

might explode at any moment but with cool determination they completed the task.

During this time planes were still overhead and bombs fell nearby. Both men showed extreme courage and devotion to duty.

Walter Mills, Foreman } A.R.P. Mains Repair
Joseph Thomas Hughes, } Squad, Stretford and
Member, } District Gas Board.

During an air raid Mr. Mills and his squad were sent to attend to a broken gas main. On arrival he was warned that it would be very dangerous to carry out the repair as a large time bomb was within ten yards of the damaged main.

As there was a large volume of escaping gas, Mills and his assistant Hughes unloaded the mobile trailer cart for the necessary tools and sent it to safety. They then got down into the crater and effected temporary repairs which took half an hour.

Both men showed initiative and cool courage as in addition to the grave danger from the unexploded bomb of which they had full knowledge, H.E. bombs were dropped near to them whilst they were working.

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

Lawrence Coombs, Station Officer, London Fire Brigade.

During an air raid Section Officer Coombs was in charge at a fire. Further incendiary and high explosive bombs were dropped on the buildings involved, causing the fire to become more intense, water mains were fractured and the water supply began to fail. Coombs was confronted with a large and expanding fire and inadequate water supplies with which to subdue it. He had made a careful study of the emergency water supply arrangements in the locality and after a tiring search, in the most difficult conditions he eventually found an unaffected supply, and was able to relay water to the fire.

Using to the best advantage the small force under his command, Coombs was able to hold the fire in check.

His resourcefulness and calm judgment prevented the fire from spreading and causing serious damage.

Miss Christine Mary Goodridge Heard, Ambulance Driver, Emergency Ambulance Service, Liverpool.

When an air raid was at the height of its intensity Miss Heard, unaccompanied, took her ambulance to a demolished house. With assistance she released a man trapped in the debris and drove him to hospital.

On the return journey Miss Heard came upon a number of Auxiliary Fire Service vehicles which were held up by blocked roads. She volunteered to guide them on an alternative route and led them for the remainder of the way.

During the journeys bombs fell very near to the vehicle, fires were raging in the district and there was heavy gun fire.

Miss Heard showed remarkable coolness and devotion to duty in extremely difficult and hazardous conditions.

Lilian, Mrs., Illidge, A.R.P. Warden, Bootle.

Mrs. Illidge has shown courage, endurance and devotion to duty.

During an air raid, whilst bombs were still falling, this warden acted as messenger, extinguished incendiary bombs and helped to remove people trapped in damaged houses.

She worked throughout the following day helping to evacuate victims and to trace others.

Mrs. Illidge then carried on with her normal civil defence duties throughout the following night.

George Ernest Joynson, Market Gardener, Wallasey.

During an air raid a house was demolished by a H.E. bomb and an elderly man was buried.

Mr. Joynson, without tools, tunnelled under the debris and succeeded in reaching him. He continued to work and eventually was able to drag the victim out. During this time there was danger of a further collapse of the wreckage and bombs continued to fall nearby.

Joynson then went to another demolished house, where he released a small child.

Mr. Joynson showed both courage and initiative.

John McGovern, Leader, } A.R.P. Rescue
Percival William Charles } Party,
Toms, Leader, } Southampton.

H.E. bombs demolished several large dwelling houses and people were trapped under a huge pile of wreckage.

Toms and McGovern tunnelled into the debris for a distance of ten feet and eventually found a young woman pinned beneath a fire-place and the heavy iron structure surrounding it. The two men lifted the debris and supported it whilst the casualty was moved. Had there been any further collapse of the wreckage, Toms and McGovern would have been trapped and suffocated.

Both men worked with great energy and ability for an hour and a half without any thought for personal safety.

Diston Harry Searle, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Southampton.

H.E. bombs demolished several houses and people were trapped. Leader Searle organised his Party and arranged for reinforcements. He set the example by removing much of the heavy debris himself and worked continuously at high pressure until the trapped persons were finally rescued.

On another occasion Searle extricated four persons from the wreckage of a ruined house whilst H.E. and incendiary bombs fell around the spot.

Arthur Edward Snape, Special Constable, Birmingham Special Constabulary.

During the period of heavy air attacks, Special Constable Snape has attended incidents whether or not he was due for duty. In addition to searching for and releasing trapped persons, he has, during the course of raids and while bombs continued to fall nearby, driven casualties to the First Aid Post