



SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 19th of AUGUST, 1941

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

FRIDAY, 22 AUGUST, 1941

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
22nd August, 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 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 Additional Members of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

Captain Brindley Aider Luen, Assistant Dockmaster, Great Western Railway.

When showers of incendiary bombs were dropped on a dock, Captain Luen immediately took charge of the fire-fighting arrangements. He directed the efforts of the crews and, when the pumps appeared likely to fail for want of oil and petrol, he organised the supply and distribution and was able to keep all appliances in use.

Captain Luen continued with his work throughout the raid, dealing with incendiary bombs, manning hoses and helping wherever the need seemed most urgent. By his general conduct and entire disregard of personal safety he set a fine example.

Cecil Browning Lyne, Chief Officer, Bodmin Fire Brigade.

During air raids on Plymouth, fires were started and spread rapidly through a narrow thoroughfare connecting two streets. Mains were damaged and water had to be taken from a large bomb crater nearby. The heat was intense and there was great danger from falling debris.

Chief Officer Lyne directed the laying of hose and, in spite of a continual fall of incendiary and high explosive bombs, successfully fought the blaze.

Except for a short rest, this officer remained on the fire ground for thirty-six hours during intensive air attacks. He showed courage and endurance of a high order and under his energetic leadership much valuable property was saved.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Ralph Cyril Block, War Reserve Constable, "B" Division, Metropolitan Police.

George Reginald Prowles, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Fulham.

Several houses were demolished by bombs and people were trapped.

A faint cry for help was heard and with great difficulty Mr. Prowles, assisted by War Reserve Block, commenced tunnelling towards the spot.

Gradually Prowles and Block disappeared into the tunnel which they shored up as they crawled along. Eventually they reached an

injured woman, who was pinned down by rafters. The two men cut through the rafters with a saw, taking care to prevent any collapse of overhead debris.

Gas and water were escaping and ammonia fumes were being given off from a damaged refrigerator.

After two hours' work in a very cramped and confined space the woman was extricated and carried to safety.

Augustus Blundell, Deputy A.R.P. Post Warden, Westminster.

Warden Blundell has shown outstanding courage during enemy air attacks. He has frequently risked his life to save others and on more than one occasion buildings have collapsed while he was inside performing rescue work.

Mr. Blundell has carried out his work without any consideration of his own safety and has saved many lives.

Henry James Cousins, Plumber, Bootle.

A high explosive bomb demolished a house and persons were trapped in a brick shelter. The top of the shelter was leaning on the bricks of the side wall which was pinning the casualties underneath. The back wall of the house had fallen on top of the shelter. Cousins crawled underneath a large concrete slab, which formed the roof of the shelter, and fixed props to take the weight. This allowed the brickwork to be removed and the victims were then extricated alive without further suffering. Mr. Cousins was fully aware that he might be buried under the bricks and concrete but risked his life to effect this gallant rescue.

Frederick Edward Mockford, A.R.P. Incident Officer, Deptford.

Mr. Mockford has displayed conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty throughout enemy air attacks on London. He has taken charge of all the major occurrences in his area and has been instrumental in saving many lives. On numerous occasions Mockford has risked his life to rescue persons buried in demolished buildings and has faced the many dangers with cheerfulness and determination.

He has examined and reported on unexploded time bombs and has carried out these duties with utter disregard of the danger to himself. Mr. Mockford has contributed greatly to the efficiency of the A.R.P. services and his courageous conduct, sustained for a lengthy period, has set a splendid example.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Maurice Cohen Starr, A.R.P. Warden, Holborn.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Clifford Arthur Thomas Stratton, A.R.P. Warden, Holborn.

Walter Alfred Ricketts, Member, Supplementary Fire Party, Holborn.

During an air attack, bombs demolished two blocks of flats and part of the building was set on fire. Three persons were trapped on the fourth floor.

An extension ladder was obtained but was not long enough. Starr, assisted by Stratton and Ricketts, climbed up the wreckage and helped two of the trapped persons to the room

below. The third had to be carried as he was injured. The uninjured victims were helped down the ladder by Stratton and Ricketts and then Starr, tying a rope around the injured man, carried him down the ladder. A few minutes later the building collapsed.

Starr, who acted as leader, Stratton and Ricketts, showed great coolness and courage.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Reginald Arthur Anderson, }
A.R.P. Warden, } Woolwich.
Edward Albert Kraft, A.R.P. }
Warden, }

A building received a direct hit and was completely demolished.

Wardens Anderson and Kraft tunnelled under the debris for nearly two hours. They were in constant danger from collapsing masonry but eventually succeeded in rescuing a man alive.

Both men showed great courage and devotion to duty.

Charles John Barber, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Leyton.

Joseph Charles Anselm Ryan, Junior Station Inspector, "J" Division, Metropolitan Police.

A high explosive bomb demolished a building and seven people were trapped underneath the wreckage.

Inspector Ryan, who was off duty, at once assumed command of the situation and, with the help of Leader Barber, hacked away the debris and made a small hole into which he crawled in an endeavour to reach the cellar. Barber followed him and after two hours hard work the trapped persons were released uninjured.

The men were in grave danger from a fire which was burning under the wreckage and there was also the possibility of a further collapse of the building. By their courage and disregard of personal safety, Ryan and Barber saved seven lives.

Herbert William Davey }
Beswick, Inspector, } Plymouth Police
Alan John Tucker Hill, } Force.
Police Constable, }

During an air raid incendiary bombs fell on a Goods Depot and ammunition trucks were set on fire. Nearby a wagon was burning in a shed, containing a large supply of food stuffs. It was essential that the wagon should be removed. Exploding ammunition was flying in all directions but, ignoring the danger to themselves, Inspector Beswick and Constable Hill entered the shed and managed to push the wagon to a position where it could do little damage.

The courageous action of the two men saved a substantial quantity of food.

Joseph Garside Brammall, Porter, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

When incendiary bombs fell on a siding, Brammall, who was aware that ammunition trucks were stabled there, at once, made his way to the spot and found a sheeted wagon of ammunition on fire. He removed an incendiary bomb from the top and then uncoupled and levered the wagon away. He helped to isolate other burning wagons and

remained on duty in the siding until all the fires were extinguished.

Brammall showed courage and devotion to duty in very dangerous circumstances.

John Francis Clancey, Auxiliary Fireman, Birmingham Auxiliary Fire Service.

During an air raid premises were struck by incendiary bombs and fire broke out.

Whilst the fire was being attacked a terrific explosion occurred in the burning part of the building due to the ignition of varnish tanks. Without hesitation Auxiliary Fireman Clancey went to the edge of the fire and succeeded in checking the spread of the flames. There was imminent danger of a further explosion occurring but although Clancey knew this he remained at his post and by his courageous action drove the fire back and prevented further damage.

Hector McDonald Fisher, Constable, Port of London Authority Police.

For brave conduct when employed on bomb disposal duties.

Jasper Leslie Fowler, Police Constable,
Evan James Davies, Probationary Constable, } Police Force. Birmingham

A H.E. bomb demolished houses and people were trapped in the debris.

Police Constable Fowler and Probationary Constable Davies took charge of the incident and commenced rescue operations. Quantities of fallen masonry had to be removed by hand but eventually three women were released. After further search other casualties were found. Working with a pick and shovel, the men removed sufficient debris to enable a door to be raised and, while Davies held it up Fowler crawled beneath and was able to drag out three men.

Whilst the Constables were engaged in this important part of the building collapsed. Both men showed a very high standard of courage.

Harry George Harvey, Acting Station Officer, London Fire Service.

Acting Station Officer Harvey was in charge of a number of appliances at fires caused by enemy action. The fierceness of these fires caused Harvey to become almost blind but, in spite of very severe pain, he continued to go from one fire to another directing operations and encouraging the men in his charge.

He displayed great powers of endurance and devotion to duty.

John Ernest Ithell, Goods Guard, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

Mr. Ithell took an engine to some sidings to help in the work of isolating burning ammunition wagons which had been set on fire by enemy action. Regardless of danger, he stood in one of the wagons and removed unexploded shells.

During the whole time the work was being performed, H.E. bombs fell nearby and there was great danger from exploding ammunition.

Arthur William Larson, Fire Inspector,
John Francis Cresswell Peace, Police Constable, } Plymouth Police Fire Brigade.

William Albert Edgecombe, Auxiliary Fireman, Plymouth Auxiliary Fire Service.

Bombs caused several large fires at an Omnibus Depot. Fire Inspector Larson was in charge of the operations which were rendered difficult and dangerous by burning oil and exploding petrol tanks. Larson, Police Fireman Peace and Auxiliary Fireman Edgecombe took up the most dangerous positions and after three hours succeeded in subduing the flames.

During the whole of this period high explosive and incendiary bombs were being dropped and the three men suffered considerably from the effect of blast and flying debris but refused to give up. They set a very fine example of fire fighting in conditions where there was great risk of death or injury.

William Clifford Morgan, Temporary Cargo Foreman,
Frederick Edward Saunders, Temporary Cargo Foreman, } Great Western Railway.

Incendiary bombs set fire to a Pump House. Morgan and Saunders attempted to get the fire under control. When it became obvious that nothing could save the building, they broke open the doors and succeeded in saving the pump, together with the equipment. While they were getting the pump out a small petrol stock exploded.

The two men operated pumps at other fires and although H.E. bombs fell within a short distance of where they were working, Morgan and Saunders remained at their post and saved much valuable property.

Charles Henry Pote, Goods Shunter, Great Western Railway.

During an air raid on a Railway depot many fires broke out. Pote, who was off duty, at once went to the area to help. He obtained an engine and crew and isolated five trucks of ammunition which were on fire. He then helped to extinguish fires in other wagons.

At the time of the raid the sidings were almost full of traffic and there is no doubt that Pote's prompt and courageous action saved valuable property and material.

John James Shelley, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Nuneaton.

During an enemy air attack, houses were damaged by bombs. Shelley tunnelled his way through a very dangerous part of a wrecked building and entered the cellar, into which hot water was pouring from the heating system. Masonry was falling all the time and the cellars were rapidly flooding, but he searched until he found the victims. When further bombs fell he was buried by falling debris but managed to extricate himself.

Shelley's courage and perseverance were outstanding.

Leonard Frederick Smith, A.R.P. Warden, Southampton.

Many persons were trapped in wrecked houses during an air raid.

Warden Smith immediately began rescue work. At the time hostile aircraft were overhead and shell splinters were falling. With the help of another Warden, he was responsible for extricating twenty persons who were either injured or trapped by fallen debris. Smith displayed courage, initiative and endurance, and set a splendid example to his fellow Wardens.

Leslie Edmund Procter Stephens, Messenger, Plymouth Auxiliary Fire Service.

During an air attack on Plymouth, incendiary and H.E. bombs caused many fires.

Stephens was attached to a crew which was sent to a large fire. A high explosive bomb fell nearby and Stephens sustained injuries and suffered from the effects of blast. In spite of this he continued with his duties carrying messages and helping to fight the fires.

Stephens, a boy of 16½ years of age, displayed courage and a high sense of duty throughout the period of the raids.

Arnold Llanyon Swaffield, Checker, Great Western Railway.

When an air raid took place, Swaffield was acting as Telephone Operator. He remained at his post until telephonic communication was severed and then volunteered for any duty.

He was sent to collect oil and arrange for its distribution amongst the various pumps which were in use at several large fires. Bombs fell on or within a few yards of the road which he had to traverse but in spite of this he reached the oil depot and took charge of the distribution.

Swaffield showed courage and determination in very dangerous circumstances.

Wilfred Anderson Tilly, Police Constable, "G" Division, Metropolitan Police.

Police Constable Tilly has shown courage and exceptional devotion to duty throughout the period of enemy air attacks.

On one occasion when a H.E. bomb demolished a four-storey dwelling house and people were trapped in the basement, Tilly worked untiringly in an effort to tunnel through the debris.

Later the same night a man was trapped in a demolished house. Gas was escaping but Tilly crawled through a small opening in an attempt to rescue him. Fire broke out in the wreckage but the Constable continued his efforts until forced to abandon the attempt when exhausted and overcome by the effects of smoke.

His energy and bravery in the face of danger have been outstanding.

Cyril Gordon Tobias, District Officer, London Fire Service.

When high explosive and incendiary bombs caused several fires in his area, District Officer Tobias took charge of the operations. The water supply failed but with initiative and skill he organised a relaying service which prevented the fires from spreading. It was necessary for him frequently to visit the water relaying units and the journeys, which had to be made on foot, were extremely dangerous owing to falling debris.

Tobias remained continuously at work for nineteen hours and he showed great coolness, efficiency and exceptional qualities of leadership.

Arthur Townsend, Inspector, "Z" Division, Metropolitan Police.

Bombs caused considerable damage to a house and a fire broke out.

Inspector Townsend at once organised a rescue squad, entered the burning building, which was liable to collapse, and searched for victims in spite of the fact that the fire frequently cut off his line of retreat.

The faint cries of a child could be heard and the Inspector worked through the wreckage until he was able to extricate a baby. He persisted in his efforts and was finally successful in releasing another child.

Inspector Townsend displayed courage and skill with no regard for his personal safety.

Arthur Henry Warner, Messenger, Coventry Auxiliary Fire Service.

During an air raid, Messenger Warner, acting in the capacity of a fireman, worked a pump until it ran short of petrol. He then went to his Station for supplies and with these he cycled back to the fire and once more carried on, helping the firemen.

Warner performed his duties of messenger during heavy bombing and showed great courage and determination.

John Harold Whitehead, A.R.P. Messenger, Dartford.

High explosive bombs completely wrecked houses and people were trapped under the debris.

Whitehead was sent to the scene and gave valuable instructions as to where tunnelling operations should commence. A small channel was made through which he crawled and found two women trapped between the ground floor and the first floor which had collapsed. During the operations Whitehead worked strenuously and without regard for his personal safety, his task being made more dangerous by the presence of escaping gas.

By his cool deliberation and careful judgment Whitehead was instrumental in the saving of two lives.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

Albert Edward Abbott, A.R.P. Warden, Bootle.
Frank Bailey, Leading Fireman, Manchester Auxiliary Fire Service.

Daniel Baines, Dock Labourer, Hull.

Eric Calveley, Acting Shunter, Great Western Railway.

Jack Alfred Darkins, Police Constable, "P" Division, Metropolitan Police.

Terence Donlon, Fireman, Manchester Auxiliary Fire Service.

Charles Durant, A.R.P. Warden, Woolwich.

John Fotheringham, Police Constable, "Z" Division, Metropolitan Police.

John Francis, Locomotive Driver, Great Western Railway.

Leonard Henry Freake, War Reserve Constable, "Z" Division, Metropolitan Police.

George Groombridge, Farm Hand, Crockenhill.

Miss Muguette May Edith Hands, Telephonist, Coventry Auxiliary Fire Service.

Albert Harrison, Fireman, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

Albert Hughes, A.R.P. Messenger, Bootle.

Ernest Irwin, Shunter, Great Western Railway.

John Reginald Jones, Driver, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

John Henry Kidd, Fireman, Manchester Auxiliary Fire Service.
 George Robert Liddiard, A.R.P. Warden, Poplar.
 David Brynmor Lloyd, Bridgeman, Great Western Railway.
 Edward McLaren, Motor Driver, Deptford.
 Richard Miller, A.R.P. Messenger, Plymouth.
 Augustus Moore, Pair-horse Carman, Deptford.
 Jack Nicholls, Shopkeeper, Crockenhill.
 Ernest Oldham, Fireman, Manchester Auxiliary Fire Service.
 James Packman, Licensee, "The Chequers," Crockenhill.
 William H. Perfect, Farm Hand, Crockenhill.

James Albert Petherick, A.R.P. Warden, Wallasey.
 Hilary Alfred Philpott, Shunter, Great Western Railway.
 Frederick George Piper, Station Sergeant, "M" Division, Metropolitan Police.
 William Jesse Piper, Locomotive Fireman, Great Western Railway.
 Albert Playfoot, Dairyman, Crockenhill.
 Frank Robson, War Reserve Constable, "M" Division, Metropolitan Police.
 William Summers, Engineer, Hull Fishing Vessels Owners Association.
 Frederick William Watts, Police Sergeant, "M" Division, Metropolitan Police.

LONDON

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1941

Price Sixpence net

S.O. Code No. 65-35252

