps, and there was also danger from falling masonry.

After he had released the lad, Radford then helped in rescue work at another house where a number of persons was buried.

Edward Redknapp, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Holborn.

Some buildings were severely damaged by high explosive bombs and three large fires started. Redknapp was a member of one of four rescue parties sent to this incident.

Several persons were known to be trapped in a basement shelter. Shortly after the commencement of rescue operations a second bombing attack was made, causing heavy casualties to A.R.P. personnel and disorganising the rescue work. Redknapp and the remainder of his party, who by then had penetrated to the basement shelter, were ordered to get away. Soon afterwards, however, Redknapp led ten of the men back to the basement shelter and, under his leadership, rescue operations were resumed. Technically, the work was extremely difficult and dangerous. The general insecurity of the masses of debris was rendered more acute by the volume of water being poured over the burning building and flooding through to the basement. The careless movement of any part of it was liable to cause a subsidence which would have buried the rescue party along with the casualties already trapped. In spite of this ever present danger, Redknapp worked coolly and continuously for nearly four hours, inspiring, by his own example, the efforts of the rest of the squad, until the last live casualty had been extricated.

William Joseph Conrad Schermuly, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Thomas Tanner, War Reserve Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Some houses and a block of flats were demolished by bombing.

At the time Police Constables Schermuly and Tanner were off duty. The latter was in bed on the sick list.

On hearing the explosion they went to the scene and entered a badly damaged house

where several women were trapped. A search of the debris was made by the aid of hand torches. Three women were extricated and carried to safety.

The constables then entered other premises, despite the fact that these were collapsing and the air raid was still in progress. From this building five women were rescued. While carrying one of the casualties down from the third floor the staircase collapsed, throwing them a distance of about 25 feet into the debris in the basement. The woman was fortunately thrown clear without sustaining any hurt, but the two officers were injured.

The rescue work was carried out under extremely hazardous conditions, as a fire had broken out in the wreckage making it a target for enemy aircraft which were continually overhead. The officers persisted in their efforts despite collapsing buildings, water and escaping gas.

Samuel Stonehouse, Foreman, South Metropolitan Gas Company.

This man's devotion to duty during the last three months has been of the highest order. He has mounted to the crowns of gas holders on at least six occasions during night air raids to put out fires which had been caused by incendiary bombs. On one occasion he extinguished a fire on the crown of a holder, which was 72 feet high. On another occasion two holders were hit by H.E. bombs and caught fire. Stonehouse tackled these promptly and efficiently and made the collapsed holders safe from further chances of explosion.

Edward Cyril Ward, Inspector, Coventry Police Force.

When an incendiary bomb fell on a Police Station during a very heavy air attack on Coventry, Inspector Ward climbed into the roof and successfully dealt with it. His action was performed whilst H.E. and incendiary bombs were still falling close to the building.

Immediately after this, the Inspector led a police rescue party to a basement of a shop where several persons were trapped by debris from a H.E. bomb explosion. He worked with this party for two hours with complete disregard of the danger from falling bombs. Another bomb fell on the spot, killing the four men of the rescue party and the occupants of the basement. Inspector Ward was thrown some distance by the blast. He returned, however, to make his report, having shown outstanding courage, initiative and devotion to duty.

Alfred Ambrose Webster, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Manchester.

Four people were trapped alive in the cellar of a dwelling house which had been completely demolished by a H.E. bomb.

The rescue squad were able to locate two people, a man and his wife. After sawing through rafters and beams, they were eventually released. The opening from which the two casualties had been extricated was about 6 ft. in depth and 2½ ft. across. Two children were still underneath the debris. Webster immediately volunteered to attempt a rescue and was lowered head first into the hole, being held by the legs with a rope by

men on the surface. He burrowed his way with his hands and brought to the surface a child about twelve months old. He then went down again in the same manner, still burrowing his way with his hands, and rescued a second child of about three years of age. Debris was falling constantly, and just after the second child had reached safety, tons of rubble and masonry fell, closing up the hole in which Webster had been working. Webster showed great gallantry in the successful rescue of the two babies.

Edwin John Woodland, Depot Superintendent.	} A.R.P. Rescue Party, Birmingham.
Harold Rainbow, Foreman.	
Lewis Pickersgill, Second Man.	

Pickersgill, Rainbow and Woodland showed great courage and a high sense of duty in volunteering to enter a cellar which was filled with coal gas, knowing that a person previously had made the attempt and had succumbed.

The incident took place at night while an air raid was in progress. Several A.R.P. Services were present and a Sergeant of the Home Guard had just attempted a rescue but had been overcome by gas and died. Volunteers were called for, as it was thought that some of the trapped people were still alive. Pickersgill entered the cellar first and was overcome. Woodland then entered and rescued Pickersgill. He also brought another body to the entrance. Woodland, himself, then collapsed. At this stage, Rainbow entered and rescued Woodland. All three were rendered unconscious and two were transported to hospital.

Awarded the George Medal.

John Edgar Stanier, Deputy Gas Engineer, City of Stoke-on-Trent Gas Department.

Awarded the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for Meritorious Service.

John Simpson Warrillow, Engineering Assistant, City of Stoke-on-Trent Gas Department.

During an intensive air raid, H.E. and incendiary bombs fell on some Gas Works. The crowns of four gas-holders were penetrated in many places and gas from three of these ignited.

Under the direction of Mr. Stanier, the Works Fire Squad, Shift Workers, and Emergency Gang proceeded to tackle the fires.

Mr. Stanier directed the whole operation, remaining with his men on the crown of the holders while enemy planes were overhead. He sustained somewhat serious burns to one arm.

The manner in which he dealt with the situation was marked with a calm appreciation of the dangers involved. He was undoubtedly responsible for the success of the operation.

Throughout the incident Mr. Warrillow ably assisted Mr. Stanier and displayed great courage and resource in carrying out the instructions given to him. His conduct set an example to those working with him.

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

Wilfred Beckett, Works Fireman, Manchester.

Throughout the night and early hours of the morning during an enemy air attack, Beckett and his men fought a large fire in a warehouse. Beckett's conduct and bravery were outstanding. His constant activity greatly contributed to the saving of the warehouse and adjacent buildings. He fought the fire from an exposed fire escape, from the roof, and even from the interior of the burning building, with fearless courage.

Alfred John Brothers, Distribution Superintendent, Portsmouth and Gosport Gas Company.

During repeated enemy air attacks damage was caused to the Distributory Mains and Services of the Gas Company. The necessary repairs, often carried out whilst high explosive and incendiary bombs were still falling, have, in a number of instances, been rendered more difficult by the flooding of gas pipes as the result of broken water mains. During the whole of this period, Mr. Brothers has been directly responsible for the work of the various Repair Gangs, and it has been due to his enterprise and organising ability that the supply and distribution of gas has not been seriously interfered with for more than a few hours.

Freda Doreen, Mrs. Dykins, }
Ambulance Driver. } West Lancs.
Hilda, Mrs. McGreevy, } Casualty Service.
Ambulance Attendant. }

These women were in charge of an ambulance containing wounded victims of a bomb explosion. During the time they were engaged on the work of removing the injured, both Mrs. Dykins and Mrs. McGreevy were constantly in danger from dropping bombs, both high explosive and incendiary. They carried on without a thought for themselves, doing what they could to comfort the casualties and showing a wonderful example of devotion to duty and bravery.

Mary, Mrs. Farr, S.C.M., Municipal Midwife, Portsmouth.

Nurse Farr was called to a patient during a heavy air raid which lasted over two hours. During that time, several bombs were dropped and exploded in the streets around the house. All the windows of the houses which were not demolished, were blown in and other serious damage done. The infant was born during the raid. At one period the surrounding destruction was so great that the midwife found it necessary to protect the mother with her own body, as it seemed that the house was collapsing on top of them.

Mrs. Farr showed high courage, resource and devotion to duty in most dangerous circumstances which, had she flinched, might have meant disaster to her patient.

Leslie William Harding, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Orpington.

An underground concrete shelter received a direct hit from a large calibre H.E. bomb. Part of the shelter was wrecked and both entrances were blocked with debris.

Squad Leader Harding, who was in charge of the Rescue Service, directed his men to clear the entrances.

Although a further attack developed, Harding and his Party worked on for over six hours and succeeded in rescuing six people. They only gave up when satisfied that there were no others in the shelter still alive.

In addition to the good leadership and initiative shown by Harding, he has, on all occasions, shown considerable courage and total disregard of personal risk in carrying out his duties.

Arthur William Joseph Harris, Shift Superintendent, Tottenham and District Gas Company.

An enemy bomb pierced the crown of a gasholder and the escaping gas ignited. The holder was then nearly full and the crown at a height of 120 feet from the ground. Harris climbed unaccompanied to the top of the holder to inspect the damage. He descended and gave instructions with the object of reducing the pressure. He then climbed again to the top of the holder and hauled up a bag of wet clay. This was made into a large plug, and dropped over the hole, smothering the flame.

During these operations high explosive bombs were dropped just outside the Works premises and there were numerous fires in the district.

Evelyn, Mrs. Leaver, Manchester.

During a heavy air raid, a doctor and a midwife were required to attend to a patient. It was not possible to get in touch with either, and, eventually, Mrs. Leaver was called. She is a qualified nurse and midwife, but has not followed her profession since her marriage, over twenty years ago.

She stood by the patient for more than two hours despite the fact that the area was being heavily attacked. Many incendiary and H.E. bombs had fallen and one fell in the roadway about 25 yards from the sick room, causing a big crater and igniting the gas from a broken gas main. This bomb blew in the window frames, the heavy front door, and wrecked the hall and staircase. Water was pouring through the ceilings from fractured house water mains. The conditions were almost indescribable. In spite of this, Mrs. Leaver, displaying wonderful courage and determination, managed to get the patient removed to the cellar where she continued to attend her until the arrival of a doctor. She remained and gave the utmost assistance until, three hours later, the child was born.

George Longmire, Senior A.R.P. Warden, Manchester.

An oil bomb struck the roof of a dwelling house setting the premises on fire. Longmire immediately ran to the house, entered it and saw a woman on the floor of the hall with her clothing on fire. Dragging her into the front garden he extinguished the burning clothing, afterwards entering the house again to see if anyone had been left inside. Finding that the occupants had been escorted to safety he ran to his own house nearby, brought back a garden hose and kept the

fire in check until the arrival of the fire brigade.

Longmire, who sustained burns and other injuries to his hands, set a splendid example of bravery and devotion to duty and undoubtedly assisted in saving life by his prompt action.

William Benjamin Mendham, Company Officer, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

Alfred North, Senior Fireman, London Fire Brigade.

On the occasion of serious fires in the City, Company Officer Mendham worked unceasingly for over eight hours taking different crews into various buildings where fires had gained a strong hold. These buildings were considered unsafe owing to hits by high explosive bombs. His prompt actions confined the fires to the scenes of origin.

Senior Fireman North led parties of men to the upper floors of two separate eight-storey buildings where fire had obtained a good hold, and was threatening other buildings as well as showing considerable light to the enemy overhead. By his exertions, leadership and initiative, the fires were confined to these two buildings and quickly subdued.

William Henry Patstone, School Caretaker, Coventry.

During a severe enemy air attack the basement of a Girls' School was used as a shelter by members of the public. Patstone took charge of the shelter and those using it. H.E. bombs were falling in the district and there were many fires. The school was struck by a bomb and a fire broke out. Patstone climbed into the rafters and fought the fire for some considerable time despite the fact that bombs were dropping nearby. Many houses were demolished and Patstone took the homeless into the school shelter, inspiring them by his coolness and courage, particularly when the entrance was damaged. On two occasions he was blown down the steps into the shelter by blast. This did not deter him from attending to the protection of those persons present and of the property.

Sidney Henry Richman, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Battersea.

Richman has shown continual good service and devotion to duty. With his Party he has attended many incidents and performed rescue work with great efficiency. On one occasion, in order to release an injured man who was trapped, he worked continuously for about one and a half hours in a confined space fully realising that the remaining portion of a four-storey wall was liable to collapse and burv him at any moment. He successfully extricated the casualty.

Edward Thomas Stacey, Chief Inspector, Southampton Police Force.

During an air raid on Southampton a H.E. bomb fell on a Police building. Inspector Stacey, who was standing nearby, was partially buried by debris. After releasing himself, he assisted in removing others, and was then conveyed to Hospital with injuries to the chest,

He returned to Headquarters a short time later, again took charge of the Control Room, although suffering considerable pain, and remained on duty for the whole of the night.

Chief Inspector Stacey's leadership during the raid was of the highest order and he set a fine example to other members of the Force.

Frank Williams, Special Constable, Derbyshire Special Constabulary.

Special Constable Williams was on duty during an enemy air raid, when a H.E. bomb dropped and demolished the back half of a house. Six persons were trapped under the staircase and there was a very strong smell of coal gas from a fractured gas main. Williams immediately started to remove the fallen debris and extricated the six people, four of whom were suffering from coal gas poisoning.

During the time the rescue was being effected, other bombs were falling and there was great danger of the rest of the building collapsing.

Thomas Ellis Wilson, Police Constable, Lancashire Police Force.

P.C. Wilson was on duty when bombing commenced. One of the bombs fell whilst passengers were alighting from an omnibus nearby, and a number were killed. Others were injured.

P.C. Wilson at once took charge of rescue operations and, besides rendering first aid to the injured, he quickly organised the local residents and led a search in wrecked houses for possible casualties.

It was thought that an unexploded bomb was lying close to the scene of the incident, but this did not deter the Constable from remaining and he was, at times, the only person not under cover when bombing was renewed in the district. He set an inspiring example by his gallantry and devotion to duty throughout conditions which could hardly have been more difficult.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

James Atkins, A.R.P. Warden, Manchester.
John James Atkinson, Constable, Liverpool Fire Brigade.

Sidney Thomas Browning, Sub-Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Ramsgate.

Arthur Buckley, Works Fitter, City of Stoke-on-Trent Gas Department.

David Forsyth Crawford, Police Constable, Birmingham Police Force.

Joseph Deacon, A.R.P. Warden, Worsley.

William Charles Dixon, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Ramsgate.

Cyril George Dunn, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Harold Emery, Member, Works Fire Brigade, Birmingham.

Miss Marjorie Joyce Fairfax, First Aid Post Worker, Sheffield.

Harry Charles Fisk, Constable, Liverpool Fire Brigade.

Ernest Victor Foxon, Deputy A.R.P. Post Warden, Hendon.

Lionel Frederick Grape, Section Officer, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

- John Ambrose Guntrip, War Reserve Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.
- Bernard John Kendall Harris, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.
- James Edward Hayward, Member of Works Fire Brigade, Birmingham.
- William Alexander Hewitt, Police Constable, Southampton Borough Police.
- Henry George Jessop, Assistant Valvesman, South Metropolitan Gas Company.
- Edward Edgar Jones, Fireman, London Fire Brigade.
- Percy Kelsall, Labourer, City of Stoke-on-Trent Gas Department.
- Wilfred Ketley, Tinsmith, Birmingham.
- James Lindsey Kinnell, Section Officer, London Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Robert Henry Llewellyn, Member of Works Fire Brigade, Birmingham.
- William Lloyd, A.R.P. Warden, Crosby, Liverpool.
- Leonard William Lock, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Raleigh Frederick Lock, Police Constable, Southampton Borough Police.
- William McIlgrew, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.
- Charles Manners, Probationary Police Constable, Birmingham Police Force.
- Eric William Martin, A.R.P. Messenger, Croydon.
- Alfred William Potter, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Thomas Harding Pratt, Deputy Victualling Store Officer, Portsmouth.
- Peter Pritchard, Deputy Chief Officer, Ramsgate Fire Brigade.
- George Albert Rickman, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Orpington.
- Arthur Ridley, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Eric Rose, Superintendent, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Ramsgate.
- Robert Edwin Sutton, Syphon Pumper, Tottenham and District Gas Company.
- Howell Thomas, A.R.P. Sector Warden, Birmingham.
- William Campbell Thompson, Civilian Armament Instructor, Air Ministry.
- Frederick Wain, Chief Officer, Ramsgate Fire Brigade.
- Wilfrid Watson, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.
- Bertram Seymour Whidbourne, M.C., Section Officer, London Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Thomas Arthur Wilcox, A.R.P. Warden, Seaforth.

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