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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
9th October, 1942.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned awards of the George Medal and of the British Empire Medal, 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:—

Awarded the George Medal:—

Reginald Norman Willey, Leader, Rescue Party, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Somerset.

During an air raid a house was demolished by bombs, and people were trapped. After working for two hours, the Rescue Party released a man. Tunnelling further into the wreckage a woman was found trapped behind a table one end of which was holding up the debris. It was decided to cut the table in half and remove one portion in order to release the victim. Willey worked in a kneeling and crouching position for nearly an hour.

During the whole of this operation he was in very great danger. The vibration of the sawing and the explosion of bombs nearby caused the debris to settle and the ceiling gradually dropped until he was working prone with only eighteen inches of height.

The woman, however, was safely extricated and the head and body of a man was then exposed. A vertical shaft was started to reach the man and Willey remained in the tunnel for about two hours cheering him and guiding the surface workers. The man was eventually released.

Willey showed great courage and endurance and it is due to his efforts that the lives of two people were saved.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Emily Alberta Mardon, Mrs. Knee, Assistant Night Nurse, City Hospital, Exeter.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Mary Megan, Mrs. Britt, Assistant Nurse, City Hospital, Exeter.

Miss Mary Anne Dorothy Walker, Assistant Nurse, City Hospital, Exeter.

During an air raid incendiary bombs were dropped on the Hospital, and big fires broke out.

Mrs. Knee behaved with great courage and fortitude throughout the raid. She remained on the first floor rescuing patients until the fire and smoke were almost unbearable, and the roof and floor above were on the point of collapse. She only left the ward when ordered to come out while it was still possible. Her heroism was outstanding and at the risk of her life saved many lives.

Nurses Britt and Walker were on duty in another part of the hospital fighting fires. They worked splendidly in the face of the rapidly spreading flames, and their exceptional coolness and courage gave the patients confidence. Had it not been for their immediate response to the arduous duty imposed upon them many lives would have been lost.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

Alfred August Braven, Male Attendant, City Hospital, Exeter.

Percy Hubert Bray, Supervisor, Rescue Party, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Somerset.

Florence Elizabeth, Mrs. Cartwright, Assistant Nurse, City Hospital, Exeter.

Roy Robert Cheeseman, Assistant Hospital Master, City Hospital, Exeter.