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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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

The KING has been graciously pleased to award the GEORGE CROSS to:—

William Mosedale, Station Officer and Rescue Officer, Birmingham Fire Brigade.

An Auxiliary Fire Station was completely demolished by a very large high explosive bomb. A number of Auxiliary Firemen were trapped in the station and civilians were buried in an adjoining house which had also been demolished.

Station Officer Mosedale immediately began tunnelling and propping operations. Hundreds of tons of debris covered the site and Mosedale fully realised that at any moment he might be buried by a further collapse.

When the first tunnel was completed and the Control Room reached, he found that there were still men whom he could not extricate. He carried out another tunnelling operation from a different direction and again entered the Control Room. Five men were found, one dead, the others injured.

The Station Officer crawled through and administered oxygen to the injured men and they were then taken out through the tunnel.

The entrance to the cellar of the private house was full of debris. Station Officer Mosedale directed operations for removing this, only to find that the cellar itself had collapsed. He nevertheless persevered and, after a time, reached seven people who were trapped. Three had been killed outright when the roof collapsed. He gave oxygen to the remaining four and succeeded in extricating them.

To reach other victims it was again necessary to tunnel, and Mosedale immediately commenced this work. The dangers to be faced were similar to those which he had found in reaching the Control Room. He nevertheless completed the tunnel and entered the cellar under the Fire Station. Four men who were alive were given oxygen and, despite their injuries, were safely removed.

Tunnelling through such difficult material had necessarily been extremely hazardous, and the cellar collapsed completely, shortly after the removal of the last victim.

These operations, which lasted more than twelve hours, were carried out under a most intense bombardment. Twelve lives were saved by Station Officer Mosedale who showed outstanding gallantry and resource. In effecting the rescues he repeatedly risked his own life.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
28th 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 of 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:—*

Edward Howell Davies, Chief Superintendent,
London Fire Brigade.

Chief Superintendent Davies has attended numerous fires in his District and his supervision of rescue work has been outstanding. He has proved himself cool and courageous and, in spite of long hours and continuous night work, the administration of his District has been excellent.

Trevor Frank Watkins, Chief Superintendent,
London Fire Brigade.

During intensive air raids in his District, Superintendent Watkins has shown the greatest qualities of leadership, initiative and courage. On one occasion he was the first to enter a smoke-logged building and vent it for his men. Despite long hours and fatigue, he has ably controlled the administration of his District.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Herbert Charles Barker, Auxiliary Fireman,
London Auxiliary Fire Service.

A private house was severely damaged by a high explosive bomb. A woman was trapped by debris on a bed in a very precarious position on the partly demolished third floor. At great personal risk Auxiliary Fireman Barker crawled across the floor, which was hanging at an angle, and secured a line around her. He was then able, with some assistance to pull her off the bed to safety.

Frederick Dainty Cox, Telegraph Lineman's
Assistant, Great Western Railway.

Immediately after an enemy air raid, it was found that railway communications had been broken. Cox and another railwayman were sent to examine the line and discovered that one bomb had exploded and broken several telegraph wires, while an unexploded time bomb had fallen on the permanent way.

After repairing the most important of the damaged telegraph circuits, Cox carried the bomb to the down side of the line and dropped it over the boundary hedge on to soft ground. This enabled a single line to be put into operation.

Although warned by the police to stop work, as another time bomb had been dropped nearby, both men continued until the repairs to the wires had been completed. Cox then searched for and found the second bomb and helped the Bomb Disposal staff to move it to a place of safety.

Roy Clifford Day, Fireman, Southampton
Auxiliary Fire Service.

This man was a member of an Auxiliary Fire Service crew which had no previous experience of sustained and widespread incendiary attack accompanied by H.E. bombardment.

After continuously fighting fires during heavy bombing, their appliance was damaged by the explosion of two H.E. bombs immediately in front of them. It was eventually necessary for all of the crew, except Day, to be removed to hospital. A further call came and Day, who was strongly advised to rest and recover, insisted on taking out the pump by himself to the scene of the fire, through conditions even more difficult than those of his earlier journeys. He succeeded in reaching his destination and continued working most efficiently throughout the night.

Day displayed sustained courage of a high order in difficult and dangerous circumstances which were quite new to him.

George Goshawk, Ambulance Attendant,
London Auxiliary Ambulance Service.

Bertram Matthewman, Ambulance Driver,
London Auxiliary Ambulance Service.

During an air raid, Matthewman and Goshawk left with an ambulance to pick up casualties at premises where a big fire was raging. The road leading to the building was blocked by a sheet of flame. Without hesitation they drove the ambulance through and, with the help of a policeman, loaded the stretchers with casualties. The heat was so great that the stretchers were almost too hot to handle. After being warned by the policeman to get away before the building collapsed, which in fact it did just after they had left, they got their patients safely to hospital and reported back to their station for further duty.

Both men displayed splendid courage and devotion to duty.

Willis Griffiths, Police Constable, "Y" Division,
Metropolitan Police.

A high explosive bomb fell, practically demolishing a house and fracturing gas and water mains. It was learned that a woman was trapped beneath the debris.

Police Constable Griffiths, together with an Inspector, climbed over the wreckage, broke down a door and removed many bricks which were holding it fast. Griffiths then cut through one of the rafters with a saw, and was able to crawl below the floor, clearing a passage through a pile of bricks and mortar. Owing to the confined space, this had to be done by scraping it away by hand and passing it back. The woman was trapped behind a spring mattress, part of which was resting on her legs, and another mattress obstructed approach to her. After tying a rope around it the officers were able to drag it away. With the aid of a small coal shovel, sufficient debris was removed to enable a doctor to reach the woman and give her an injection. A saw and some pliers were then passed to P.C. Griffiths who sawed through the mattress frame and released the woman's legs. The spring was then broken

away from the frame and the woman extricated through the cavity. The rescue took about two hours of hard work, and P.C. Griffiths showed great courage throughout.

Evan John James,
Station Police Sergeant. } " M " Division,
Matthew Riddell, } Metropolitan Police.
Police Constable.

When bombs were dropped on a garage near which people were sheltering, fires were started and oil containers exploded.

Without any regard to the risk they were running, James and Riddell forced their way through the flames, which were several feet high, and searched the whole of the premises until they were satisfied that all had made good their escape. They then turned their activities to preventing the fire from reaching the petrol tank, and were successful in so doing.

The Station Sergeant and the Constable then organised a working party from the people present and, with their help, removed nearly one hundred vehicles which otherwise would have been destroyed. Had it not been for the conspicuous bravery of the two officers there would have been considerable loss of life and damage to property.

Alfred George Jenkins, Packer, Lambeth.

A large building was hit by a H.E. bomb and demolished. A number of people was trapped under the wreckage. Jenkins, who had heard the explosion, went to the scene and, with a constable, commenced rescue operations.

He crawled through a mass of debris, which was in danger of collapsing, and he ultimately reached the basement. Two women were found, pinned down by wreckage. Jenkins released them and, with great difficulty, got them out. He then tunnelled under the building, and reached an injured man who was completely covered with debris. Crouched in a narrow space, with coal gas escaping and the air thick with dust, Jenkins worked for some time to release the casualty and eventually succeeded. Jenkins, who remained throughout the night to help in the work of rescue, showed great courage in very dangerous conditions.

John Charles Pulham, Police Inspector, Metropolitan Police.

This Inspector has shown courage and determination in rescue work on a number of occasions. He rescued an elderly woman, who was trapped in her bedroom, by climbing a partially destroyed staircase to the third floor. He carried her to safety despite the fact that a fire had broken out in the premises.

On another occasion Inspector Pulham went to the rescue of a man who was trapped in a demolished house. He managed to wriggle under some of the wreckage and lifted it in such a way as to take the weight off the casualty. This made it possible for other members of the party to complete the rescue.

The Inspector's conduct at various incidents has been outstanding. He has shown marked devotion to duty and a complete disregard of his own safety.

William John Purchase, A.R.P. Warden, Sutton and Cheam.

Warden Purchase, while on duty during an air raid, was blown to the ground by the explosion of a heavy bomb. Although severely shaken by the blast, he reported to his post and then went to the scene of the damage. At great personal risk, from the danger of a shattered wall and roof, he broke through debris to persons trapped in two houses. He worked to rescue the victims until he was practically overcome by coal gas, and had himself to be removed. But for the prompt and gallant action taken by Warden Purchase, the majority of the seven persons he released would have died.

George Tyrrel Robinson, Fireman, Southampton Fire Brigade.

During an air raid on Southampton a high explosive bomb fell close to Robinson's pump and crew, killing three men and seriously injuring four others. Robinson immediately rallied the remainder of his personnel to deal with the fire fighting operations, whilst he rendered First Aid to the injured. He then drove two of the casualties to hospital. Robinson returned to the fire, to resume charge of the operations, until it was brought under control.

During the whole time he was working in very dangerous conditions. His coolness and gallantry in rallying and directing the crew after their mates had been killed, saved the fire from spreading and his promptitude in dealing with the seriously injured undoubtedly saved their lives.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Robert Henry George Cocksedge, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Croydon.

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

Harold James Jupp, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Croydon.

These two men are leaders of volunteer squads of Corporation workmen and they showed brilliant leadership when buildings were hit and set on fire by enemy air attack. In order to continue with the work of rescue they erected a tarpaulin screen in the wreckage so that the cutting of steel girders with acetylene apparatus could be carried out whilst the raid was still in progress.

They worked under extraordinarily difficult and dangerous conditions due to the presence of large masses of unstable brickwork, concrete and masonry.

The example set by Cocksedge and Jupp inspired their squads in the splendid work which was performed.

On other occasions Cocksedge has been concerned in the removal of unexploded time bombs. Before commencing operations he was made aware of the danger but volunteered to erect tackle for lifting purposes and, after the removal of the bombs, was responsible for having them carried to a place of safety.

Awarded the George Medal:—

John Llewellyn Davies, Auxiliary Fireman,
Chingford Auxiliary Fire Service.

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

Benjamin Stanley Musgrave, A.R.P. Warden,
Chingford.

During a heavy air raid several houses were destroyed. The debris caught fire and blazed fiercely.

Fireman Davies' house was severely damaged and he was badly shaken. Immediately he had recovered he went to a wrecked house in which two persons and a child were trapped under a bed.

Having located the casualties, he burrowed into the debris with his bare hands. He succeeded in reaching the bed and, finding the baby, he passed it out to the Wardens. He then tried to release the other victims. This he could not do unaided and Warden Musgrave volunteered to help him.

Davies then levered up the debris with his body whilst Musgrave crawled under the bed and allowed himself to be pulled out with the woman on his back.

Still taking the weight of the debris, Davies, after fifteen minutes, succeeded in releasing the remaining trapped person, who was then drawn to safety.

Davies was in a state of collapse and had to receive first aid treatment but, when it was reported that another child was trapped, he again crawled under the wreckage and continued working for the rest of the night. His heroic action saved many lives.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Richard Noel Hateley, Superintendent, Walsall Corporation Gas Department.

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

Thomas Pearson, Section Officer, Walsall Auxiliary Fire Service.

Fred Thickett, Works Foreman, Walsall Corporation Gas Department.

A high explosive bomb struck the top edge of a gas-holder making a hole in the crown and igniting the gas.

Hoses were played upon the holder in order to keep it cool, but flames were still coming out of the hole. Throughout the proceedings Pearson, Thickett and Hateley were on the edge never more than three feet away from the fire. Efforts were made to stop up the opening by means of corrugated sheets. This was only partially effective, and flames were still coming through. Pearson and Thickett then endeavoured to cover the hole with a tarpaulin. With Hateley, they stepped on to the holder and pulled the sheet over the gaps that remained. During this time the three men were near the centre of the crown in very grave danger, for the holder had sunk to near the ground and there was risk of explosion.

Showing complete disregard for their own safety, they persisted in their efforts and were eventually successful in putting out the fire.

Awarded the George Medal:—

George Peters, Lorry Driver, Swansea Gas Light Company.

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

J. Thompson, Works Foreman, Swansea Gas Light Company.

During an air raid on Swansea a gas-holder was hit by H.E. and incendiary bombs. The holder was full of gas and a fierce flame was issuing from the pierced crown. To ascend to the top it was necessary to carry a ladder up a girder and rest it against the top of the holder. Without hesitation, Peters and Thompson volunteered to undertake the risk. They carried the ladder to the girder and, whilst Thompson straddled across it and held the ladder in position, Peters climbed to the crown, and extinguished the flame with clay.

The action was particularly gallant as it was performed immediately after a very heavy high explosive bomb had dropped just outside the site and demolished a portion of the boundary wall. The two men displayed courage and resourcefulness in very difficult circumstances.

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

Sidney John Boissonade, Station Officer, Coventry Fire Brigade.

Norman Frederick Brown, Third Officer, Coventry Fire Brigade.

William Michael Maddocks, Divisional Officer, Coventry Auxiliary Fire Service.

During the heavy air raid on Coventry these officers undertook a tremendous task and carried it out in a most highly commendable manner. They were responsible for an extremely efficient and intricate system for relaying water in the centre of the City, as a result of which the spread of fire in this highly congested area was checked at many points. Between them they rallied and encouraged crews whose endurance was severely taxed.

In movements of men and appliances they employed skill and resource for which previous experience had set no standards to act as a guide. Their cheerfulness and absolute disregard of personal safety were outstanding.

Percy Alexander Bertram Boyes, Messenger, Southampton Auxiliary Fire Service.

During an air raid on Southampton this Messenger was attached to Headquarters for the purpose of guiding reinforcing Fire Brigades to the scenes of fires.

Boyes showed great courage and devotion to duty under heavy bombardment and remained at his post throughout.

James Thomas Clarke, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

Fred Thompson, Senior Fireman, London Fire Brigade.

When a large building was partly demolished by a high explosive bomb, several

persons were buried under the debris. Thompson and Clarke, at great personal risk, repeatedly entered the building for rescue purposes, searching for and rendering first aid to the victims. Their courage and endurance set a fine example.

Derek Albert Durbridge, Messenger, Coventry Auxiliary Fire Service.

Messenger Durbridge was acting as guide to a crew during an air raid on Coventry when a bomb exploded nearby and he was blown across the street. He recovered consciousness some time later to find himself lying within a few feet of a blazing building. He was covered with debris, and it was some time before he could extricate himself. He reported back to the Central Fire Station and insisted on resuming his duties. Later in the night he was again caught by the blast of an exploding bomb and flung against a wall. Despite a badly bruised back he carried out his duties during the remainder of the night.

Richard Charles Hayes, Skilled Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Coulsdon and Purley.

A house was demolished by a bomb and persons were trapped in the wreckage.

The members of the Rescue Party cleared away some of the debris to enable Hayes to crawl underneath. He fixed a jack to support the mass of rubble and masonry, which was impeding rescue work. The space in the hole was very confined and it was necessary for Hayes to crawl out backwards, dragging the victims with him.

Samuel Roy Johnston, Youth-in-Training, Post Office, Manchester.

Frederick Moore, Skilled Workman, Class I, Post Office, Manchester.

Moore and Johnston were alone in a Post Office building when bombs were dropped nearby. During the next eight or nine hours, H.E. and incendiary bombs fell at frequent intervals near the office, blowing in windows and doors, breaking down partitions and causing cracks in walls. Nevertheless, Moore and Johnston remained in the building, working to trace and remove faults in apparatus so that communications could continue. They did not leave until a large building immediately opposite was blazing and in danger of collapse. They returned later and continued their efforts to repair the damage to instruments.

Robert McBrien, Police Constable, Surrey County Constabulary.

A heavy H.E. bomb made a direct hit on a house, completely demolishing it. A woman was trapped in the wreckage.

P.C. McBrien, quite regardless of the danger from possible further collapse of the debris, at once crawled in through a small hole and managed to free her. She was then dragged out, suffering only from superficial injuries. During all the time he was inside, McBrien ran continuous risk as, had the wreckage slipped, he would undoubtedly have been very seriously injured.

Edward William Robert Morgan, Station Officer, London Fire Brigade.

A large six-floor warehouse received direct hits from bombs. Whilst fire-fighting was in progress, crews were subjected to further bombing and the Officer in charge was killed. Others of the detachment were severely injured, water mains fractured and gas mains set alight.

Station Officer Morgan temporarily assumed command. The severely injured were removed to hospital, the water supply was augmented and the fire brought under control. This was in large measure due to his courage and leadership.

William Morris, Police Constable, Manchester City Police.

Dwelling houses were demolished by a H.E. bomb. Constable Morris worked his way into a cellar and rescued two women who were injured. He returned and carried out a man who was injured and unconscious. Morris then collapsed and, although told to rest, voluntarily went out again to help in further rescue work. Throughout the night he displayed unusual courage, initiative and resource.

Francis Owens, Retort House Captain, Liverpool Gas Company.

During a heavy bombardment a gasholder crown was fractured. Owens climbed to the top and successfully sealed the hole with clay which was held in position by weights which he took up with him.

Later, when incendiary bombs pierced the crown of another holder, Owens, without hesitation, climbed up and successfully dealt with the resultant fires.

Sydney Herbert Pow, Station Officer, London Fire Brigade.

A number of firemen were trapped beneath debris after a building had received a direct hit by high explosive and incendiary bombs. Pow assisted to extricate them at considerable personal risk.

Over the whole period of air raids he has shown great devotion to duty and has played a conspicuous part in fighting serious fires and bringing them under control.

Fred Spruce, Acting Manager, Cleansing Depot, Manchester.

During an intense enemy air raid on Manchester, a Cleansing Depot was showered with a large number of incendiary bombs.

Mr. Spruce led a party to the stables and corn lofts where, fed by combustible material, the fire was spreading rapidly. High explosive and incendiary bombs continued to fall on the Depot while Spruce and his party made every effort to get the fire under control. It was due mainly to the initiative of Mr. Spruce that eighty-three horses and a large part of the buildings were saved from total destruction.

Denys George Wells, Deputy A.R.P. Post Warden, Malden and Coombe.

On his way to report for duty during an air raid, Wells was severely wounded by a bomb which demolished a church and a

clinic. With great courage and fortitude he managed to cover the four hundred yards to his Post and made his report.

By his devotion to duty Wells ensured that the necessary services were immediately sent to the incident.

Leslie William George Wilson, Station Officer, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

(Award dated 6th October, 1940. He has since been killed on duty.)

Wilson showed great proficiency and set an excellent example, in very trying conditions, at a number of fires which occurred during air raids. On one occasion, at great personal risk, he endeavoured to extricate several persons who were trapped beneath the debris of a burning building.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

H. Adds, Member, Works A.R.P. Service, Woolwich.

Edith May Ansett, Auxiliary, London Women's Auxiliary Fire Service.

Jesse Bees, Leader, A.R.P. Light Rescue Party, Somerset.

Winifred Frances Bolch, Auxiliary, London Women's Auxiliary Fire Service.

Sidney Bowdler, Messenger, Coventry Auxiliary Fire Service.

William Charles Cox, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Croydon.

Miss Josephine Margaret Cozens, Ambulance Driver, A.R.P. Casualty Service, Orpington.

Vernon Francis Dickinson, Police Constable, Manchester City Police.

E. J. Forwood, Watchman, Swansea Gas Light Company.

Herbert Benjamin Henry Golden, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

Lilian Mary, Mrs. Hampton, Telephonist, Coventry Auxiliary Fire Service.

Susan Florence, Mrs. Harris, Section Officer, A.R.P. Ambulance Service, Sheffield.

Walter John Harris, Divisional Superintendent, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Banwell, Somerset.

Winifred Louise, Mrs. King, Ambulance Driver, A.R.P. Casualty Service, Bristol.

Alfred William Latham, Foreman, Metropolitan Water Board.

William Reginald Lomas, Police Constable, Manchester City Police.

William James McClintock, Special Constable, Manchester City Police Special Constabulary Reserve.

Muriel McCully, Auxiliary, London Women's Auxiliary Fire Service.

Miss Helen Annie Mason, Ambulance Attendant, London Auxiliary Ambulance Service.

Thomas Newell, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Croydon.

Henry Stephen Newman, Telegraph Lineman, Great Western Railway.

Violet, Mrs. Olive, Ambulance Attendant, A.R.P. Casualty Service, Bristol.

Alfred Malcolm Parslow, Works Roof Spotter, Norwich.

Frederick Oliver Ravenhill, Driver, A.R.P. Ambulance Service, Sheffield.

Martha Louise Simpson, Auxiliary, London Women's Auxiliary Fire Service.

John Edward Sinnett, Chief Clerk, Coventry Auxiliary Fire Service.

Charles Archibald Smith, "S" Class Clerk, City Employment Exchange, Ministry of Labour and National Service.

Glenis Ruby, Mrs. Spicer, Ambulance Attendant, A.R.P. Casualty Service, Orpington.

Charles Stainton, Messenger, Coventry Auxiliary Fire Service.

Florence Lilian Stone, Auxiliary, London Women's Auxiliary Fire Service.

Miss Joan Brenda Sykes, Driver, A.R.P. Ambulance Service, Sheffield.

William Tidy, Senior A.R.P. Warden, Liverpool.

Leonard George Tuck, Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist, Portsmouth.

Jack Aubrey Wing, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

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