

In connection with Military operations in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony:—
 Kabuta, Island Policeman, Nonouti Island.
 Ben Randolph, Kuria Island.
 Willie Schutz, Wireless Operator, Betio Islet.
 Tekai, Kuria Island.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
 OF KNIGHTHOOD,

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
29th August, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned awards of the British Empire Medal, for their brave conduct in Civil Defence;—

Awarded the British Empire Medal
(Civil Division):—

Robert James Tipper, Party Leader, London County Council Heavy Rescue Service.
 James Robert Hall, Rescue Man, London County Council Heavy Rescue Service.

During an air raid a large garage received a direct hit by a H.E. bomb and the adjoining house collapsed, trapping seven persons in the basement.

The garage burnt fiercely and efforts were made, by lightly spraying the debris, to prevent the fire obtaining a hold on the house. It soon became evident, however, that this would not suffice and the water pressure was increased, thus adding considerably to the hazards of the rescue operations.

Tipper and Hall made an aperture in the very large heap of debris and reached the roof of the basement. The basement, however, was found to have collapsed although of concrete construction. The two men made an opening beneath the roof and by careful clearance and propping formed a tunnel about six feet long through which they crawled and gained access to the space in which the seven persons were trapped. They were then able to pull them out, one by one. The water in the basement had risen to a depth of 2 feet before the rescues were completed and throughout the operation Tipper and Hall were not only facing dangers of working under the debris but also of fire and flood.

Tipper and Hall showed courage and determination and were mainly responsible for saving seven lives.

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