



## SUPPLEMENT

TO

# The London Gazette

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FRIDAY, 3 OCTOBER, 1941

### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
3rd October, 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 an Additional Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—*

Arthur George Aves, Charge Engineer, Poplar Borough Council Electricity Undertaking.

During an air raid H.E. and incendiary bombs caused extensive damage in the area around a generating station. Mr. Aves, who was responsible for the co-ordination of the activities of the staff, showed great devotion to duty and under his leadership they not only saved the station from destruction but, despite the dangers of the raid and difficulties caused by the disorganisation of essential services, were instrumental in quickly restoring supplies to a large area.

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

William Albert Honour, Superintendent, "B" Division, Metropolitan Police.

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

John Cyprian Nightingale, Station Inspector, Wyndham Vavasor Watkins, Police Constable,	}	"B" Division, Metropolitan Police.
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Alan David Falk, Warden, Civil Defence Wardens Service, Kensington.

A bomb caused damage to property and fires started. A man was trapped under debris on the second floor of a building, the roof and top floor of which had fallen in. The outer wall had been blown out and a remaining wall was likely to collapse. In addition, a fire was raging in the adjoining house and another at premises opposite.

Superintendent Honour, with Nightingale, Watkins and Falk, reached the second floor and found the victim lying on a bed covered with plaster and other debris from the floors above.

The heat from the fires increased but the four men began to remove the debris with their hands. Great care was necessary to ensure that no undue vibration was caused.

After a time the man was partially uncovered but he was still pinned down by a broken joist which had fallen across the upper part of his body. The removal of this joist was attended by considerable danger as any movement was likely to cause a further collapse of the wall.

Great gallantry was shown by the rescuers and after they had worked for an hour the trapped man was released without having suffered any serious injury.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Daniel John Collins, Police Sergeant, Liverpool City Police Force.

A shop, with house quarters above, was demolished by a bomb. The occupier's wife and two children were trapped in the cellar by a large quantity of debris.

Sergeant Collins began tunnelling and after strenuous efforts reached the casualties. Portions of the building were continually falling, there was an escape of coal gas and the wreckage was on fire. In spite of these dangers, the Sergeant redoubled his efforts and, with other help, the three persons were eventually released.

Collins' excellent work, performed with total disregard of his own safety, was instrumental in saving three lives.

Ernest Lewis Playford, } Civil Defence  
Leader, } Rescue Service,  
John Bradley, Member, } Bermondsey.

A building was demolished by a bomb. The basement collapsed and a Post Warden was trapped in the debris.

A Rescue Party led by Playford began digging and the trapped Warden was found ten feet beneath the debris. The work was rendered highly dangerous by the fact that a wall of an adjoining church hall was liable to collapse. Suddenly the wall started to fall. Bradley and Playford, who were in the excavation, made no move to leave the entombed man and Playford made a bridge with his body to protect the head of the Warden. The wall fell across the casualty and the two rescuers and they were buried under the mass of bricks and rubble. Rescue squads made frantic efforts to release them and Playford and Bradley were brought out severely injured. The Warden also was eventually rescued alive.

Benjamin Clive Ralph Stevens, Sector Warden, Civil Defence Wardens Service, Hampstead.

The ground floor of a house was blown away and the upper part collapsed. Stevens climbed over rubble and succeeded in pulling loose sufficient pieces of lath to enable him to crawl through into a cavity in the wreckage. The roof had collapsed and was supported by a bed in which a woman was lying pinned down by the rubble which had fallen on and around her.

The whole house constituted a mass of debris which throughout the rescue was in a state of subsidence but Stevens managed to extricate the woman and her husband. He displayed outstanding courage and risked his life to effect their release.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Arthur Charles Aldridge French, } London Fire  
Station Officer, } Brigade (now  
George Frederick Watling, } National Fire  
Station Officer, } Service).

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

John Richard Stanley Adlam, Station Officer, London Fire Brigade (now National Fire Service).

Alfred Robert Blanchard, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service (now National Fire Service).

Enemy action caused severe fires on a railway bridge and surrounding property.

Station Officers French and Watling were in charge of fire crews and under their direction the men worked bravely to save the bridge. A heavy time bomb was dropped within a few yards of where the firemen were working but although the two Station Officers and each of the members of the crew fully realised the danger to which they were exposed, they did not hesitate to tackle the fire which was within fifteen yards of the bomb.

The Station Officers displayed bold and fearless leadership and Adlam and Blanchard, with the rest of the crews, showed continued courage and persistence over a period of more than four hours and successfully prevented the flames from reaching the bomb, thus saving an important railway bridge and station.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Bernard Ireland, Stretcher Bearer, Civil Defence Stretcher Party Service, Willesden.

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

Frederick William Ernest Palmer, Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Willesden.

Bombs damaged a building, the underground boiler room of which was used as an air raid shelter. A Rescue Party, led by Mr. Palmer, began the work of extricating the occupants. Mr. Ireland, who was off duty, went down into the boiler room and brought out a man who had been rendered unconscious by coal gas. He then returned and rescued a woman. There was a strong concentration of coal gas in the boiler room, and hot water to a depth of a foot. Notwithstanding this Ireland again went back and was instrumental in bringing out another casualty. On reaching the open air he was overcome by the effects of the gas. Recovering, he once again went into the wrecked compartment to make sure that no other person remained.

Members of the Rescue Party suffered from gas poisoning and five of them, including Leader Palmer, collapsed and were taken to hospital. Palmer, however, recovered consciousness on arrival and demanded to be taken back as he remembered that two members of his Squad were last seen in the boiler house. When he returned he found that his men had been taken to hospital.

Palmer then organised a search for the recovery of two persons still believed to be entombed.

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

Robert Frederick Cowles, M.M., Post Warden, Civil Defence Wardens Service, Battersea.

Mr. Cowles has been on duty at every major incident in his area and has set an example to those working with him.

He has never hesitated to enter any damaged building to reach a casualty and render such first aid as possible. By reason of his local knowledge, Warden Cowles has been able to guide the rescuers to the actual room or spot in wrecked premises where victims were likely to be found.

Cowles has shown complete disregard of his own safety and has been instrumental in saving many lives.

Peter Charles Coyle, Member, Civil Defence Stretcher Party Service, City of London.

When a building was damaged by bombs the whole of the stone staircase and lift cage above ground floor collapsed and remained suspended against the lift cable and cage iron work. A man was trapped in the lift shaft between the ground floor and the basement. Coyle worked his way through gaps in the fallen debris and put himself in such a position that the casualty, who was suspended by an arm, could sit on his back. Morphine was administered to the trapped person but Coyle continued to support him while the Rescue Party cut a way through the dangerous structure and masonry. Throughout this time there was a risk that a further collapse of the building might take place, but Mr. Coyle remained with the victim until the rescue was completed.

George Ferrow, Book Dealer, Yarmouth.

A bomb demolished one house and damaged others. A Rescue Squad started working to release the trapped people and Ferrow helped them. The rubble was cleared and a small hole cut in the floor. Ferrow dropped through the hole to the cellar floor and in the darkness started to tunnel through the debris towards the casualties. He carried on with this work although there was danger of being trapped and was able to guide three of the victims to the exit where they were lifted out to safety.

Robert Gibson, Chargeman of Engine Fitters, H.M. Dockyard, Malta.

Mr. Gibson was Engineer-in-Charge of a floating crane during a heavy attack by enemy aircraft. Bombs fell nearby and caused fires on the deck.

Mr. Gibson remained at his post throughout the attack and, single-handed, extinguished the fires.

He showed great devotion to duty and disregard of his own safety.

Edward Richard Harris, Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, St. Pancras.

During an air raid a building was partly demolished by a bomb. People were trapped in flats on the upper storeys the rear walls of which had been blown out leaving the floor unsupported. Using a ladder Harris got to the second floor and cut his way through to the floors above. He reached the victims, lowered them to the second floor and finally carried them down the ladder to safety.

Harris then located a man lying on a bed wedged between a collapsed floor and ceiling. He cut through the springs of the bed, released the casualty and dragged him to safety through a hole tunnelled in the wreckage.

Harris, by his courage, resourcefulness and determination, saved many lives.

William Albert Horton, Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, St. Pancras.

Two people were trapped under a collapsed shelter which was in an extremely precarious state, with tons of shattered concrete and brickwork above. Horton, lying face downwards in a very limited space, cleared a tremendous amount of debris with his hands

and after four hours unceasing work, succeeded in bringing out both persons injured but alive.

Edward Joseph Smith, Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, St. Pancras.

A dwelling house was demolished by a H.E. bomb. The whole of the upper portion had fallen and was leaning against the flank wall, which was without lateral support.

Leader Smith began to work towards the cavity in which the casualties were trapped when another bomb fell nearby and caused the wall to collapse. Smith was flung across the debris but although exhausted and suffering from shock he crawled into the hole again and brought out a baby and a girl.

Leader Smith worked tirelessly and set a fearless example to all the men who worked with him.

Lewis Charles Thorogood, Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, St. Pancras.

A house was hit by a bomb. The upper floors and roof collapsed and were propped precariously against the party wall, forming a triangular cavity at ground floor level wherein people were trapped. Debris was piled against these fallen floors and the whole was liable to collapse.

Thorogood tunnelled a distance of twelve feet under the debris and after six hours arduous work he released three women. Although greatly fatigued he continued until he had prepared a way of release for a man and another woman, who were eventually brought to safety.

Thorogood set a splendid example of courage, leadership and devotion to duty.

Cephas Percy Walker, Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Woolwich.

A building was demolished by a H.E. bomb and people were buried beneath the wreckage.

Leader Walker tunnelled under the debris and administered restoratives to a man who was pinned down by iron beams on which were resting several slabs of concrete. To release him Walker had to cut these slabs with a hammer and chisel which necessitated several hours of strenuous labour. During this time he was working in the most difficult and dangerous conditions as there was a possibility of large steel girders falling. He was repeatedly warned of this but continued working until the victim was eventually released. Although suffering greatly from exhaustion Walker directed operations until all the buried persons had been located.

Walker's coolness, courage and initiative were an inspiration to all who worked with him.

#### COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been commended for brave conduct in Civil Defence:—

Arthur Appleton, Timberman, Civil Defence Rescue Service, City of London.

William George Batt, Warden, Civil Defence Wardens' Service, Southampton.

Thomas Ernest Stanley Bedford, Deputy Head Warden, Civil Defence Wardens' Service, Coventry.

- Soloman Bogush, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service (now National Fire Service).
- Geoffrey Williams Carte, M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Surgeon, London.
- Cecil Tester Coates, Leading Auxiliary, London Auxiliary Fire Service (now National Fire Service).
- Daniel Edward Cook, Builder's Foreman, London County Council.
- Frank Horace Coomber, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service (now National Fire Service).
- Ludovico Thomas Dalmasio, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service (now National Fire Service).
- Alfred Thomas Leonard Davey, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service (now National Fire Service).
- Arthur Doe, Labourer, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Willesden.
- Thomas Dunn, Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Bermondsey.
- Joseph Thomas Everson, Electrician's Assistant, Poplar Borough Council Electricity Undertaking.
- Frank Fairlie, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service (now National Fire Service).
- Leslie Edward Farrant, Temporary Fireman, London Fire Brigade (now National Fire Service).
- Henry Richard Gent, Temporary Fireman, London Fire Brigade (now National Fire Service).
- James Duggan Gregory, Driver, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Willesden.
- Harold William Charles Griffin, Technical Assistant, Poplar Borough Council Electricity Undertaking.
- George Richard Halsey, Labourer, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Willesden.
- Will Smith Harris, Warden, Civil Defence Wardens Service, Kensington.
- Donald Seymour Hawker, Carpenter, Civil Defence Rescue Service, City of London.
- Alfred John Hill, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service (now National Fire Service).
- Brewster Frederick Evans Lowing, Member of Fire watcher, Ramsgate.
- Robert Norman McLees, Head Waiter, Southampton.
- William James Martin, Fireman, Southend-on-Sea Fire Brigade (now National Fire Service).
- Charles Herbert Mascall, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service (now National Fire Service).
- Charles Octavius Henry Merriman, Warden, Civil Defence Wardens Service, Hampstead.
- James Nolan, Labourer, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Willesden.
- William Edward Partridge, Coal Attendant, Poplar Borough Council Electricity Undertaking.
- George Henry Phillips, Timberman, Civil Defence Rescue Service, City of London.
- Cornelius Richmond, Carpenter, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Willesden.
- Sidney Arthur Sears, Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, City of London.
- Richard Edward Sibley, Omnibus Conductor, London Passenger Transport Board.
- William Montague Spindler, Labourer, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Willesden.
- Alfred James Stace, Police Constable, Margate Police Force.
- George James Taylor, Labourer, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Willesden.
- James Aaron Wade, Charge Engineer, Poplar Borough Council Electricity Undertaking.
- Harry Webster, Bricklayer, Civil Defence Rescue Service, City of London.
- Henry William Gordon Wells, Police Constable, Southampton Police Force.
- John Crosthwaite White, Head Day Porter, Southampton.
- Harold James Wigzell, Omnibus Conductor, London Passenger Transport Board.
- Reginald Ernest Charles Young, Leader, Civil Defence Stretcher Party Service, Fulham.

## LONDON

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