



**SUPPLEMENT**

TO

**The London Gazette**

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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