



SUPPLEMENT

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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
31st January, 1941.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give Orders for the undermentioned appointment to the Fifth Class of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for the following Awards of the George Medal and the Medal of the Said Most Excellent Order, 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:—

Miss E. Margaret Smyth, Organising Secretary, Women's Land Army, East Kent.

Miss Smyth has assisted in the organisation of the Women's Land Army in Kent since the outbreak of war. The splendid record of the Land Girls working in the dangerous areas of East Kent is largely due to her untiring efforts on their behalf.

Throughout weeks of intensive bombing, when many houses have been damaged and destroyed close to her office, Miss Smyth has worked there daily.

She has shown coolness and courage, devotion to duty and cheerfulness under all circumstances.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Frederick Albert Basham, Leader A.R.P. Rescue Party, Islington.

A Rescue Party, under the leadership of F. A. Basham effected the rescue of two persons from debris after seven hours' work, involving the cutting of two tunnels in darkness and coal-gas fumes, whilst in imminent danger of the wreckage collapsing. An air raid was in progress during the whole time. Success was largely due to the direction and control of Leader Basham.

Harry Bass, Police Sergeant, Metropolitan Police.

When two heavy bombs partly demolished a large four-storey building, P.S. Bass, who was on duty near the incident, immediately crawled into the basement and rescued an injured woman who was trapped inside. The building was in an extremely dangerous condition and might have collapsed upon him at any moment. By his courage in entering and dragging her out, he undoubtedly saved the woman's life.

On another occasion P.S. Bass organised and led a party to rescue a man who was buried 12 feet below a pile of debris, and, later, he assisted a rescue squad to locate and rescue a five-year-old boy who was also buried. This building was also in very great danger of collapsing.

Bass has done first-class work in bombed areas and, without any thought for his own safety, has frequently entered tottering and unsafe buildings in order to save life.

Harry Jesse Bates, Inspector, Metropolitan Police.

A house suffered a direct hit from an H.E. bomb. Three young children and a woman were trapped in the wreckage. Only a small portion of the shell of the house remained and this was in a very dangerous condition. A fire also had broken out.

Inspector Bates, accompanied by another Inspector and a Police Constable, proceeded to tunnel under the debris and wreckage in an attempt to rescue the trapped victims. They had no tools to assist them, and, during the whole time, they were working under very dangerous conditions owing to the state of the building and the fire. They eventually succeeded in rescuing all four persons alive.

Inspector Bates is untiring in his efforts to save life and on many other occasions he has displayed the highest courage during enemy bombing attacks.

He has exhibited great qualities of leadership and has set a fine example to his men in dangerous situations.

John Henry Crump, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

A bomb demolished a house causing an outbreak of fire and trapping a number of people beneath the wreckage.

The first on the scene was P.C. Crump, who at that time was off duty and in plain clothes. Hearing cries from an elderly woman the P.C. clambered up the remains of the front wall of the house, as it crumbled beneath him, to a small section of flooring some 18 feet from the ground on which he found a woman aged 70 precariously perched on a chair. He steadied her and endeavoured to quieten her hysterical condition.

Further police reinforcements then arrived but it was, at first, found impossible to help the P.C. as the only means of reaching him was the wall up which he had climbed and this had now collapsed. After a short time a ladder was obtained and when this was placed in position the P.C. carried down the woman to safety.

On another occasion the same officer was on his way to the Police Station when a block of flats nearby was demolished by an H.E. bomb. He proceeded to the spot and found wreckage from which the arm of a woman could be seen above the surface. P.C. Crump would allow nobody to come near as there was great danger owing to falling masonry. He, however, persisted in an effort to free the woman and eventually, unaided, he managed to release her.

On both these occasions bombs were falling nearby as the P.C. was carrying out his rescue work. He undoubtedly saved two lives at very great risk to his own.

Jackson Sweeting Davison, Police Sergeant, Metropolitan Police.

Three houses were demolished by enemy bombing and one seriously damaged.

Sergeant Davison was on his way to parade for night duty when he was informed of the incident, and learned that many people were trapped in the wreckage.

On arrival at the scene he clambered on to the top of the wreckage of the first floor, when he heard a cry for help. He found a man pinioned face downwards.

Sergeant Davison had himself roped for safety and then carried out a dangerous climb along a narrow crumbling ledge, eventually succeeding in reaching the trapped victim. He then set about clearing the debris until he was successful in securing the man's release. Having got this man to safety, he then made his way to the second floor, which was without roof or walls, and there found a girl in bed. To reach her, he had to obtain a saw with which he cut his way through fallen timber. He succeeded in rescuing the girl, who was then alive, but who expired shortly after being released.

This brave act is only one of many that Sergeant Davison has accomplished during enemy air raids. He has on numerous occasions been either directly or indirectly responsible for saving several lives, and has always been a splendid example to the men working under him.

Peter Cornelius Gerstel, Member of A.R.P. Rescue Party, Southwark.

Reginald Sidney Mence, Member of A.R.P. Rescue Party, Southwark.

Some premises were demolished by a high explosive bomb during the night and it was ascertained that, of nine people who had been sheltering in the basement, four were still alive. The flank wall and party walls, wholly unsupported and weighing in all some 60 tons, were still standing, and some 23 tons of debris lay in a huge heap between these walls and on top of the trapped people. In these circumstances it was decided to form an access way to them from the front and back by means of vertical and horizontal shafts.

Gerstel and Mence took the lead in excavating by hand, boring, strutting and propping, and after four hours succeeded in rescuing two casualties. After eight hours two more were located but these were in such a position that they could not be moved for some considerable time without causing the collapse of the tons of debris above. Extreme care was necessary at this stage to complete the hazardous work of shoring up and the two men refused to be relieved because, to quote their own words, they "knew every strut and every brick" in their improvised tunnel. After eighteen hours' work the two further casualties were released.

James Harris, Station Officer, London Fire Brigade.

Station Officer Harris has displayed outstanding initiative and courage at many large fires. His almost reckless courage in face of very grave danger was conspicuous when a fire occurred at a building containing explosives and his success in stopping the fire at a particularly vulnerable spot saved a number of buildings and magazines.

Leslie Francis Hughes, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

A large building was hit by an H.E. bomb and reduced to a mass of wreckage.

P.C. Hughes, who was on duty nearby, went to the scene of the disaster and was there joined by another man. They first assisted three people to escape from the wreckage. They then proceeded to worm their way into the basement of the building,

which might have collapsed on them at any moment, to rescue two young women who were entrapped in the debris. They succeeded in freeing these women and dragging them to safety. Afterwards P.C. Hughes, amid constantly subsiding debris, managed to extricate an imprisoned First Aid Worker, who was then taken to hospital in an unconscious condition.

William James Keery, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

A very heavy bomb demolished a large part of a block of dwellings, causing many casualties. P.C. Keery attended with other Police Officers.

Cries were heard from a cellar and a small opening was found, blocked by debris and some heavy iron railings. With some difficulty this was partly cleared and a hole just large enough to admit a man was made.

Unhesitatingly Keery dropped into the cellar through this hole and, making his way through fallen beams and masonry, succeeded in bringing out, first a badly wounded man, then three children, one woman and two more men.

The P.C. showed extreme coolness and courage and worked regardless of danger to himself. The whole building was liable to collapse and the enemy were continuously overhead.

Immediately after this very fine effort, the P.C. applied himself to further rescue work and was unsparing in his efforts to render aid to the trapped occupants of the buildings.

Henry Harrison Stephen Kinlan, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

Edward James Storer, Fireman, London Fire Brigade.

Fireman Kinlan with Auxiliary Storer assisted in saving four buildings containing high explosives. They remained at their post in face of flying debris and exploding shells of various calibres and, by their action, set an example of courage to their comrades. They insisted on remaining even when reminded of the imminent danger of explosion.

Clarence Lambie McDonough, Station Inspector, Metropolitan Police.

During an air raid three houses were demolished and one severely damaged, causing one fatal and five other casualties.

Station Inspector McDonough, in response to the cries of trapped victims, climbed over a pile of rubble and entered a small room through a window and succeeded in passing several of the injured persons to safety. All this was done in the dark and the room in which the Inspector was working might have collapsed at any moment. Enemy aircraft were still in the vicinity. McDonough then discovered that an elderly person was pinioned by a heavy beam, and, though unsuccessful in extracting the victim himself, he stayed with him until he was freed. He also led a rescue squad to a top floor where another man was rescued and taken to hospital.

On another occasion a big fire broke out as a result of enemy bombing. Four storeys of a building were alight and the roof was in

very great danger of collapse. Station Inspector McDonough stood on the top of the staircase and operated a stirrup pump while molten lead was actually falling on his shoulders. After the arrival of the Fire Brigade he removed the stirrup pump and a moment or so later the roof collapsed. As operations had then to be carried on from outside the building, McDonough, with other officers, climbed to a large flat roof to assist in pulling up the Brigade hoses and directing the nozzles. He did not leave this position until the Fire Brigade had the fire completely under control, even though he was in need of medical treatment as a result of burns from the molten lead.

Albert Victor Martin, Police Sergeant, Metropolitan Police.

Two dwelling houses were demolished by a bomb. P.S. Martin accompanied by an Inspector proceeded to the scene of the incident. On arrival they heard a woman's voice crying for help from somewhere underneath the wreckage.

Sergeant Martin immediately crawled under the debris of the demolished house to go to her assistance. No sooner had he started his attempt than the wall of an adjoining house collapsed on top of the wreckage under which he was crawling. Eventually he succeeded in reaching the trapped woman, but it was only with the greatest of difficulty that he managed to signal to the Inspector, above, his whereabouts under the wreckage. Part of the debris on top of the Sergeant and the woman was removed and a rope and saw were passed down to Martin. By this time he had removed a large block of concrete that had been pinning the woman down and, with the help of the rope, this was pulled to the surface. The woman by this time was very hysterical and it required all the Sergeant's tact to prevent her from struggling and making the situation much worse.

Sergeant Martin eventually dragged the woman through the hole to safety.

Both the Sergeant and the woman he had rescued collapsed on reaching the surface.

Timothy McGugnan Muir, Acting Sub-Officer, London Fire Brigade.

Samuel Thomas Melvin, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

Sub-Officer Muir assisted with the rescue of nurses from a riverside hospital which was on fire as a result of enemy bombing. When told that the Matron was still in the hospital and despite the fact that the pier was also alight, he and Auxiliary Fireman Melvin re-entered the burning hospital and rescued her. The auxiliary tender in which they placed the Matron ran into a crater in the dense smoke, but they got her safely out of danger in another vehicle.

William Charles Skillern, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

Skillern was in charge of the first fire appliance attending a call to a building on fire. On arrival it was found that the major portion of the building had collapsed, part of the basement and the upper portion of the premises were on fire, and persons were trapped in the basement.

Skilern immediately took charge of the situation, controlled the operations for extinguishing the fire, and, at great personal risk, crawled through the debris into the basement where the buried people were entombed.

From this position he directed and encouraged the activities of his crew in their efforts to release these persons.

As a result of his leadership and the example to his men, twenty people were successfully rescued.

Albert Edward Smith, Gasholder Repair man.	} City of Birmingham Gas Department.
John Thomas Bonning, Gasholder Repair man.	

An incendiary bomb struck the crown of a Gasholder at an acute angle, causing a long split, and then emerged through the side of the holder.

J. T. Bonning and A. E. Smith, with assistance, attempted to extinguish the flame with clay. They were, however, unsuccessful. Later, together with several A.F.S. men, they climbed the holder again and used more clay in trying to get the fire out, but still without result. It was then decided that as all the clay heaped over the hole had dried out with the heat, it must be removed, and a further attempt made with fresh supplies of wet clay. This was successful. At the time, anti-aircraft fire was heavy and bombs could be heard dropping fairly close to the Works, but the men carried on at great risk to themselves and the flame was extinguished.

Gillian Kluane Tanner, Auxiliary, Women's Auxiliary Fire Service, London.

Six serious fires were in progress and for three hours Auxiliary Tanner drove a 30-cwt. lorry loaded with 150 gallons of petrol in cans from fire to fire replenishing petrol supplies, despite intense bombing at the time. She showed remarkable coolness and courage throughout.

Miss Dorothy May White, V.A.D. British Red Cross Society, Horsham and Worthing.

During an air raid V.A.D. White, together with two other V.A.D.'s, was on duty at the First Aid point at the Village Hall. While there an H.E. bomb was dropped on the District Nurse's cottage next door, completely demolishing it. The three V.A.D.s immediately went to the Nurse's help. They found her in the crater which had been the cottage, lying head downwards, alive but badly injured. The three V.A.D.s with great difficulty, on account of the depth of the crater and the loose rubble, lifted the Nurse out on to a stretcher, and carried her to the Village Hall.

While the other two V.A.D.s were doing all they could for the District Nurse, V.A.D. White went to the further end of the Hall to get some water. While there a bomb fell directly on to the Hall, demolishing the end where the injured Nurse lay, killing her, fatally injuring one of the V.A.D.s, and severely injuring the other.

With no thought for herself V.A.D. White scrambled over the debris and found the two injured members partly covered by fallen rubble. She immediately gave first aid with the help of a tourniquet made from her belt.

All dressings and equipment had been buried by the explosion. She got one of the injured V.A.D.s on to a stretcher and eventually into an ambulance with the assistance of the Police.

V.A.D. White then went down the road to help other casualties, and visited all the cottages in the village to find out whether anyone else was missing and if anyone needed attention.

All this time aeroplanes were flying overhead and delayed action bombs were dropped which exploded later. Miss White's coolness and courage were an example to all. In spite of the fact that her own house was so badly damaged as to render it uninhabitable, she carried on day after day in the village, helping in every possible way.

Aylmer Maurice Young, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

During an aerial bombardment a bomb fell causing a large crater on a kerbside, demolishing the lower part of the ground floor and basement of a public house and fracturing gas services and a large water main. Seven persons were sheltering in the basement which was rapidly filling with water. A trailer pump attended and immediately on arrival, Young, without hesitation and at great personal risk, entered the basement, which by this time had filled to a depth of about five feet and was in complete darkness, and succeeded in rescuing six of the inmates.

Young continued the search and located the seventh person, who was pinned beneath the water by a fallen girder, and, notwithstanding the fact that the water was still rising, managed to extricate the man and facilitate his removal to the street.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Thomas Austin Morrison, Police Constable, War Reserve, Metropolitan Police.

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

William Baldock, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

John Charles Rowswell, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

A block of working-class flats was partly demolished by an H.E. bomb in the early hours of the morning. Police attended and some hours after they had left a delayed action bomb exploded, killing a number of members of a Rescue and Demolition Party who were working on the site, and burying others. P.C.s Baldock and Rowswell heard the explosion and went immediately to the scene.

The survivors of the Demolition Squad told them what had happened and said that the conditions were too dangerous for further work. The Police Constables, however, entered the ground floor of the damaged building, where they heard cries for help. After removing large pieces of concrete and masonry the head and shoulders of a man were revealed. War Reserve Morrison supported him whilst the others continued the removal of debris. The rescued man, who was a member of the Demolition Squad, was

extricated alive after about three-quarters of an hour, and the remainder of the building collapsed an hour later.

Morrison was the moving spirit on this occasion and he has shown great courage and determination in rescue work. On other occasions he has been responsible for saving a number of lives under very dangerous conditions.

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

Richard Henry Ashton, Acting Sub-Officer, London Fire Brigade.

About fifty persons were cut off by fire and were in danger of being driven into the river by the flames.

With great difficulty and while bombing was continuing Sub-Officer Ashton, who was in charge of a fire-boat, rescued the stranded people by towing them in a barge, skilfully avoiding other burning barges and disembarked them in safety.

Frederick William Curtis, Section Officer, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

Curtis, whilst in charge of a trailer pump at a fire, was rendered unconscious by the blast from an explosive bomb. On recovering consciousness, he again took command of the fire, and set an outstanding example of courage and leadership to the men under his charge.

David Glyndwr Davies, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

An H.E. bomb damaged a number of houses demolishing two of them. It also fractured the gas and water mains and the gas main caught fire. P.C. Davies who was on duty nearby went to the scene at once and learned that a man and his wife were trapped under the wreckage. He took charge of the operations, entered the crater and standing on a crumbling wall waist deep in debris and water, directed the removal of the wreckage which was holding the two people down. They were both extricated eventually, but one was dead.

The position of the P.C. during these operations was a precarious one. The gas main was blazing nearby, water was pouring into the crater and the officer was in great danger of losing his foothold and falling into the cellar. Aircraft were still overhead during the incident.

Frank William Handley, District Officer, London Fire Brigade.

District Officer Handley has set an outstanding example by his general good leadership and devotion to duty during extensive bombing of his area. His courage has inspired all the crews under his charge. During the nights of the heaviest attacks on London he attended many serious fires, and at several of these he was in sole charge until the arrival of a senior officer. His intimate knowledge of the area, inspiring leadership and devotion to duty, undoubtedly contributed to a great extent towards the manner in which these fires were dealt with. As a result of his untiring efforts to secure water when a serious shortage existed at one fire a large part of the buildings involved were saved.

John Jack Hollands, Builder's Foreman, Eastbourne.

Upon the occasion of an air raid, property was demolished and four men were trapped underneath the wreckage. Gas and water were escaping. Hollands arrived on the scene and, with the assistance of another man, pushed open what was left of the front door, and entered the passage. As they did so the ceiling collapsed. They made their way along the passage, Holland leading. In going through the kitchen door it collapsed on the top of him. Hollands succeeded in his efforts to get through a hole in the debris and had to lie on his stomach when rescuing one of the injured men. He worked the debris back with his hands for other helpers to remove. In this way he succeeded in passing two injured persons out through the hole and, in doing so, injured his left arm which was pinned under bricks for a time.

The injury to his arm together with the effects of the escaping gas, necessitated his removal to hospital.

Harold Hydes, District Officer, London Fire Brigade.

Hydes has been in charge of a station which has been subjected to severe bombing. He has displayed exceptional leadership, courage and initiative and has set an excellent example under the most trying and dangerous circumstances at fires due to enemy action.

Jack Johnson, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

Dennis McCarthy, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

Auxiliary Firemen Johnson and Auxiliary Fireman D. McCarthy were at work on a Wharf when the explosion of a bomb nearby caused the wall to collapse, throwing them both to the ground and partially burying them in the debris. Although bruised and shaken they did not relax their efforts to subdue the flames and prevent the fire from showing a light to the enemy aircraft which were overhead.

Frederick Benjamin McQuillan, Leader of A.R.P. Rescue Party, Islington.

George Turner, Leader of A.R.P. Rescue Party, Islington.

A house was demolished by a bomb, two boys being trapped in the basement. Turner and McQuillan dug a tunnel 18 feet long and about 2 feet square, working in succession, lying on their stomachs, throwing back debris and fixing struts and bearers as they advanced—a risky operation cleverly performed. The work was carried out in darkness during a raid and the boys were released after about three hours.

Edward Moylan, Acting Sub-Officer, London Fire Brigade.

At a time when all efforts were being concentrated on a very large fire, this officer, with a comparatively small amount of apparatus and personnel at his disposal, successfully checked and eventually subdued a fire in a cartridge-filling factory. By his excellent leadership he saved another building, which, if it had become involved, would have caused a serious explosion.

Samuel Stillwell, Auxiliary Messenger, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

At a large Docks fire this boy was discovered holding a hose until relieved by firemen.

He continued afterwards to deliver messages and bring drinking water to officers and men who were unable to leave their positions.

Altogether Stillwell was at the fire in the Docks on the first day and night for over 14 hours and on five succeeding nights carried out duties at fires in the same area with great courage.

He was quite indifferent to the danger he was in and, although ordered to shelter, he turned up again and again later in the night and the next morning carrying drinking water to the men on the hoses.

John Richard Unwin, District Officer, London Fire Brigade.

District Officer Unwin has been sent by Headquarters from fire to fire where there were special difficulties in rescue work or with fire fighting apparatus. He has carried out his special technical duties with conspicuous gallantry and complete disregard of danger and fatigue.

He has been responsible for the saving of lives and appliances endangered as a result of enemy action.

Annie Matilda Wilkins, Auxiliary, Women's Auxiliary Fire Service, London.

Bessie Constance Wulbern, Auxiliary, Women's Auxiliary Fire Service, London.

These women were alone in a sub-station while the immediate neighbourhood was being subjected to a most intensive bombing. Throughout they received and transmitted all their messages absolutely correctly, and reporting crews were sent to their correct fires with accuracy and despatch. When the station was struck by incendiary bombs and set on fire they reported this occurrence by telephone to the local station, and remained at their posts until the officer in charge arrived and ordered them to leave the station.

Commendations.

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

Frederick George Anstey, Member A.R.P. Rescue Party, Lambeth.

Herbert Edward Anstey, Leader A.R.P. Rescue Party, Lambeth.

John Appleby, Motor Car Driver and milk Roundsman, Eastbourne.

George Ashton, Hawker, Swansea.

Norah Ashton, Welfare Nurse, Worcester Local Authority.

Miss Heather Barnes (deceased), V.A.D. British Red Cross Society, Horsham and Worthing.

William Barr, Inspector, Metropolitan Special Constabulary.

Harold Richard Barrett, Senior Fireman, London Fire Brigade.

John Bennett, Police Constable, Reserve of Pensioners, Metropolitan Police.

A. Bowles, Assistant Valveman, City of Birmingham Gas Department.

Thomas Walter Donoghue, Police Sergeant, Metropolitan Police.

Charles George Elvery, Head A.R.P. Warden, Dover.

Frank Evans, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Edward Fast, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Louise Finbow, Section Officer, Women's Auxiliary Fire Service, London.

Thomas Harold Ruben Fisher, Police Constable, Salford Police Force.

Leonard Ewart Fox, Sub Officer, London Fire Brigade.

Lillian, Mrs. Halle, North Kensington.

Ernest Claude Heaton, Ambulance Room Attendant, Gas Works, Birmingham.

John Henry Ward Heaton, Member A.R.P. Rescue Party, Lambeth.

Charles Edward Hollis, Member A.R.P. Rescue Party, Islington.

G. T. Phillips, Assistant Valveman, City of Birmingham Gas Department.

Gertrude Norah Pitceathly, V.A.D. British Red Cross Society, Horsham and Worthing.

Robert Rowley (deceased), Member A.R.P. Rescue Party, Westminster.

Albert Richard Smith, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

Ralph Smith, Station Officer, London Fire Brigade.

Charles David Southam, Member A.R.P. Rescue Party, Islington.

David Stoddart, Section Officer, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

Arthur Harold Thomas, Member A.R.P. Rescue Party, Islington.

Miss Dorothy Grace Weaver, Centre Organiser, W.V.S., Worcester.

Algeron Webb, Supervisor, Gas Works, Birmingham.

Ernest Robert McDonald Welch, Station Officer, London Fire Brigade.

Hubert James Willey, Inspector, Metropolitan Police.

Albert Savage Williams, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

John Williams, Leader A.R.P. Rescue Party, Islington.

Herbert Wiseman, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Arthur Wragg, Relief Supervisor, Gas Works, Birmingham.

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