

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
13th June, 1944.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned award of the George Medal, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the name of the person specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for brave conduct in Civil Defence.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Albert Edward Hack, Police Sergeant, "V" Division, Metropolitan Police.

During an air raid, bombs caused considerable damage to a building and most of the first floor flat collapsed on to the lower flat in which some people were trapped. At the rear of the building a serious fire was raging in a factory containing much highly inflammable material and explosions were occurring every few minutes.

Hack managed to get into the damaged building but found the narrow passage blocked by debris. He wriggled his way as far as the entrance to the kitchen. One end of the floor of the flat above was resting on the kitchen floor about 5 feet from the fire-place, while the other end was held against the projecting brickwork of the kitchen range.

There were three women and two babies trapped under the debris. Before attempting to rescue them Hack had to deal with an escape of gas from a broken pipe, which he stopped up temporarily. He then cleared rubble and broken furniture out of his way, until he was able to crawl up to the small space between the top of the debris and the joists of the wedged floor in the kitchen. By lying on his stomach and getting his head and arms into the space under the joists, Hack was able to clear away sufficient material to get at and release the two babies. One of the women was unconscious, but eventually the Sergeant was able to drag her out and also to free another woman. The atmosphere was so stifling that on three occasions he had to come out to get fresh air. The remaining victim proved the most difficult to get free as she was tightly pinned under broken furniture and rubble. Finally, by lying on his back and keeping off the shifting wreckage with his feet as he cleared other debris with his hands, Hack was able to pull her to safety.

The conditions were dangerous and extremely exhausting. The raid was still in progress and the flames from the burning factory close by were so fierce that it seemed probable that the house would be set alight. The heat was intense and the atmosphere in the bombed house was foul and oppressive. There was also the risk of suffocation from escaping gas.

Sergeant Hack displayed great courage and pertinacity which resulted in the saving of five lives.

COMMENDATION.

The individual named below has been Commended for brave conduct in Civil Defence:—

Charles Ernest Coppard, Labourer, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Croydon.

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The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned awards 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.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal
(Civil Division):—*

Ernest Phillip Cox, Overlooker, Royal Ordnance Factory, Ministry of Supply.

During the process of removing tracer igniters from A.A. shells, the tracer in one shell was caused to function and took fire. On hearing a sizzling noise Cox turned and saw the flame. He ordered the shop to be cleared and then approached the burning shell which was still in position on the machine. He knocked the shell on to the floor and then picked it up and threw it out of the shop on to an earth mound where it exploded a second or so later.

Cox showed courage and great presence of mind. His action almost certainly saved injuries to personnel, which may well have proved fatal.

Cox was aware that it would be a matter of seconds from the time of the ignition of the tracer until the shell exploded.

Reginald Ernest Tipple, Lorry Driver, Harpley, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

An aircraft crashed, skidded along the ground, struck a house, burst into flames and set fire to the building which was completely destroyed. Tipple, hearing the sound of the crash and seeing the flames, at once ran to the house. He found that the nose of the machine had penetrated into the kitchen and was burning furiously. One of the crew was trapped with his harness and clothing on fire, and was shouting for help. Tipple attempted to open the cabin with his bare hands but it was too hot. He was able to smash a hole with a brick and then dragged out the airman, promptly removed his parachute and gear and, after putting the flames out, wrapped him in a rug. Later, hearing shouting from the other side of the lawn, Tipple found another of the crew with his clothing on fire which he extinguished. Subsequently he rendered first aid to the airman whom he had rescued from the kitchen and who had suffered a broken leg in addition to his other injuries. Tipple showed great gallantry and undoubtedly saved the life of one of the airmen and probably of two.

Tom Williamson, Constable, Liverpool Police Force.

Two horses which were harnessed tandem fashion to a lorry loaded with 7 tons of bacon were suddenly startled and set off at a gallop towards the gate leading from a dock to the street.

On one side of the road along which the horses galloped was the dry dock. In front, directly in the path of the runaways, hundreds of dockers were leaving their work