

Awarded the George Medal:—

Harold Franklin Brown, M.B.E., Fourth Engineer Officer, Merchant Navy.

The ship was engaged on salvage operations at Naples. Two officers descended into the interior of an overturned derrick barge and, to facilitate the removal of this craft, a manhole had to be cut in the side to allow work to continue on the deck below. It was intended to cut a second manhole in the deck and a Salvage Officer and one of the officers of the ship were doing this work when an explosion took place which fired the compartment. The ship's officer was overcome by the flames before he could free himself and sustained serious burns from which he subsequently died. Mr. Brown dragged him clear and then descended into the still burning compartment and brought out the Salvage Officer. Mr. Brown, although on the point of collapse, was able to drag him to the manhole and into a stream of water which was being directed from another ship near by.

Mr. Brown made a gallant attempt to save the life of his shipmate and, but for his further prompt and courageous action, the Salvage Officer would undoubtedly have been burned to death or suffocated by the smoke which followed the fire.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Charles Richard Williams, Farm Labourer, Sherrards Green, Malvern.

When an aircraft crashed and burst into flames Williams ran to the scene and was told by an injured member of the crew who had got clear of the wreckage that the pilot was still inside. Ignoring the smoke and flames, Williams went right up to the burning aircraft where he found that the pilot was badly injured and pinned down by the debris.

He managed to release the pilot, dragged him out of the flames and carried him away from the aircraft. Shortly afterwards, cannon shells carried by the aircraft started to explode.

Williams, by his prompt and gallant action saved the pilot's life.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Frederick George Mitchell, Member, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Portsmouth.

During an air raid a H.E. bomb destroyed premises and a man was trapped in a cellar which had collapsed and was covered with wreckage from the building above.

After debris had been cleared away, Dr. Taylor and Mitchell entered the cellar through a small opening between two concrete slabs, one of which was supporting the debris of the house. The casualty was trapped at the base of these slabs and the cutting of the reinforcement had to be effected by means of a hacksaw. Each time a piece of reinforcement was cut through, the supporting concrete slabs moved, thereby endangering the lives of the rescuers. Neither Dr. Taylor or Mitchell came out of the hole until the casualty was eventually removed 2 hours later.

Dr. Taylor and Mitchell showed courage and determination with a total disregard of personal danger.

Awarded the George Medal:—

George Samuel Alfred Woodward, B.E.M., Leader, Rescue Party, London County Council Heavy Rescue Service.

Walter Capon, B.E.M., Skilled Man, London County Council Heavy Rescue Service.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Charles Augustus Littlejohn, Leader, Rescue Party, London County Council Heavy Rescue Service.

Edward Arthur Harbour, Rescue Man, London County Council Heavy Rescue Service.

During an air raid a H.E. bomb demolished premises. A woman was located in a flooded basement where she was pinned beneath the wreckage of three floors and the roof which had collapsed and caught fire.

Woodward and Capon tunnelled downwards for a distance of 15 feet until they reached the casualty. Water from hoses and broken mains was accumulating in the basement and had reached a height of about 4 feet. Working up to their waists in water, Woodward and Capon, with the assistance of Littlejohn, succeeded in freeing the victim and took her to the surface, the whole operation lasting about an hour.

Woodward and Capon then went to another building, part of which had been demolished by blast. In extremely dangerous circumstances, Capon rescued a woman who was trapped under 10 feet of debris. A fire was raging nearby and bricks were falling all around. Woodward, meanwhile, with the help of Harbour, concentrated on the attempted rescue of a boy pinned under masonry and timber. Later they were joined by Capon, but unfortunately their joint efforts were unavailing and the boy died after an operation had been performed to secure his release.

Woodward and Capon showed great courage and devotion to duty and were greatly helped by Harbour who acted as a human shore during the rescue work. Littlejohn organised and led rescue efforts

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
12th September, 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:—

Alan Churton Taylor, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Medical Officer in charge of First Aid Post, Civil Defence Casualty Service, Southsea.