

When stopping runaway horses:—

George Riddle KIRKUP, Constable, " D " Division, Metropolitan Police.

When a guard fell from a moving train:—

John Harold ATKINS, Detective Sergeant, Portsmouth City Police Force.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD,

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

26th June, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned 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 brave conduct in Civil Defence:—

Awarded the George Medal:—

Albert Martin FARMER, Station Rescue Officer, London County Council Heavy Rescue Service.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

David Drew GOODSON, Party Leader, London County Council Heavy Rescue Service.

A house was demolished by enemy action. The first floor collapsed and three people were trapped between the ground and first floors under a pile of debris. The party wall remained standing, but in a very perilous condition. This made rescue work extremely dangerous, and arrangements were made for the N.F.S. personnel to watch this wall continually during the rescue operations.

Farmer decided that it would be necessary to jack up and strut the first floor and to cut the remaining timbers of the ground floor. When this had been done one of the victims was quickly rescued. The entry of air caused the fire which had been burning in the hearth to catch the joists of the first floor behind the other casualties. Members of the N.F.S. stood by continuously to prevent the spread of fire and volumes of dense smoke made rescue work exceedingly difficult. Farmer, helped by Goodson, worked in a small cavity filled with dense smoke and, after nearly an hour, the two victims were released.

Station Rescue Officer Farmer showed great courage and devotion to duty and, with Leader Goodson, was responsible for saving three lives.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

William Victor Cook ALCOCK, Sergeant, " S " Division, Metropolitan Police.

A house was destroyed by enemy action. The badly shattered party wall was in a

dangerous state, the floors had collapsed and the ruins were covered with rubble in the middle of which a fire was burning. A voice was heard coming from underneath the heap and Alcock organised a chain of helpers with himself at the head actually moving the debris. In this way he started to tunnel into the heap. After sawing through timber and furniture and tunnelling for about 4 feet, Alcock saw a boy trapped under the joist of the first floor which was forced down to within three feet of ground level. He also saw a man's hands protruding on either side of the little boy. He therefore cleared away rubble until the face of a badly injured man was disclosed. An injection of morphia was given and further removal of debris by Alcock showed that the man was sitting on an overturned chair and that his legs and the boy's were held fast from knee to ankle by floor joists. By removing the stuffing and sawing through the seat of the chair, Alcock was able to raise the man's legs by inches and so release the boy. Another half an hour's work was necessary before he could release the man and pass him out down the tunnel to safety.

Sergeant Alcock showed courage in dangerous circumstances and, by his skill and organisation, saved the lives of two people.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

Henry SAMBRIDGE, Sergeant, Hertfordshire County Constabulary.

Gordon Horace George SAXBY, Electrician, Southend-on-Sea.

Oscar Frederick SPARLING, Charge Engineer, Forest Hill Sub-Station, London Passenger Transport Board.

Thomas James Arthur WALKER, Passenger Agent, (Aldersgate), London Passenger Transport Board.

The notice in the London Gazette No. 37120 dated 14th June, 1945, page 3059, regarding the award of the British Empire Medal to Joseph Alfred Lee, is hereby cancelled, it having been ascertained that he died before the date of the award therein mentioned.

The names of the undermentioned shown in Gazette No. 37122, dated 15th June, 1945, are:—

Miss Ivy DRAYCOTT, page 3056.

Robert Young MURRAY, page 3055.

Hugh THOMSON, page 3054.

The name of Ayad GHALI is as now shown and not as stated in Gazette No. 37119 dated 14th June, 1945, page 2968.

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