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TUESDAY, 6 MARCH, 1945

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD,**

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

*6th March, 1945.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned promotion in and appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, 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.

*To be an Additional Officer of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—*

Captain John Murray, M.B.E., Master, s.s. "Dundee" (Dundee, Perth & London Shipping Company Ltd.).

The s.s. "Dundee" went to the assistance of a tank landing craft which was in distress in the Atlantic. The weather was very bad with strong wind and high seas and when the landing craft was sighted she was almost awash. Efforts were made immediately to get rocket lines on board and to launch rafts from the windward side. As these efforts were unsuccessful the "Dundee" was manoeuvred as close alongside the craft as possible. Five survivors were able to board the rescue vessel but, owing to the weather conditions, the ships then collided and it was necessary to take the "Dundee" clear. Again she was manoeuvred into position and contact was established by means of rockets. A raft was then passed to the disabled craft and three more men were rescued. Shortly afterwards the landing craft foundered, forcing the remainder of her crew to take to their own raft. The "Dundee" closed this raft and four more men were picked up.

Captain Murray displayed exceptional judgment and seamanship throughout. In spite of the very great risk involved, he unhesitatingly decided to place his ship alongside the disabled landing craft and this effort, which called for skill and courage of a high order, undoubtedly saved the lives of twelve men.

*To be an Additional Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—*

Vincent Izzi Picozzi, British Resident in Rome. For services to the Forces in the Mediterranean Area.

**COMMENDATIONS.**

Those named below have been Commended for brave conduct.

When rescuing the crew of a tank landing craft:—

William Mitchell, Boatswain, s.s. "Dundee" (Dundee, Perth & London Shipping Company, Ltd.).

George Morrice, Able Seaman, s.s. "Dundee" (Dundee, Perth & London Shipping Company, Ltd.).

Samuel Neeson, Seaman, s.s. "Dundee" (Dundee, Perth & London Shipping Company, Ltd.).

When rendering services to the Forces in the Mediterranean Area:—

Mary Mure, Mrs. Boyd, British Resident in Rome.

Miss Estelle Hailwood, British Resident in Rome.

Father Conrad Morin, British Resident in Rome.

Father Ronald Pilkington, British Resident in Rome.

Miss Mary Ethel Stanley, British Resident in Rome.

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD,**

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

*6th March, 1945.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointments 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 Additional Members of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—*

Baldev Sahai Kaushal, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Medical Officer, Mobile Unit, Civil Defence Casualty Service.

Dr. Kaushal has served with the Civil Defence Service since the beginning of the war and on more than one occasion has entered confined spaces in dangerous debris in order to give aid to a casualty. When a bomb dropped in the gardens in front of his house, he sustained injuries which caused him to lose consciousness. After some minutes he recovered and it was possible to get him into an ambulance. On hearing, however, that there was a person under the debris he refused to go to hospital and attended to the casualty, giving an injection of morphine. He would not leave the site until he was assured that all casualties were cleared.

Dr. Kaushal has shown courage and devotion to duty and has been the means of saving many lives.

Herbert Stanley Knight, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Medical Officer, Civil Defence First Aid Service.

Dr. Knight has been out on duty at a very considerable number of incidents caused by enemy action, encouraging everyone by his coolness and cheeriness, and inspiring them by his efficiency and perseverance. Dr. Knight has always been ready to tackle any job, no matter how difficult. He has climbed up into partly demolished premises, down into debris-filled basements and has crawled through tunnels to render first-aid and to succour the injured. At one incident, which took nearly 27 hours to clear up, Dr. Knight stood by the whole night and showed great fortitude in remaining until all the casualties were brought out.

Dr. Knight has shown courage, devotion to duty and tenacity of purpose.

James Leitch Keir Lawson, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S., Medical Officer, Light Mobile Unit, Civil Defence Casualty Service.

Dr. Lawson's courage and constant and expeditious attendance at air raid incidents during a period of over four years has set a very high example of devotion to duty.

On one occasion he was told that a woman with serious injuries had been released from under debris and was lying on the first floor of a wrecked building. The two upper floors of the premises had been shattered by blast, leaving the roof and attic floor overhanging in an unsupported position. Dr. Lawson immediately obtained a ladder and, without thought for his own safety, crawled through a small aperture in the wreckage and gave morphia injections to the casualty.

*To be an Additional Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—*

Charles Harvey Bateman, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Medical Officer, Civil Defence First Aid Service.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

David James, Staff Officer, Civil Defence Rescue Service.

Houses were demolished by enemy action and people were buried in the debris. Dr. Bateman and Mr. James worked almost continuously in very dangerous circumstances under the wreckage, James directing the rescue operations which enabled the Doctor to attend to the trapped casualties. Although the wall above was in danger of collapsing on them, they tunnelled 12 feet into the wreckage to reach a trapped woman crushed by the debris. The Doctor remained to give her injections and looked after her until she was released.

Dr. Bateman and James showed courage and determination and saved the life of the casualty.

*To be an Additional Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—*

William Thomas Garthorpe Boul, M.D., Ch.B., Officer-in-Charge, Civil Defence Casualty Service.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

Alfred Dandy, Party Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service.

Benjamin Andrew Garwood, Party Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service.

Frederick Marshall, Party Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service.

Four people were trapped under the debris of houses which had been demolished by enemy action. Garwood directed rescue operations in a very skilful manner. After tunnelling into the debris and locating the casualties, he set to work to free them. Working for 45 minutes in a confined space, close to a smouldering fire, he managed to rescue two of the victims. To prevent his collapse, he then had to be relieved, much against his wishes. Dandy then went into the tunnel and, by jacking up the debris, was able to enlarge the space. He worked with extreme skill and care and rescued a boy and attempted to rescue a man who was in an extremely difficult position. By this time Dandy had been working for approximately 40 minutes and was ordered to leave the cavity and come out for a rest.

Marshall, relieving Dandy in the excavation, endeavoured to enlarge the cavity by working with additional jacks. He cut away timbers and floor joists, and removed a block of masonry which was holding down the casualty across the legs, by carefully breaking it to pieces with hammer and chisel. The man was rescued after two hours.

Dr. Boul very courageously burrowed down under the wreckage with Garwood to render medical attention and remained under the debris until the last casualty was extricated. During this period he sustained the male victim who was lying face downwards almost in the fireplace, in which there was a fire smouldering, his legs being trapped by masses of masonry and timber. Dr. Boul supported him in this position throughout the two hours taken to carry out the rescue, subject all the time to falling debris and the danger of shifting wreckage.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Edward James Bell, Assistant Staff Officer, Civil Defence Rescue Service.

Mr. Bell has led his men in their difficult and dangerous work with great skill and un-sparing energy and with complete disregard of his personal safety. His courage and leadership have been a wonderful inspiration to the men under his command and have been responsible for the saving of many lives.

On one occasion, when a building had been wrecked by enemy action, Bell worked for several hours to reach a trapped casualty. Although the wreckage was extremely unstable, with a portion of the roof overhanging, he crawled through a small aperture and passed food and drink to the victim and eventually brought him to safety.

William Charles Crawley, Driver, Civil Defence Rescue Service.

Edward William Albert Dorrell, Party Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service.

Joseph Woodhouse, Station Rescue Officer, Civil Defence Rescue Service.

Enemy action caused extensive damage to one section of a five-storey block of tenement buildings. Portions of the east wall collapsed, bringing down roof, floors and debris and leaving shattered walls 50 feet high in a most dangerous condition.

Driver Crawley, aware of the danger involved, volunteered to attempt rescue operations. He began tunnelling into the wreckage in a prone position, cutting through successive obstructions until he was below the suspended floors. He located a woman who was lying horizontally on a door which formed the base of a triangular trap straddled by floors which had collapsed above it. These were insecurely wedged at the base, some five feet above basement level and, owing to the enormous pressure from the debris above, were in constant danger of collapse. Crawley was joined by Woodhouse, who decided that it was impossible to remove the woman by the route through which the void had been entered. It was thereupon decided to cut horizontally through the west wall of the trap. Woodhouse and Crawley, from within the void, and Dorrell within the shattered shell of the building and beneath the debris on the far side of the void, started their three-hour task of tunnelling through to each other. Working with bit-and-brace and saws they cut through the joists and floor boards and, removing the debris sandwiched between successive layers of flooring, made a sufficiently large cavity to enable the casualty to be removed.

From the time that Crawley commenced tunnelling until the woman had been removed from the debris, five hours had elapsed and the three men, under the constant threat of being crushed by the unstable mass of debris above them, had worked with the utmost gallantry and with complete disregard of their personal safety.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

Victor Edward Bray, Police Constable.

Edward Arthur Clark, Warden, Civil Defence Wardens Service.

Frederick William Florance, Warden, Civil Defence Wardens Service.

Robert Hall, Party Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service.

Frank Rudduck, War Reserve Police Constable.

Christopher Walter Twort, Member, Civil Defence Rescue Service.

Harold Upsher, Lorry Driver.

A house was practically demolished by enemy action and only the back wall and parts of the side and front walls remained standing. Three women were known to be in the wreckage. One of these, an elderly invalid, was trapped in her bed in the front of the basement. There was a pile of debris about 15 feet high overlapping the front area with its railings and grating. Bray and Rudduck, by clearing away sufficient of the debris to enable them to move part of the area grating, squeezed through into the area below. In doing this they were subjected to serious risk owing to the heavy load of debris on the grating and the insecure state of the partly fallen walls, and they were several times hit by bricks and falling masonry. After working for about 30 minutes they got to the woman who was found trapped under a heavy beam, but they were unable to release her. Bray was recalled after about an hour, but Ruddock remained in the basement talking to the old lady and encouraging her for about three hours.

Meanwhile the Rescue Party decided to attempt a rescue from above. This was a hazardous operation owing to the state of the walls which were liable to fall at any time. Twort and Hall, helped by Upsher, worked head downwards to make a passage through the debris and supporting floor joists which held the weight of the tons of wreckage above. After some hours' work they reached the victim and she was eventually brought to safety.

Whilst this rescue was taking place Florance and Clark entered the building although they were fully aware of the extreme danger owing to the outer walls being cracked and bulging and in imminent danger of collapse. They managed to crawl along the inside of the rear wall of the building and, after working and burrowing for a considerable time under the most difficult and dangerous conditions, they made contact with the other two women, who were brought to safety.

These seven rescuers displayed courage without thought for their own safety and, by their determination, saved the lives of three women.

Sidney Walter White, Retort House Foreman (Award dated 20th February, 1945).

A gasholder was damaged by enemy action and the escaping gas caught fire. White, who was at home at the time, immediately reported for duty. He climbed a steel framed column near to the point of damage and worked his way along a latticed framed girder to reach the hole. This journey was performed under most difficult conditions. White examined the extent of the damage and called for clay and battens. After making two or three attempts, he managed to seal the hole and put out the flames.

By effecting this very temporary repair he prevented not only the wastage of gas but also the possibility of serious damage to the holder.

White showed courage and devotion to duty.

#### COMMENDATIONS.

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

Harry Kenneth Brown, Staff Officer, Civil Defence Rescue Service.

Miss Eleanor Grace Chapman, Midwife.

Frank Herbert Denton, Motor Fitter.

Alfred Percy Drake, War Reserve Police Constable.

Hubert O'Meara, M.B., B.S., Medical Practitioner.

#### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD,

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

*6th March, 1945.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appoint-

ment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the Merchant Navy.

*To be an Additional Officer of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—*

Captain John Buick Ritchie, Master, m.v. "Daronia" (Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company, Ltd.).

The tanker "Daronia" sailing in convoy was torpedoed and extensive damage was caused. The vessel listed badly but the Master determined to save her if he could and, by trimming the tanks, brought her on an even keel. The distance to the nearest land was approximately 375 miles. Very heavy weather was experienced and for two days it was necessary to steer so that the damage was on the lee side, with the ship low in the water and labouring heavily. Altogether it took four days to make the voyage but she was eventually brought to safety under her own power.

The Master displayed great courage and coolness throughout this trying ordeal. By his determination, exceptional judgment and seamanship he saved a valuable ship.

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