

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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

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 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 Additional Members of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—*

Edward Howell Davies, Chief Superintendent, London Fire Brigade.

Chief Superintendent Davies has attended numerous fires in his District and his supervision of rescue work has been outstanding. He has proved himself cool and courageous and, in spite of long hours and continuous night work, the administration of his District has been excellent.

Trevor Frank Watkins, Chief Superintendent, London Fire Brigade.

During intensive air raids in his District, Superintendent Watkins has shown the greatest qualities of leadership, initiative and courage. On one occasion he was the first to enter a smoke-logged building and vent it for his men. Despite long hours and fatigue, he has ably controlled the administration of his District.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Herbert Charles Barker, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

A private house was severely damaged by a high explosive bomb. A woman was trapped by debris on a bed in a very precarious position on the partly demolished third floor. At great personal risk Auxiliary Fireman Barker crawled across the floor, which was hanging at an angle, and secured a line around her. He was then able, with some assistance to pull her off the bed to safety.

Frederick Dainty Cox, Telegraph Lineman's Assistant, Great Western Railway.

Immediately after an enemy air raid, it was found that railway communications had been broken. Cox and another railwayman were sent to examine the line and discovered that one bomb had exploded and broken several telegraph wires, while an unexploded time bomb had fallen on the permanent way.

After repairing the most important of the damaged telegraph circuits, Cox carried the bomb to the down side of the line and dropped it over the boundary hedge on to soft ground. This enabled a single line to be put into operation.

Although warned by the police to stop work, as another time bomb had been dropped nearby, both men continued until the repairs to the wires had been completed. Cox then searched for and found the second bomb and helped the Bomb Disposal staff to move it to a place of safety.

Roy Clifford Day, Fireman, Southampton Auxiliary Fire Service.

This man was a member of an Auxiliary Fire Service crew which had no previous experience of sustained and widespread incendiary attack accompanied by H.E. bombardment.

After continuously fighting fires during heavy bombing, their appliance was damaged by the explosion of two H.E. bombs immediately in front of them. It was eventually necessary for all of the crew, except Day, to be removed to hospital. A further call came and Day, who was strongly advised to rest and recover, insisted on taking out the pump by himself to the scene of the fire, through conditions even more difficult than those of his earlier journeys. He succeeded in reaching his destination and continued working most efficiently throughout the night.

Day displayed sustained courage of a high order in difficult and dangerous circumstances which were quite new to him.

George Goshawk, Ambulance Attendant, London Auxiliary Ambulance Service.

Bertram Matthewman, Ambulance Driver, London Auxiliary Ambulance Service.

During an air raid, Matthewman and Goshawk left with an ambulance to pick up casualties at premises where a big fire was raging. The road leading to the building was blocked by a sheet of flame. Without hesitation they drove the ambulance through and, with the help of a policeman, loaded the stretchers with casualties. The heat was so great that the stretchers were almost too hot to handle. After being warned by the policeman to get away before the building collapsed, which in fact it did just after they had left, they got their patients safely to hospital and reported back to their station for further duty.

Both men displayed splendid courage and devotion to duty.

Willis Griffiths, Police Constable, "Y" Division, Metropolitan Police.

A high explosive bomb fell, practically demolishing a house and fracturing gas and water mains. It was learned that a woman was trapped beneath the debris.

Police Constable Griffiths, together with an Inspector, climbed over the wreckage, broke down a door and removed many bricks which were holding it fast. Griffiths then cut through one of the rafters with a saw, and was able to crawl below the floor, clearing a passage through a pile of bricks and mortar. Owing to the confined space, this had to be done by scraping it away by hand and passing it back. The woman was trapped behind a spring mattress, part of which was resting on her legs, and another mattress obstructed approach to her. After tying a rope around it the officers were able to drag it away. With the aid of a small coal shovel, sufficient debris was removed to enable a doctor to reach the woman and give her an injection. A saw and some pliers were then passed to P.C. Griffiths who sawed through the mattress frame and released the woman's legs. The spring was then broken