



**SUPPLEMENT**

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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.**

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1,  
28th January, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following Awards and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of the persons shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct in Civil Defence.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

**Sidney Charles Farmer, Chief Assistant Food Executive Officer, Ministry of Food (Southampton Food Office).**

During a heavy raid on Southampton Mr. Farmer saw that the back wing of a building was completely ablaze. Owing to the heavy calls upon the Fire Brigade it was only possible for them to keep one hose in action there and the firemen working it concentrated upon the back wing. This part of the building was connected to the front by means of a narrow corridor.

The fire was gradually getting hold of this communicating passage, and the steps of the short staircase at the far end were

ablaze. Mr. Farmer realised that, unless this could be stopped the front wing would ultimately catch fire. He obtained a stirrup pump, took up his place on a landing, and played a jet of water upon the staircase. Very shortly his position became dangerous owing to blazing material falling from the roof above. In order to keep his position it was necessary to cut away this roof, and this he did with an axe and a crowbar.

It was then possible for him again to attack the fire in the corridor and eventually he succeeded in subduing the flames. During this time fire broke out behind him on the landing, but this also was checked by means of the stirrup pump.

**Sidney Roy Goodwin, A.R.P. Stretcher Bearer, Tottenham.**

Stretcher Bearer S. R. Goodwin has rendered invaluable work on a number of occasions in rescuing casualties during air raids.

To reach one casualty he crawled through a passage under debris for ten feet, and found a person sheltering in a corner behind a door, then crawled backwards, bringing

the casualty with him to safety. The passageway began to fall in during his exit. His mouth, eyes and ears were filled with dust and debris, and he severely cut his hand. He attempted to return for another casualty but was prevented from entering owing to the caving in of the structure. He shows complete disregard for his own safety in attending to his duty.

George Railton, A.R.P. Warden, Liverpool.

An H.E. bomb was dropped from an enemy aeroplane and exploded in the centre of a road, damaging gas and water mains and demolishing ten houses. Several people were buried under the debris and amongst these were two women. Both were trapped and one was knocked down and pinned by a collapsed wall which pressed on her back. Her legs were held securely by a kitchen dresser. Tons of debris prevented access from the street.

Railton, who is a voluntary warden, was on the scene and took charge of the rescue operations. Applying his technical knowledge as a builder, he succeeded in reaching the women by removing with an axe several bricks from the dividing wall. One woman was removed without difficulty but to reach the other it was necessary for Railton to enter through the hole in the wall, saw through the wooden partition of the coal cupboard and also remove several boards. In order to effect her release, the leg of the kitchen dresser had to be sawn off. Almost immediately after her removal a further collapse of the debris took place in the spot where she had been.

Without regard for his own safety, Railton was successful in rescuing these two women, who, but for his skill and promptitude, would no doubt have been killed.

Albert Sear, Inspector, Luton Borough Police.

For bravery and devotion to duty in dangerous circumstances.

Henry Frederick Shimmings, Superintendent, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Twickenham.

During an air raid a confectioner's shop was demolished by a bomb. Mr. Shimmings, on his arrival, took charge of his rescue parties, and by his expert knowledge and unsparing physical effort, succeeded in releasing several trapped casualties. During his search for these casualties, he found a woman who was deeply buried under the debris. Having reassured her, he immediately set his party to work. The men were badly hampered in their efforts by the escape of coal gas from a fractured main. In rapid succession three of his party had to be removed suffering from gas poisoning. Mr. Shimmings, fully knowing the risk he was running, ordered his men to stand away, and, crawling through the hole, made a very determined effort to reach the woman. Unfortunately, he also was badly affected by the escaping gas, and when removed from the hole, was completely unconscious.

On regaining consciousness before being removed to hospital, he gave detailed instructions as to the exact position of the trapped woman, which he had succeeded in ascertaining by his plucky effort. The result of this information undoubtedly led to her release some thirty minutes later, completely conscious and suffering only from slight shock.

Mr. Shimmings set a magnificent example to his men by his courage and complete disregard of personal danger, and, although badly gassed, his anxiety for the comfort of his men, and his clearly worded advice, enabled the work of rescue to be carried to a successful conclusion.

Reginald Stone, Heavy Lifter, Member of A.R.P. Rescue and Demolition Squad, South Metropolitan Gas Company.

During an air raid a large number of incendiary bombs fell on some Gas Works. One penetrated the crown of a Gasholder and ignited the escaping gas, making a considerable beacon. Stone immediately scaled the holder and succeeded in quickly extinguishing the flame.

On another occasion a store was struck by an H.E. bomb. In spite of great risk of injury from falling debris, Stone worked his way through the remains of the building and tackled the seat of a resultant fire. By his promptitude and courage the fire was quickly brought under control.

When a delayed action bomb penetrated the crown of a Gasholder, causing a large hole through which gas rapidly escaped, Stone, with great promptitude climbed the holder with a Repair Gang and ably assisted in the successful sealing of the escaping gas.

Charles Taylor, Valveman, Sheffield and District Gas Company.

When some works were first sprayed with incendiary bombs and later bombed with high explosives, all employees showed most commendable coolness and devotion to duty, not hesitating to brave danger in order to save the works.

With assistance, Charles Taylor put out incendiary bombs at the rear of the water gas oil tank, and one in the roadway outside the works. Then he noticed an incendiary bomb on the crown of a Gasholder. He climbed up 45 feet to get on the crown and found that the bomb had punctured the sheeting and gas was burning at the hole. Going down again for assistance he returned and almost extinguished the flame with clay. As the clay supply was exhausted, Taylor went down again for more and this third time was successful in putting out the blaze. Taylor then put out another incendiary bomb. After this he found that the crown of another holder was punctured by an incendiary bomb and the gas issuing from the hole was on fire. This crown was 60 feet from ground level, but, with help, he was able to extinguish the fire and plug the hole.

His courage, devotion to duty and leadership were outstanding.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Charles Henry Cook, Constable, Newport (Monmouth) Police Force.

*Awarded the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for Meritorious Service:—*

Joseph Draper, Coal Trimmer, Newport, Monmouth.

William George Overton, General Cargo Worker, Newport, Monmouth.

Cecil Albert Harvey Walters, Telephonist, G.W.R., Newport, Monmouth.

Edmund Wetter, Constable, Newport (Monmouth) Police Force.

A high explosive bomb was dropped by an enemy aircraft on an hotel, as a result of which a number of people were trapped under debris.

P.C. Charles Cook arrived within a few minutes of the occurrence and entered the Saloon Bar through a door, where he found a man partly buried. With help he released him. Hearing moans from under the debris in the Dart Room he returned there, but could see nobody because the two floors above and their contents were piled up on the floor. Large beams of wood had been dislodged and were hanging loose overhead, and further falls of debris were expected at any moment. Without hesitation the constable commenced to remove masonry, etc., and hand it back to W. Overton and J. Draper who disposed of it. The constable burrowed forward until he found a man lying on his face on the floor completely covered with debris. His nostrils were filled with plaster and dust and he was in danger of suffocation. Cook cleared the injured man's nose and eventually he was released. The constable continued to tunnel forward, and later located another man buried still further under the debris. Owing to the masonry and wood at the bottom being pulled away, and that from above occasionally being dislodged, Cook received many blows on the body from falling pieces. At one time a beam of wood caught fire, but it was quickly extinguished. After the debris was cleared from around the body of the trapped man he was found to be held down by a large piece of timber across his legs. This had to be eased by means of an iron bar whilst Cook crawled forward and worked his legs free of the timber. Although it was successfully accomplished there was grave danger that the debris supported by the timber would collapse on the injured man and workers. Only after releasing the casualty did these workers relax. Cook, Overton and Draper worked continuously in cramped positions for approximately one hour, and were afterwards exhausted.

During this time Constable Wetter and C. A. H. Walters were rescuing an injured woman who was trapped in another part of the hotel. They worked under a wall which threatened to collapse at any moment and, although there was danger from the fumes of coal gas escaping from a broken pipe, they persisted in their efforts until the woman was released.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Campbell Joseph Kelly, O.B.E., M.C., M.M., Control Officer, Works Air Defence Department, Coventry.

*Awarded the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for Meritorious Service:—*

David Lloyd, First Officer, Works Auxiliary Fire Service, Coventry.

Mr. Kelly's organisation and personal bearing have been largely responsible for the building up of a highly efficient Works Air Raid Defence team.

His personal activities on the night of an intensive air raid were largely instrumental in saving his factory from destruction. He extinguished an incendiary bomb and immediately afterwards took twelve volunteers to help the City Fire Service deal with a serious fire. After that, they attended at another fire and on the way back helped to extricate the bodies of policemen who were trapped in debris left by high explosive bombs.

A large high explosive bomb hit a works shop but fire was avoided by prompt action under Kelly's guidance.

Until five o'clock in the morning Kelly continued to give inspiring leadership to his men. There was no cover for any of the working parties and they all carried out what was asked of them with fortitude and courage.

Mr. Kelly was ably assisted in this work by David Lloyd, First Officer of the Works Auxiliary Fire Service.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Edward Nichols, Superintendent, Liverpool Police Force.

John Joseph Meehan, Prison Officer, H.M. Prison, Walton, Liverpool.

*Awarded the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for Meritorious Service:—*

Frederick Albert Bowyer, Chief Officer, H.M. Prison, Walton, Liverpool.

When H.M. Prison, Walton, Liverpool, was struck by a high explosive bomb, a wing consisting of a basement with four tiers of cells above was severely damaged. A number of prisoners was trapped. Gas and water were escaping and the electric light system was put out of order. At the request of the Governor of the prison Superintendent Nichols, with a party of men, arrived to render assistance.

After an examination of the damaged building had been made and a number of prisoners from the damaged upper cells had been removed to safety, a man's voice could be heard coming from somewhere under the rubble which had fallen behind the door of a cell in the basement.

Officer Meehan, Chief Officer Bowyer and others of the prison staff worked hard amid recurrent falls of masonry to release the imprisoned man. The panels of the cell door were broken open but it was found that owing to the continual falling of debris

it was impossible to continue operations at this spot.

It was decided that the only method of rescue was to break through the wall between this cell and the adjoining one, and Superintendent Nichols took charge of this operation. The two prison officers made a hole in the wall and the Superintendent, removing debris with his hands, discovered the trapped man's head. He was conscious and proved to be a prisoner.

With portions of broken steel girders and flat stones Superintendent Nichols constructed a platform over the prisoner's head and prevented further falls of masonry.

The Prison Officer and the Superintendent continued with picks, bars and sledge hammers to enlarge the hole and after a period of 3½ hours the trapped man was released, exhausted but apparently not seriously injured.

This rescue was effected in the worst imaginable conditions, in darkness, apart from the light of pocket lamps, with the danger of the roof and wall of the prison wing collapsing, in a gas polluted atmosphere, amid flooding from fractured water mains, and with enemy aircraft overhead.

Superintendent Nichols was untiring in his efforts, displaying resource and initiative in the way he directed operations. Prison Officer Meehan and Chief Officer Bowyer worked hard and with a disregard for their own safety.

*Awarded the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for Meritorious Service:—*

William Arthur Alleway, Factory Industrial Worker, Enfield.

Two men were working on some heat treatment furnaces and, although they had been warned that planes were overhead, they had elected to carry on with their work.

Both men were injured by a bomb, and Alleway although fairly severely wounded on the sole of the foot, walked 60 yards, and reported that his mate was injured and unable to move. As none of the other men knew the location of Alleway's mate, Alleway, despite his injury, went back to the shop, which was on fire at certain points, lifted the injured man and carried him to the Area Headquarters.

He then collapsed owing to his wound. Throughout this time enemy aircraft were overhead. Alleway displayed extreme devotion to duty.

Samuel Donner, A.R.P. Warden, Stepney.

Bombs were dropped on a district causing damage and casualties. Warden Donner, who was officially off duty at the time lived only a few doors away from the incident and was on the spot immediately. He took control and instructed members of the public as to the best method of removing bodies from the wreckage, being instrumental in extricating eight people, three of whom were dead. He worked on the job for three hours and during the whole of this time he was in danger of being caught by the expected collapse of a nearby wall. Enemy planes were

continually overhead, and within a 100 yards a delayed action bomb had been dropped. This exploded whilst the work was in progress.

William Harold Steele Rigg, Sergeant, Wallasey Police Force.

H.E. bombs were dropped, demolishing a dwelling house. It was learnt that a man had been trapped in the debris. A rescue party was present and some debris had been removed from around the trapped man on the outside of an aperture about eighteen inches square. Owing to the position of the casualty, it was necessary for someone to enter the aperture and descend to his aid. The leader of the Rescue Squad, and the other members, were not tall enough to reach the injured man. A volunteer was called for and without the slightest hesitation Sergt. Rigg at once volunteered and wriggled his body into the aperture between the first and ground floor. At first his legs were suspended in mid-air. He had to get the bricks out one by one, passing them behind him. In this position, at great personal risk, he carried on.

Sergeant Rigg carried out what was undoubtedly a very dangerous task with complete disregard for his personal safety.

Frank Wilson, Foreman in Charge, Salford Corporation Gas Department.

During an intensive aerial attack an incendiary bomb burst on the crown of a gas-holder. The gas, escaping from the hole in the crown, ignited and flared up to a height of some 15 to 20 feet.

The Foreman in charge of the works—Mr. F. Wilson—climbed on to the top of the holder and was joined by the Acting Chief Works Superintendent and an Engineman. Between them these three carried hose pipes to the top of the holder and played water on to the red hot plates surrounding the hole. As soon as the water had sufficiently cooled the plates they managed to put clay round the hole. This extinguished the flame.

During the whole of these operations, very intensive aerial activity was taking place and shrapnel from gunfire barrage was falling around.

Cecil Edward Wright, Squad Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Bromley.

Albert Purless Harman, Skilled Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Bromley.

A rescue party was called out during the night to where a large bomb had fallen at the rear of a house which completely collapsed. A 9-inch external wall weighing about 3 tons had fallen inwards and was being precariously supported by some first floor joists which had collapsed under the weight. This mass of brickwork had broken leaving a gap of about 12 inches. Over this gap was another large piece of brickwork weighing approximately three to four cwt. This was speedily removed, and the head of a casualty was seen to be within. It was apparent that the trapped person could not be withdrawn

through the gap, and the Works Superintendent went under the wreckage, and found that the casualty was pinned down between two of the timbers supporting the weight. C. E. Wright, the Squad Leader, was then called and they cleared away some of the debris in order to jack up the timbers to lessen the risk of the weight falling in. This work had to be done with extreme care. The first assumption that the casualty could not be extricated alive through the top then proved to be correct, and the sawing of the timber was continued by Wright and Harman, under the precariously supported debris, in order to cut a way out. They both took a great risk in carrying out this work which took nearly three hours to complete. Credit is also due to the Stretcher Party personnel who went in to remove the casualty after release.

*Commendations:—*

Those named below have been brought to notice for brave conduct in Civil Defence:—

- Charles Burgoyne, Senior Squad Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Parties, Newport, Monmouth.
- John Ratcliffe Cain, Constable, Wallasey Police.
- Elizabeth, Mrs. Cassidy, Manageress, Works Canteen Staff, Coventry.
- John McColl Chalmers, A.R.P. Rescue Party Leader, Wallasey.
- Thomas Philips Cole, M.B., Medical Officer of Health, Beckenham.
- William Dawson, Engineman, Salford Corporation Gas Department.
- John Norman Duthoit, Squad Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Bromley.
- William Aaron Everson, Inspector, Newport, Monmouth, Police Force.
- Stanley Fisher, Constable, Wallasey Police Force.
- Lambert David Richard Leslie Jones, Acting Chief Works Superintendent, Salford Corporation Gas Department.
- Frederick Keen, Engine Driver, G.W.R., Newport, Monmouth.
- Emlyn Lewis, Constable, Newport, Monmouth, Police Force.
- William Thomas Lewis, Clerk, G.W.R., Newport, Monmouth.
- William Lindsay MacDonald, Assistant, Southampton Food Office, Ministry of Food.
- William John Nicholson, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Bromley.
- Henry Charles Powell, Coal Trimmer, Newport, Monmouth.
- Herbert Print, Workman, Factory Roof Spotter, Coventry.
- Riley Schofield, Borough Engineer, Mitcham.
- Walter Ronald Selby, Works Fireman, Coventry.

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