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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD,

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
30th May, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to award the GEORGE CROSS to:—

Anthony Smith, Member, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Chelsea.

During an air raid, bombs demolished a number of four-storey houses, leaving standing only the party walls which were in a precarious condition. Gas and water mains were fractured and the gas ignited, setting fire to the buildings and wreckage, the whole of which became a raging inferno. Two floors had pancaked forming a huge pile of blazing debris but Smith burrowed a way through the burning ruins and managed to reach a casualty trapped in a front basement underneath. He released the victim, but by this time the front of the building was a solid wall of flame, the upper floors were collapsing and his escape was cut off. Carrying the casualty, Smith made his way through the flames and smoke to the rear of the house and there found a 6-inch aperture in the wreckage. He forced a way through and managed to pass the casualty to safety just as the remaining portion of the front wall collapsed into the area. Smith's eyebrows and hair were burnt and he was almost overcome by smoke but, undeterred by his ordeal, he immediately went to the assistance of a comrade who was endeavouring to rescue a woman trapped in the basement of an adjoining building, the walls of which were in a very dangerous condition. Here, working for an hour up to his waist in water, and with walls and floors on the point of collapse, Smith helped to release her. He then obtained a change of clothing and carried on until his squad was relieved.

Smith displayed outstanding gallantry and devotion to duty in conditions of the utmost danger and difficulty.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD,

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
30th May, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointment 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 Waterman (Senior), Public Works Contractor, Leeds.

For services in difficult and dangerous circumstances.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Kenneth Robert Cox, Builder's Labourer, Wandsworth.

William James Gray, Police Constable, "V" Division, Metropolitan Police.

A bomb fell on a garage, partly demolishing the building and causing a big fire.

Constable Gray was told that six employees were trapped in an air raid shelter inside the building and that their rescue was almost impossible as the flames had already reached the shelter and that a diesel oil tank nearby was liable to explode at any moment. Despite this warning Gray determined to make the attempt and Cox, a youth of 17, volunteered to help him. They managed to get into the burning building, but at first they could see nothing through the smoke and dust. The Constable, however found a man who was pinned down by debris a few feet away from the flames. The two got to work to release him and, while doing so, were almost completely overcome

by the intense heat and the fall of burning fragments of roof. Eventually the man was freed and dragged out. They had scarcely got away from the shelter, when the walls of the burning building collapsed and made the rescue of the remaining men impossible.

Cox and Gray showed great gallantry without thought for their own safety.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

William Ernest Montague Swinden, Skilled Man, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Camberwell.

During an air raid, bombs damaged houses. The external walls, roofs and floors collapsed leaving badly fractured party walls standing but likely to fall at any moment. Coal gas, which later ignited, was escaping from a broken main in the roadway.

Swinden located a woman who was pinned in a small void beneath the mass of unstable debris. The casualty could be reached only through a very small aperture and to enlarge this it was necessary to take the risk of further collapse and movement of the wreckage. Ignoring personal danger, Swinden jacked up the surrounding debris and, after four hours, had enlarged the opening sufficiently to enable the victim to be withdrawn. The escaping coal gas added to the risk and impeded the work, as Swinden was forced to take short spells in the fresh air to avoid asphyxiation. He carried on, however, till the woman was extricated and, but for his courage and complete disregard of personal danger, there is no doubt that she would not have been rescued alive.

William James Tribe, Sub-Divisional Inspector, "B" Division, Metropolitan Police.

Rodney Victor Holyhead, War Reserve Constable, "B" Division, Metropolitan Police.

During an air raid, a bomb made a deep crater which extended across the roadway and fractured a water main, sewer and a gas main. Water from the broken pipes flooded the crater, overflowed on to the roadway and filled the cellars of the adjoining houses.

People were trapped in a building and Inspector Tribe tried to reach them but found his way blocked by debris.

Inspector Tribe and Constable Holyhead then forced their way through the flood water and entered the adjoining house. Holyhead climbed through a first floor window and along a narrow ledge, about ten inches wide, and entered the damaged house. He discovered two women and a man on the ground floor and, realising the impossibility of taking the victims back the way he had come, sought an alternative way out. Meanwhile the Inspector made the perilous journey along the narrow ledge and joined the Constable.

Tribe and Holyhead then carried the two women and piloted the man through the garden, which was flooded to a depth of four feet, and over the walls to safety.

Immediately afterwards Inspector Tribe, in spite of his wet condition, went to another incident. Holyhead returned to the house to put out a fire in the grate of an upstairs

room to obviate danger from escaping gas. He then helped in the general police work.

Inspector Tribe and Constable Holyhead showed courage and great devotion to duty. In addition to the hazard of crossing a narrow ledge the officers were exposed to the grave risk of the whole structure collapsing under their weight and of being projected into the water-filled crater.

Harold Thomas Woodroffe, Deputy Post Warden, Civil Defence Wardens Service, Westminster.

Woodroffe, who was in charge of a Wardens Post during and after a heavy raid, carried out his duties with courage and determination. Whilst he was visiting his patrolling Wardens, bombs wrecked the Post and put it out of action. He was thrown through a doorway by the blast from the bombs and, although severely shaken and injured about the head and hands, Woodroffe reported the incident and asked for services to be sent immediately.

Most of his Wardens were either killed or injured, but Woodroffe did his utmost to gain some control of the situation and, by personal reconnaissance of the area, he was instrumental in finding and rescuing lightly injured casualties and in reassuring the residents and the public in shelters.

Woodroffe, by his devotion to duty and outstanding conduct, proved himself an inspiring example and set a high standard of service.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

Frederick George Ellis, Member, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Lambeth.

Edward Fullager, Leader, Rescue Party, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Crayford, Kent.

Jock McInnes, Supervisor, Civil Defence Service, Finchley.

Comfort Robert Saxby, Member, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Camberwell.

Cecily, Mrs. Tickle, Warden, Civil Defence Wardens Service, Westminster.

Percy Edmund Henry Basil Tilly, Police Constable, "B" Division, Metropolitan Police.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD,

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

30th May, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned award of the British Empire Medal, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the name of the person specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for his brave conduct.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Cyril Fradley, Baker and Confectioner, Hixon, Staffs.

When an aircraft crashed and caught fire three members of the crew jumped to safety just as the flames were spreading from the port engine to the pilot's cabin.

The fourth member of the crew was caught by his parachute harness as he was climbing out of the cabin and was left suspended on the side of the burning fuselage.

Fradley, and others, ran forward to release the airman but they were driven back by the intense heat. Fradley, however, made a second attempt. Undeterred by the flames and exploding ammunition, he returned to the blazing wreckage, grasped the airman round the legs and lifted him clear. Unfortunately, the airman died some hours later from his injuries.

Fradley was severely burned about the face and hands when making his gallant attempt to save life.

COMMENDATION.

The individual named below has been Commended for brave conduct when an aircraft crashed and caught fire:—

Eric John Conyers Hale, Lorry Driver, West Keal, Spilsby.

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30th May, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of those specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct in the Merchant Navy, when their ships encountered enemy ships, submarines, aircraft or mines.

COMMENDATIONS.

Captain James Stanton Cowan, Master.

Captain Thomas Noel Harvey Dalton, Master.

Captain David Archibald Gibbins, Master.

Hans Alfred Hansen, Esq., Chief Officer.

Aubrey Cecil Kirton, Esq., M.B., Ship's Surgeon.

Robert Munro, Able Seaman.

David Nicholas, Esq., Third Engineer Officer.

George Alexander Nicol, Esq., Third Officer.

LONDON

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