

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up the surrounding debris and, after four hours, had enlarged the opening sufficiently to enable the victim to be withdrawn.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.