



**SUPPLEMENT**

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**FRIDAY, 23 MAY, 1941**

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

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

*23rd May, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following awards of the George Medal and of the British Empire Medal, 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.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

**James Brennan, Divisional A.R.P. Operations Officer and Depot Superintendent, Willesden.**

A bomb partially demolished a house and a woman was trapped from the knees downwards beneath some debris.

To effect her rescue it was necessary for the woman to be lifted almost to a standing position and held there to allow someone to work near her feet. While she was being held up, Mr. Brennan slid down into the crater on his stomach and worked there for some considerable time, removing bricks by hand.

Although there was a strong concentration of coal gas in the hole where he was lying head downwards, Mr. Brennan persisted in his efforts and after some time the casualty was released and removed to hospital.

Throughout this incident Mr. Brennan was in danger from the wreckage under which he

was working, from the ruins of the house, which were likely to collapse at any moment, and from the high concentration of gas.

**John Foster, Lorry Driver, A.R.P. Rescue Service, Hackney.**

Bombs demolished houses and many people were trapped. Foster immediately joined in the rescue work. He crawled into a small cavity in the wreckage and after breaking through a door, reached five victims. He was giving aid to these when the debris collapsed and he was also trapped. When other members of the squad reached them they found Foster protecting a woman from the falling rubble by holding his steel helmet over her face. Although dazed and bruised, he continued and extricated three women who, but for his untiring efforts, would undoubtedly have been suffocated. Mr. Foster showed courage and devotion to duty and by his efforts seven persons were rescued.

**Frederick Herbert John Matthews, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, St. Marylebone.**

Leader Matthews was off duty but volunteered to go with a party to a bombed building.

A woman was trapped in a cavity formed by the angle of a crumbling wall and the wreckage of four concrete floors which had collapsed from above. Her position and the loose, shifting nature of the debris rendered

rescue operations very dangerous. Matthews burrowed a small hole, and by working in a prone position, was able to remove bricks and masonry with his hands. He worked thus for nearly three hours during which time he was in continual danger of being trapped and crushed by a further collapse of debris. As a result of his efforts the woman was extricated unharmed.

Leader Matthews throughout set a fine example of courage, initiative and devotion to duty.

Francis Harlow Tritt Leader, James Wood, Mem- ber,	}	A.R.P. Rescue Party, Stoke Newington.
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A high explosive bomb wrecked a house and a family was buried under the debris. The mother was pinned from the waist downwards with a collapsed floor only a few inches above her head. Tritt, assisted by Wood, cut a way down to her. The two men then started digging with small shovels and uncovered the heads of a son and a daughter. Another member of the family was pinned down with the leg of a bed on one shoulder, and a fireplace on the other. The leg of the bed was sawn away and the weight of the fireplace taken off his shoulder.

In order to release the mother and son much of the debris had to be scooped into buckets by hand as the space was too restricted for the use of tools. Several times further falls reburied the casualties but eventually they were extricated. After further digging, in steadily worsening conditions, the daughter was also released.

Tritt and Wood next began the task of getting the remaining victim out but constantly falling debris made this extremely difficult and dangerous. Tritt used his own body to shield the injured boy, and after eleven hours work the rescue was complete.

Tritt and Wood, by their gallantry and devotion to duty, saved the whole family.

Edwin Vanderleit, Plumber, A.R.P. Rescue Service, Hackney.

People were trapped under the wreckage of houses demolished by bombs. Vanderleit was lowered into a small hole despite the dangerous condition of the debris which was liable to slip and collapse at any moment. He found a woman and, supporting her with one arm, gave her refreshment which was passed down through a tube by a Doctor.

Other members of the squad then worked to reach Vanderleit and the trapped woman. This took four hours owing to the loose and dangerous state of the wreckage. During this time Vanderleit continued to support the casualty and protect her from the slipping debris. He displayed outstanding courage and devotion to duty and through his efforts the woman was extricated alive.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Frederick George Riley, Depot Superintendent, A.R.P. Rescue Service, Ealing.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

Frank Ernest Diment, Plumber. Leonard Ralph, Labourer	}	A.R.P. Rescue Service, Ealing.
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When extensive damage was caused by enemy action Riley, Ralph and Diment showed great coolness and disregard of personal safety in their determination to rescue persons trapped amongst debris. Riley crawled under wreckage to rescue a woman who was suspended between the floor and the ground level. He released her and passed her horizontally over his body to safety. The building collapsed just as Riley got out.

Ralph and Diment cleared a small tunnel under the wreckage of a house and, with complete disregard of their own safety, rescued a woman who was trapped.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

Alfred Stanley Sandford Barlow, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Malden and Coombe.

A mother and daughter were trapped under the stairs in a bombed house.

Leader Barlow, after skilfully sawing away floor boards and joists, released the mother.

Owing to the confined space debris was then passed back by means of a hand chain and the daughter was eventually freed.

The rescue work took over two hours, during which time it was evident that the building might collapse.

Mr. Barlow showed great bravery in effecting these rescues.

Henry John Albert Croker, Ambulance Driver, Public Assistance Committee, Bristol.

Mr. Croker showed great courage and devotion to duty during the air raids on Bristol.

He drove through blazing streets to bring in casualties and searched bombed houses for victims. In one of these houses he succeeded in rescuing people who were trapped. He also entered a burning building, removed a 50 gallon drum of oil and then helped to get the fire under control.

John Arthur James Dixon, Officer in Charge. James Slavin, Leader.	}	A.R.P. Stretcher Party, Deptford.
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Bombs demolished houses and people were trapped. A tunnel was made under the debris and contact with four persons was established. Slavin then crawled into the tunnel and, although in continual danger of being buried by falling debris and overcome by gas fumes, he encouraged the trapped persons, supplying them with drinks through a tube and administering morphia under the directions of a doctor. Eventually Slavin had to be withdrawn from the tunnel and Dixon then carried on in a similar manner until the casualties were rescued four hours later.

John Edward Fleming, Police Constable, "G" Division, Metropolitan Police.

Incendiary bombs caused a fire in an upstairs flat occupied by an elderly woman who was bedridden.

Without hesitation Police Constable Fleming, who was off duty, entered the house and ran up the stairs into a room which was full of smoke. Failing to find the victim, he crawled into another room which was on fire and eventually reached the bed on which the woman was lying. He got her to the landing and carried her down the stairs to safety.

The courageous action of Fleming undoubtedly saved the woman's life.

Ernest Gordon Foster, Auxiliary Fireman,  
Bath Auxiliary Fire Service.

Mr. Foster, with reinforcing crews, has attended the most seriously damaged areas in various parts of the country. He is an excellent and courageous driver and on numerous occasions he has driven through the affected parts of a town regardless of any danger with the complete convoy following him. Foster, by his devotion to duty, has set a fine example.

William France, Sergeant, Manchester Fire Brigade.

Sergeant France did excellent work during an air attack on Manchester. He assisted in organising the machines and personnel, and showed considerable skill in creating a successful relay of water around the involved area. There were vast heaps of burning debris to be overcome and no proper roadways for the machines to negotiate.

Later, Sergeant France was in charge of units at a large fire and it was due to his efforts that much valuable property was saved.

Ernest Leonard Hurley, Leader,	} A.R.P. Rescue Party, Hackney.
Harry Englefield, Carpenter,	

Houses were demolished by H.E. bombs. Two persons were trapped a long way under the debris, which was liable to collapse at any moment. A tunnel was made in order to reach them and eventually they were found, pinned down by floor joists. Gas pipes were broken and there was a heavy concentration of coal gas. Men of Hurley's squad worked for two hours to form the tunnel and were all affected by gas and had to be withdrawn. Hurley then descended into the hole and, with Englefield, worked continuously for three hours until the victims were released. The task was a most hazardous one and Hurley and Englefield displayed great courage.

Alfred Henry Jackson, Shop Electrician,  
Lambeth.

While firemen were playing their hoses on a burning building, the roof of an Electricity Sub-Station caught alight. Realising that the extra high tension panel would blow out and very possibly electrocute the firemen, Mr. Jackson, at great risk to himself, disconnected the supply although he knew the danger that existed in touching the panel.

#### COMMENDATIONS.

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

William Clark (deceased), Crane Driver,  
Portsmouth.

William Arthur Cripps (deceased), Lorry  
Driver, Portsmouth.

Richard William Densham (deceased), Lift  
Boy, Portsmouth.

Herbert Edward Dunstan, Member, Wholesale  
Co-operative Society Fire Brigade, Cardiff.

Alfred Fuller, Labourer, A.R.P. Rescue Party,  
Lewisham.

Herbert Horatio Kitchener (deceased), Seaman,  
Portsmouth.

Annette Madeline, Mrs. Lennard, A.R.P.  
Casualty Service, Bristol.

Charles William McCarthy, Member, Reuters  
and Press Association Fire Fighting Squad,  
London.

George Parker, Assistant Commandant, Hull  
Auxiliary Fire Service.

Christopher Jack Picken, Member, Co-opera-  
tive Wholesale Society Fire Brigade, Cardiff.

Robert Biddulph-Pinchard, A.R.P. Warden,  
Portsmouth.

John Albert Waters, Works Service Represen-  
tative, R.A.F. Station.

#### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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23rd May, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following award:—

*The British Empire Medal (Civil Division).*

Reginald Silver, Transport Worker, Cardiff  
Docks.

An aircraft crashed in a garden where it caught fire, Mr. Silver immediately ran to the burning plane and, catching hold of the parachute straps of one of the crew who was pinned with his head down, managed to pull him clear.

While Silver was rescuing this man he saw another occupant of the aircraft trapped and unable to move. He at once returned and pulled this officer out. Soon afterwards the machine was completely gutted by flames.

By his spontaneous and gallant action Mr. Silver saved two people from being burned to death.

#### LONDON

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