



SECOND SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette

Of FRIDAY, the 4th of JULY, 1941

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

MONDAY, 7 JULY, 1941

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

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
7th July, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for an award of a Bar to the George Medal, 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.

To be an Additional Officer of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

Harold Partington, Town Clerk and A.R.P. Controller, Bootle.

Throughout the period of air raids, Mr. Partington has worked day and night to maintain the affairs of the Borough and conduct A.R.P. control. During and after every raid the situation has been successfully dealt with by Mr. Partington on whom falls the responsibility of co-ordinating all the A.R.P. services.

In addition he has personally led fire fighting parties and extinguished incendiary bombs on the roof of the Town Hall during

the heaviest attacks. He has displayed marked powers of organisation and leadership.

To be an Additional Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

Darrell Wolfe Rees, Engineer and Manager, Pembroke District Gas Company.

A H.E. bomb damaged the crown sheets of a large gasholder, and the gas ignited. In addition the filming oil round the outer sheets of the holder caught fire and the resulting flames extended to a height of forty feet, lighting up the whole district.

In spite of this and the danger of explosion, and whilst enemy aircraft were still overhead, Mr. Rees got his fire pump working, handling the hose himself and, with foam, asbestos blankets and clay, extinguished the flames.

Mr. Rees showed initiative and great devotion to duty with complete disregard of his own safety.

Awarded a Bar to the George Medal:—

George Samuel Sewell, Maintenance Engineer, Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd.

During an air raid incendiary bombs were dropped on an oil depot.

Two fell on the roof of a large tank of spirit and pierced the plates in two places.

The released gas ignited and burned in fierce jets of flame.

Although enemy aircraft were overhead and bombs continued to fall, Mr. Sewell immediately climbed to the top of the tank and placed bags of sand over the holes, successfully extinguishing the fires. Mr. Sewell then climbed on to another tank and kicked to the ground a burning bomb. Mr. Sewell's gallant action prevented a serious fire and consequent loss of valuable product and installation.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Miss Margaret Brown, Works Nurse, Coventry.

A dwelling-house was demolished by a H.E. bomb. The back wall was blown in and the roof collapsed on top of the wreckage. Miss Brown crawled beneath the roof which was about two feet from the ground. Although in great danger from the shifting wreckage she tunnelled a way which enabled the Rescue Party to extricate two people. Bombs were dropped nearby but she showed complete disregard of her own safety. The same night a building received a direct hit causing many casualties. Miss Brown attended to these with such efficiency that many lives were saved.

Thomas Flood, Auxiliary Fireman, Liverpool Auxiliary Fire Service.

During an air raid a dwelling-house was wrecked.

Flood tunnelled under the debris and, after working for an hour, heard a baby crying. He continued and found a child underneath a perambulator. He obtained food and fed her and, with difficulty, he eventually extricated her unharmed. Flood heard the cry of another child under the rubble and, after tunnelling seven feet and sawing through an iron cot, he was successful in rescuing a small boy. Whilst Flood was under the rubble releasing the children, heavy pieces of masonry and timber were continually falling making his task both dangerous and difficult. Flood was exhausted but refused to be detained in hospital. Although he was too weak to take any physical part he directed further operations, which resulted in two more children being found.

Flood displayed great gallantry and determination in effecting these rescues.

Alexander Heron, Firemaster, Works Fire Fighting Service, Clydebank.

During an air raid incendiary bombs fell on a factory and fires were started.

Firemaster Heron extinguished a large number of incendiary bombs, handling them on many occasions with his bare hands. He led the fire fighters into a burning wood yard, while other firemen continually played water on them to prevent serious injury from burning. Afterwards he attacked the fire in the building and made every possible effort to extinguish the flames.

Heron showed great courage and was on continuous duty, without rest, for 100 hours,

Sidney Cecil Hill, House
Governor and Secretary,

Miss Joyce Elizabeth
Burton, Matron,
Miss Emma Horne,
Nursing Sister,

Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital,
Coventry.

During an enemy air attack the hospital was heavily damaged by direct hits from H.E. bombs.

Mr. Hill worked all night during and after the raid. He led parties to put out fires and to extricate patients from the ruined wards. After the explosion of a time bomb which wrecked part of the basement, he led a party down one of the tunnels, and at great risk, rescued a number of patients. His unselfish devotion to duty and his courage were an inspiration to others and he was instrumental in the saving of many lives.

Miss Burton went round the wards throughout the raid regardless of personal danger, cheering the patients and encouraging her nursing staff. Whenever a ward was hit she was quickly on the scene, directing and helping with the rescue work. By her courage and example she was largely responsible for the high morale of the patients and nursing staff.

Miss Burton showed great devotion to duty in extremely dangerous conditions.

Sister Horne was on duty on the second floor, when a direct hit carried away the end of a ward. She reassured the patients and spared no efforts to evacuate them to the basement. Two other wards then received direct hits and Sister Horne went to these wards and, regardless of personal danger, she helped to pull patients from the wreckage and remove them to safety. Later she managed to release a junior nurse who was trapped under debris and stayed with her in conditions of great danger until further help came.

Afterwards, for some hours Sister Horne worked unceasingly in the most difficult conditions to help evacuate the patients. By her efforts during the night many lives were saved.

William John Holtham, Chief Valveman, Gas Light and Coke Company Limited.

During an air raid Holtham was in the valveroom when a bomb exploded outside. The room was plunged into darkness and Holtham was struck on the head and dazed. He made his way to the door and saw that a gas holder was enveloped in flames. High piles of debris made it impossible to reach the valves by the direct route so Holtham assisted by two men walked right round the holder. Although much shaken he refused to take cover or to go to the Ambulance Station but stood by until the main valve had been closed. Still supported by the two men, he enlisted more help and closed the outlet valve of another holder. He then returned to the first holder, still a raging furnace. The heat made approach difficult and dangerous, nevertheless Holtham helped to remove the debris from the valves. When they were finally uncovered they were intensely hot but with assistance Holtham

closed them. As the wheels had been partly smashed the men had to use a crowbar and this operation took nearly an hour. All this time a heavy raid was in progress. Although badly shaken Holtham carried out his duties throughout the night.

Holtham showed great courage and endurance.

Albert James Sambridge, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Hackney.

A high explosive bomb struck a building starting fires in the upper floors and breaking the water mains. An opening had to be made in the wreckage for members of the squad to enter the basement where water was three feet deep and still rising. A woman was found but could not be moved. The water had by this time risen to five feet and the men were advised to leave. Sambridge, however, continued his efforts to release the victim.

By going under the water, he managed partly to free her. He then had a rope passed down which he tied to himself and the woman. He directed the men above to pull on the rope taking the strain on his own body and by this means the woman was released. The water was by now within two feet of the ceiling but he managed to guide her to the hole through which she was hauled to safety. Owing to the complete darkness and the difficulties in dealing with the casualty, Sambridge was left swimming in the water, which rose to within six inches of the ceiling, before he also was rescued on the point of collapse.

Sambridge, in effecting this gallant rescue, showed extreme devotion to duty and total disregard of personal safety.

George Stevens, Wallasey.

A woman was trapped in a house which had been extensively damaged by a H.E. bomb and the outer walls were in danger of collapse.

Stevens, regardless of all personal danger, burrowed through the wreckage and found the victim. Despite falling debris and continual enemy action, Stevens persisted in his untiring efforts to rescue her. After working for two hours in a very limited space he succeeded. Stevens then continued with further rescue work, showing great zeal and courage in his endeavour to help the stricken people.

Kenneth Edwin Tapper, O.B.E., M.B., Ch.B., Head of A.R.P. Casualty Services, Bromley.

Dr. Tapper has on many occasions during enemy air attacks crawled under wreckage to search for and give treatment to injured casualties pinned down by debris.

When people were buried beneath the wreckage of a German aeroplane and two houses Dr. Tapper gave medical aid to the victims whilst large unexploded bombs were removed.

Dr. Tapper has shown great gallantry in his efforts to relieve suffering amongst air raid victims.

Awarded the George Medal:—

James Burns, B.Sc., Ph.D., Engineer,	} Gas Light and Coke Company Limited.
Arthur Stanley Heap, Head of Works A.R.P. Services,	

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

Frank Anderson, Assistant Valveman,	} Gas Light and Coke Company Limited.
William John Dixey, Retort Pipe Fitter,	
Albert Frederick Smith, Retort Pipe Fitter,	
Eric Napper Smith, Works Police Constable,	
Ernest William Wenborn, Holder Attendant,	

During an air raid incendiary bombs perforated gas-holders and the torches thus lit presented a target to the enemy.

Dr. Burns, with Police Constable Smith, climbed to the top of one holder and found that Anderson and Wenborn were already coping with the flames, and between them the four men extinguished all the fires.

A further shower of incendiaries caused fires in various sections of the plant. These fires were so widespread that all the resources of the works were required to cope with them. Mr. Heap quickly mobilised his men and the works fire brigade tackled all the fires.

The enemy then started to bomb the works with H.E.'s, and holders were pierced.

Anderson and Wenborn, at great risk to themselves, closed the valves beside the flaming holders, while Mr. Heap, with A. F. Smith and Dixey, put out the many flaming torches on the tops of holders.

Dr. Burns showed coolness and foresight in co-ordinating the efforts of the various units, and Mr. Heap's gallant leadership was outstanding. All these men showed courage in the face of grave danger.

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

Albert Edward Alcock, Head A.R.P. Warden, Coventry.

Alcock has attended every major incident in his section, and has supervised and taken an active part in rescue work.

He has worked untiringly in very dangerous and difficult conditions, and on one occasion helped to rescue four civilians who were trapped.

On another night he rescued an elderly man from a bed in a badly damaged house and, while bombs were falling nearby, removed him to safety. He also supervised the rescue of a number of people who were trapped in a private shelter, and it is chiefly due to him that all were rescued alive.

His courage and energy were an inspiration to his colleagues.

Cyril Howard Barwick, Leader,	} A.R.P. Rescue Party, Sutton and Cheam.
William Henry Pollock, Deputy Leader,	

A high explosive bomb demolished part of a building.

A man was buried under a heavy pile of debris, upon which lay a large fallen chimney stack in a most insecure position.

Barwick, with his hands, tunnelled through the debris and found that the victim was trapped by a joist across his legs. Working in a most confined space and in a dangerous position Barwick placed a jack and began levering up the wreckage. After working for an hour he was exhausted, and had to be pulled out.

His place was taken by Pollock, who carried on the work in the same dangerous conditions for a further hour, and behaved with equal disregard of his personal safety. Pollock was then dragged out. Barwick again resumed work and finally the man was released.

Harry Bell, Skilled Workman, Class I (Engineering Department), North Shields Telephone Exchange.

A H.E. bomb damaged telephone cables near to Mr. Bell's home. Despite the fact that he was severely shaken by blast, he went on foot through the height of the raid to the telephone exchange, disconnected faulty lines and took the necessary measures to ensure the continuance of the telephone communications essential to the civil defence services. Bell refused to leave his self-imposed task, which was of an exacting nature, although during part of this time bombs were falling.

Bell displayed courage, zeal and initiative.

Paul Catterall, Acting Sub-Officer, Bolton Fire Brigade.

Sub-Officer Catterall was in charge of a contingent of men sent to a town to deal with fires, the result of enemy action. Under his leadership the crews remained steadfastly at their posts of duty in spite of the fact that large numbers of incendiary and high explosive bombs were showered around them.

He displayed calm courage and devotion to duty in exceptionally dangerous and harassing circumstances, and showed keen interest in the welfare of the men in his charge, giving first aid and arranging for the despatch of the injured to hospital.

William Albert Clare, Dairyman, Wallasey.

A H.E. bomb demolished houses and people were trapped. Although in grave danger from an unsafe wall which was liable to collapse, and from a fractured gas main which was alight near to him, Clare worked his way under the collapsed roof and succeeded in releasing nine people.

**Geoffrey John Burdon
Cox, Assistant Engineer.
Charles Wyatt, Scrubber Yard Attendant**

} Gas Light and Coke
Company Limited

During an air raid incendiary bombs fell on a gas works making it a target for further attacks. Whilst many H.E. bombs were dropped nearby, Cox and Wyatt mounted to the roofs of offices and dealt successfully with the resultant fires although at times they were in danger of being flung to the ground by blast.

Later H.E. bombs struck the Purifier House. Cox immediately took steps to isolate the purifiers in order to control the flames which were lighting up the Works.

Gas was flaring from broken mains, steam was escaping and the site was thickly covered with debris. Despite these difficulties and during continued bombing Cox and Wyatt carried on until all the necessary operations were completed.

**Frank Forrest, Chief
Valveman.
Fred Wilson, Works
Fireman.**

} Gas Light and Coke
Company Limited.

During a heavy air raid H.E. bombs ripped open the crown of a holder and the gas ignited. Forrest, who had twice been flung to the ground by the force of explosions and injured, hurried to the valves as fast as he could for gas was still entering the holder and feeding the flames. Debris was piled high and he had to skirt the flaming holder to reach the valves. Forrest had to work between two fires. The tremendous heat hampered the work, but the holder was soon out.

Wilson was also blown over by the explosion. Recovering, he went to the aid of two men and carried them to the Casualty Clearing Station. He next organised the fire fighting and tackled the fires until the blaze was out. Although bombs continued to fall nearby Forrest and Wilson showed great courage and carried on with the work of repairing the damage.

Amelia, Mrs. Johnson, A.R.P. Warden, Birmingham.

During an air attack a H.E. bomb demolished houses and eight persons were trapped in the debris. Mrs. Johnson at once went to the First Aid Post and secured the services of a doctor, but on the return journey the street was blocked and they had to make a detour. Mrs. Johnson tried to get through the debris into the cellar of one of the wrecked houses, but being unable to do so, she went for the Rescue Party. Returning, she helped to attend to the casualties as they were brought out.

The Warden went with the Doctor to another incident and then returned to the First Aid Post where she assisted for some hours in rendering aid to the injured.

Mrs Johnson showed courage and devotion to duty in making all these dangerous journeys whilst high explosive bombs were falling nearby and there was heavy A.A. fire.

Frederick James Ernest Laurie, Gas Fitter, Leytonstone.

A H.E. bomb damaged a block of flats. Laurie heard cries and, without hesitation, scaled an eight foot wall topped by glass and dropped to the ground on the other side. As he scrambled over the debris another bomb fell nearby and debris fell all round him. He found a girl standing on a small ledge which had formed part of the original first floor. The staircase was demolished, so carrying the girl on his shoulders and by the aid of the gun flashes, he found his way down to ground level.

Laurie is nearly sixty years of age and performed this gallant rescue without thought for his own safety.

Albert Marshall, Yard Foreman, The Liverpool Gas Company.

During an air raid and whilst bombs were still falling, Marshall climbed to the tops of gas-holders and extinguished fires caused by incendiary bombs.

He showed great courage, and by his example led others in putting out a number of fires.

Audrey Magdalen Domenica Phillimore, Assistant Nurse, Civil Nursing Reserve and British Red Cross, Portsmouth.

A H.E. bomb demolished a house and a woman who was seriously injured was trapped. A small opening was made in the wreckage and Miss Phillimore was lowered into the cellar and rendered first aid to the victim.

During the time Miss Phillimore was in the cellar bombs were dropped nearby and she was in danger from the crumbling walls which were likely to collapse. Despite this she stayed until the casualty was released.

Maurice Basil Trueman, Firewatcher (Postman), London Postal Region.

During an air raid Mr. Trueman was fire-watching at a branch office. In addition to helping to deal with a number of incendiary bombs which fell around the office, Trueman gave assistance and first-aid treatment to refugees from adjoining properties. For six hours he successfully kept in check fires from adjacent buildings which were within a few feet of the Post Office premises. Despite the volumes of smoke and the fire he continued to put out the flames for many hours. As the result of Trueman's courageous conduct in staying alone at his post during many hours of great danger, the Post Office premises were saved from serious damage.

George Windsor, Pressureman,
Francis McNally, Assistant Pressureman,

} The Liverpool Gas Company.

During an air raid Windsor and McNally twice climbed to the crown of one of the gas-holders to deal with fires caused by incendiary bombs.

Both men showed exceptional courage and dealt most promptly with the fires in spite of the great danger from falling bombs and shell splinters.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

Henry John Adams, Retort House Stoker, Gas Light and Coke Company Limited.

William Fraser Annand, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Consulting Physician, Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry.

Joseph Atkinson, Fireman, Works Fire Fighting Service, Clydebank.

Hubert Claude Bailey, Police Constable, Coventry City Police.

Leslie Clare Banham, Superintendent, First Aid Party Depot, Yarmouth.

Stephen David Biggs, Stoker, Gas Light and Coke Company Limited.

Charles Frederick Basil Bishop, Heavy Lifter, Gas Light and Coke Company Limited.

Bernard Bonham, Member, First Aid Party, Coventry.

James Bray, Retort Pipe Fitter, Gas Light and Coke Company Limited.

William Charles Edward Caswell, Assistant Valveman, Gas Light and Coke Company Limited.

Amos Clarkson, B.Sc., A.I.C., Station Chemist, Gas Light and Coke Company Limited.

Arthur Lewis Cochrane, Superintendent, A.R.P. Rescue Service, Crosby.

Joseph Austin Coleman, Stoker, Gas Light and Coke Company Limited.

Walter Edwin Davies, Chief Officer, Ystradgynlais Fire Brigade.

Herbert Dreaves, Pressureman, The Liverpool Gas Company.

George William Dye, Foreman, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Great Yarmouth.

Stanley Emmason, Auxiliary Fireman, Bolton Auxiliary Fire Service.

Mark Ferrow, Wardrobe Dealer's Assistant, Great Yarmouth.

Walter John Forsey, Dumper Driver, Gas Light and Coke Company Limited.

William Arthur Freston, Stoker, Gas Light and Coke Company Limited.

Beverley Hislop Griffin, Insurance Clerk, Bristol.

James Edmund Hayes, Leader, Works Fire Fighting Squad, The Liverpool Gas Company.

Miss Barbara Edith Hellier, A.R.P. Messenger, Portsmouth.

John Hines, A.R.P. Messenger, First Aid Depot, Coventry.

Edwin Aspinall Hitchon (deceased), Auxiliary Fireman, Bolton Auxiliary Fire Service.

Noel Rowland Hutchinson Holmes, M.B., Ch.B., Medical Officer, Coventry A.R.P. Casualty Service.

George Howard Hughes, Section Officer, Swansea Auxiliary Fire Service.

The Reverend Brynmor Lewis Jones, B.A., Member, First Aid Party, Coventry.

John William Jones, Assistant Valveman, Gas Light and Coke Company Limited.

George Longmate, Auxiliary Fireman, Bolton Auxiliary Fire Service.

John McLean, Fireman, Works Fire Fighting Service, Clydebank.

James Meiklejohn, Fireman, Works Fire Fighting Service, Clydebank.

Miss Margaret Meldrum, Staff Nurse, Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry.

John Samuel Mercer, Pressureman, The Liverpool Gas Company.

John Morrison, Assistant Firemaster, Works Fire Fighting Service, Clydebank.

George William Pearl, Gatekeeper, Gas Light and Coke Company Limited.

Ernest Pelter, Firm's Firewatcher, Bristol.

Thomas Ambrose Poulson, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Bristol.

Cressy Frederick George Sherlock, Plater, Gas Light and Coke Company Limited.

Thomas Shipman, Stoker, Gas Light and Coke Company Limited.

William Henry Smith, Police Constable, Coventry City Police.

Harry Stinchcombe, Police Sergeant, Coventry City Police.

Edwin Charles Stuckey, Purifying Foreman, Gas Light and Coke Company Limited.

John Tye, Member, First Aid Party, Coventry.
Miss Greta Eileen Underwood, Nurse, Coventry
and Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry.
Michael Godwin Vicker, Clerk, Bristol.
James Webb, Fireman, Works Fire Fighting
Service, Clydebank.
John Appleton Wells, Valveman, Gas Light
and Coke Company Limited.

Samuel Williams, Auxiliary Fireman, Swansea
Auxiliary Fire Service.
Harry Winter, L.M.S., Resident Surgical
Officer, Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital,
Coventry.
Arthur Leonard Clarke Young, Dehydration
Plant Attendant and Assistant Works Fire-
man, Gas Light and Coke Company Limited.

LONDON

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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1941

Price Sixpence net

S.O. Code No. 65-35210