

COLONEL PAYS TRIBUTE TO A.T.S. OF EXETER

Tribute to the devotion to duty of A.T.S. attached to the Royal Army Pay Corps in Exeter during Sunday night's "Baedeker" raid on the cathedral city has been paid by the Colonel in Command.

His tribute, which was published in Part I Orders today, was as follows:-

"I wish to compliment all ranks of the A.T.S. attached to the detachment under my command who, during recent air raids, displayed devotion to duty of a high order. They carried out their duties under very difficult circumstances in the best traditions of their Corps and the Service. This has given me very keen satisfaction."

Valuable Church property was saved from fire by the prompt actions of 3 A.T.S. The Dean of Exeter has paid a tribute to their work and has promised a written testimonial.

One of the casualties, now in the Reception Station at an A.T.S. Training Centre in the West Country, is Private Q.P. Howard, whose husband is a sergeant in the Royal West Kents. She, with several other girls had been carrying buckets of water to help to control a fire at a house opposite their billet. She was in the process of drawing water in the kitchen at her billet when a heavy bomb dropped close by. She dived under the sink and was thus saved from serious injury when the ceiling caved in. It was the fourth time she had been "bombed out".

Sergeant Barbara Hutchings, the other casualty, does not know how she came by her injury. After being flung to the ground she carried on helping to fight fires and, in fact, reported for duty at the Pay Office the next day. She was later taken to the Reception Station where she is detained suffering from a bruised face and badly swollen eyes. Before joining the A.T.S. in 1939, Sergeant Hutchings was a shorthand typist in Plymouth.

Corporal Baker, who underwent a cookery course at Aldershot with three other cooks, built an emergency field kitchen in a garden and cooked roast beef and potatoes for sixty people. They used pieces of tin which they flattened out, cement and earth, and bricks from demolished buildings, to make their ovens.

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