

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:—

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

Frederick John Cox, B.E.M., Inspector, Plymouth Special Constabulary.

During a severe air raid Inspector Cox was off duty in a district which was heavily bombed. Many fires were started by incendiary bombs and, appreciating the danger of the rapidly advancing flames in the congested area, the Inspector immediately organised fire parties. It was due to his efforts that the damage by fire was not more extensive.

A store was demolished by a H.E. bomb, and three persons were trapped. Inspector Cox led a rescue party which, after many hours of hard and dangerous work, during which bombs were dropped nearby, succeeded in extricating alive two of the trapped persons.

Inspector Cox showed courage and devotion to duty.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Betty Marion Louise, Mrs. Fryer, lately Auxiliary, London Women's Auxiliary Fire Service.

During the period of intensive bombing of London, Mrs. Fryer attended many large fires.

On numerous occasions in dangerous conditions, she helped to lay out hose and extinguish fires, distributed petrol supplies and refreshments for Fire Force personnel and, in the absence of despatch riders, she carried out the duty of transmitting messages.

Throughout she displayed courage, coolness and an outstanding devotion to duty.

Harry Harris, Section Officer, Hendon Auxiliary Fire Service (now National Fire Service).

Cyril Harris Davis, Acting Patrol Officer, Hendon Auxiliary Fire Service (now Leading Fireman, National Fire Service).

For brave conduct in hazardous circumstances.

George Arthur Read, Inspector, East Suffolk Constabulary.

William Bernard Eade, Foreman, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Lowestoft.

Claude Edward Smith, Member, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Lowestoft.

H.E. bombs demolished business premises. Inspector Read immediately made a survey

of the debris, from which he saw an arm protruding. He quickly organised a party to remove the wreckage, which required most careful handling, and five women were extricated. The prompt action taken by Inspector Read and his personal supervision of the rescue prevented loss of life.

Eade and Smith carried out a very dangerous tunnelling operation and, after working for five hours, rescued a boy and girl. Both men showed great endurance and initiative throughout.

Charles Alfred Stickells, Fireman, Southern Railway.

A train was sharply attacked by six enemy aircraft flying at a very low altitude. The engine cab, which was struck by machine-gun bullets and cannon shells, soon became full of steam, and scalding water was escaping from the boiler pierced by enemy fire. In an endeavour to close the gauge cocks Stickells, who was already wounded, suffered severe burns to his hands.

In spite of his injuries Stickells helped the fatally injured driver from the footplate and then went to make arrangements for the safety and removal of the train. He received a further severe wound but continued until assured that the necessary precautionary measures were being taken.

Fireman Stickells showed courage and devotion to duty in his endeavours to safeguard the train and its passengers.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

Douglas Bird, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service (now National Fire Service).

Daniel Birkett, Member, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Robert Davidson, Chargeman, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The Reverend William Henry James Fenton, B.A., Warden, Civil Defence Wardens Service, Deptford.

Percival John Goldsack (deceased), Engine Driver, Southern Railway.

George Henry Merton, Temporary Fireman, London Fire Brigade (now National Fire Service).

Alfred Charles Peek, Foreman, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Yarmouth.

Sidney James Pugh (deceased), Nurseryman, Ottery St. Mary, Devon.

Walter William Waters, Foreman, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Lowestoft.

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