

Sister Dennis successfully organised her staff and succeeded in safely removing twenty-five patients from the burning building regardless of the fact that during the evacuation a number of incendiary bombs fell on the front door step. It was due entirely to her calmness and presence of mind that no casualties occurred amongst the patients and staff, and certain valuable hospital stores and equipment were salvaged. Later she superintended the removal of her patients to the General Hospital, saw them comfortably settled in various wards and then immediately assisted in dealing with serious cases from the incident, remaining on duty for a further twelve hours.

Sister Dennis showed courage and remained cool and calm throughout.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Benjamin Henry Smith, Squad Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Croydon.

Awarded the British Empire Medal

(Civil Division):—

Sidney Christopher Chapman, Deputy Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Croydon.

Jack Robinson, Acetylene Cutter, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Croydon.

Bombs caused damage and flats were demolished. The whole of the floor, ceiling and roof of a top flat crashed down through to the ground floor flat and a man was trapped in the debris which was precariously balanced and further endangered by a badly damaged party wall and chimney breast.

After a rapid and clever appreciation of the situation, Smith, Chapman and the rescue squad, commenced tunnelling. Whenever the debris appeared to be in danger of collapsing, either Smith or Chapman, got in under the wreckage and carried out any necessary strutting to prevent movement. The victim, who was firmly wedged and unable to move, was continually comforted by both the Leader and his Deputy and later by Robinson. The rescue operation was extremely difficult and dangerous. The unstable mass of debris had to be cut into and so little space was available, that a mattress, bolster and pillow had to be plucked out handful by handful and the metal mattress and the head rails of a bed had to be cut through in order to effect the rescue.

Smith, in most difficult circumstances, directed the operation with skill and courage and was greatly helped by Chapman and Robinson, who worked without regard for their own safety.

Awarded the British Empire Medal
(Civil Division):—

Eric Thomas Bailey, Special Constable, Essex County Constabulary.

During an air raid a hospital was extensively damaged by bombs and patients were trapped in the wreckage.

Bailey gradually worked his way under the debris and, as it was pulled away, he directed the shoring operations. After an hours hard work in the greatest difficulty and danger a woman was rescued.

Another woman was trapped between collapsed floors and Bailey crawled through a hole, a distance of some seven or eight feet, entirely disregarding the possibility of the collapse of the material above him, extricated the victim and brought her to safety.

Bailey showed courage and skill and was instrumental in saving the lives of two women.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

Ethel Browell, M.D., B.S., Medical Officer in charge of First Aid Post, Civil Defence Casualty Service, Sunderland.

John Leslie Dorkin, Police Sergeant, Essex County Constabulary.

Miss Winifred Elizabeth Spilsbury Johnson, Messenger, Civil Defence Messenger Service, Cardiff.

Robert Jamieson McBain, Apprentice Engineer, Aberdeen.

David Thomas Rioon, Fire Guard, Grimsby.

Alick Saunders, Warden, Civil Defence Wardens Service, Grimsby.

The name of Albert William Morton is as now described and not as stated in Gazette No. 36147 dated 27th August, 1943, page 3821.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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

10th September, 1943.

The KING has been graciously pleased on the advice of Canadian Ministers to give orders for the undermentioned awards of the British Empire Medal for brave conduct:—

Awarded the British Empire Medal
(Civil Division):—

Murray Emerson Dixon, Centralia, Ontario.

John Lee Hotson, Centralia, Ontario.

While on night flying exercises an Anson Aircraft crashed on a farm. Mr. Dixon and Mr. Hotson on hearing the crash hurriedly dressed and rushed to the scene where they found the wreckage a blazing inferno. With great presence of mind they immersed themselves in an adjacent stream and, completely disregarding their personal safety, entered the burning wreckage. Despite great difficulties they extricated the pilot who unfortunately succumbed to his burns. Both men suffered burns due to the explosion of the gasoline tanks. Their determination and courage were outstanding throughout.

LONDON

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