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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD,

St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
17th July, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to award the GEORGE CROSS to:—

Albert Edward HEMMING, Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Bermondsey.

As the result of enemy action a house was demolished and people were trapped in the wreckage.

The collapse of the walls caused four floors to pancake with the contents of the rooms between.

Hemming put his party to work and a man was found in a V-shaped void. He was completely encased in debris and furniture, some of which was supporting the floor above. By slow and patient work Hemming burrowed his way down through the mass of beams, masonry and plaster. Working head downwards he removed the debris and broke out the furniture around the victim until it was found that he was pinned down by a main timber which was fixed to a floor. Any movement of this beam would have brought about a complete collapse of the structure with fatal results to both. Despite the apparent hopelessness of the situation and the added danger of coal gas which was escaping from a damaged pipe nearby, Hemming, still working head downwards, slowly and carefully removed the debris from beneath the man's body until, after three hours, he was released.

Although from the outset, it appeared impossible to effect a rescue, Hemming refused to abandon the victim and, with great gallantry and determination, successfully accomplished a task seemingly beyond human endurance.

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OF KNIGHTHOOD,

St. James's Palace, S.W.1,
17th July, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned awards of

a Bar to the British Empire Medal and of the British Empire Medal, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the persons specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct in Civil Defence:—

Awarded a Bar to the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Alfred Edward JONES, B.E.M., Company Officer, No. 36 (London) Area, National Fire Service.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Joseph Henry EVES, Party Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, East Ham.

People were trapped in a house which had been damaged by enemy action. Jones and Eves tunnelled into the debris and rescued a boy who was unconscious. They then made another tunnel about 20 ft. long and, after about an hour's work, discovered an unconscious woman. Oxygen was administered, and after further efforts she was released. This rescue took three hours to complete and during the whole of this period there was the possibility of a further collapse of debris, and the continued presence of coal gas hindered the course of the operations.

Jones and Eves showed courage and devotion to duty without thought for their own safety.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

James Francis DENYER, Constable, "Y" Division, Metropolitan Police.

Alfred Edward Charles MARTIN, Constable, Royal Marine Police Special Reserve.

When houses were demolished by enemy action, Constable Martin was thrown to the ground but he at once crossed the road and entered a partly demolished house from which screams were heard. He was joined by Denyer who, in order to make it possible for Martin to work more effectively, braced himself against the wall to hold it up. At the same time he lifted a roof beam which