

her from falling masonry dislodged by efforts to reach them from above. When his party was relieved he declined to give up and remained until the woman was finally released some three hours later. The conditions under which this man worked were extremely dangerous and he displayed great courage and devotion to duty.

**Ruby Eiryles Megan Rosser, Staff Nurse, Grove Park Hospital, Lee.**

A high explosive bomb struck Grove Park Hospital. Nurse Ruby Rosser immediately rushed to the bedside of a patient and protected the body and injured head of the sick person from the falling debris. She remained at her post until it was possible for the patient and herself to be rescued through a window, despite the fact that the ceiling, together with the floor and equipment of the ward above, continued to fall in to the room and there was obvious danger that the whole roof might collapse on top of them. By her brave action Nurse Rosser saved her charge from further serious injury.

**Edward Heslop Smith, Chief A.R.P. Warden, Poplar.**

A H.E. bomb wrecked a building and the main gas line was broken and ablaze, lighting up the sky and endangering the adjoining premises. It was not possible to turn off the gas from outside. Chief Warden Smith immediately climbed into the wreckage, removing fallen debris as he went. He ran the grave risk of being crushed beneath the parts of the roof and ceiling still crashing down, or of being trapped by the fire.

Without regard for his personal safety he set to work to stem the flames and get the gas under control. After half an hour he succeeded.

Smith's courage and self-sacrifice prevented a very serious spreading of the fire and saved the district from possible disaster.

**Robert Norman Smith, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Bristol.**

A house was completely demolished by a bomb and the inhabitants were buried beneath the debris. Mr. Smith went to the scene with his Rescue Party and commenced tunnelling. This was accomplished only with great difficulty as a fractured gas main was burning in the cellar. Smith worked for about four hours using his bare hands and refusing to take rest. His cool leadership was remarkable and his clear grasp of the situation and the way in which he directed operations were outstanding. Due very largely to his untiring labours and foresight, two people were brought out alive.

Leader Smith on this and other nights has shown courage and devotion to duty.

**John Allan Stephenson, A.R.P. Warden, Holborn.**

**Leonard Wilfred Thorne, Police Constable, "C" Division, Metropolitan Police.**

A heavy bomb wrecked buildings and set them on fire, and a burst water main flooded the streets.

Police Constable Thorne was standing in a shop doorway at the time of the explosion and was thrown by the blast into the roadway. Although badly shaken he telephoned a report of the incident and commenced searching wrecked premises for casualties.

Hearing cries for help coming from a public house, he climbed over the wreckage to search for victims. He was joined by Warden Stephenson and together they released three men who had been trapped. Whilst the rescue work was in progress, pieces of brickwork and masonry frequently dropped from the upper floors of the building, which appeared likely to collapse at any moment. The building next door was on fire and Thorne and Stephenson, despite the heat and smoke, went into the building to search for casualties. They found a man beneath debris and Thorne immediately assisted him, Stephenson going to another part of the building where he heard a woman crying for help.

Thorne had almost succeeded in getting the man out, when a further part of the structure collapsed and nearly buried the individual again. He went to work a second time and after about an hour finally succeeded in extricating the man. Thorne then searched other damaged buildings for further casualties.

Burning debris frequently dropped close at hand, heat and smoke made conditions almost unbearable, and water from hoses drenched the men to the skin.

**Robert Don Stewart, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, St. Pancras.**

Outstanding courage and disregard of personal safety were shown by Leader Stewart in his efforts to release injured people from a vault shelter in front of premises wrecked by a bomb. A passenger bus had been thrown end up against the house, the back crashing through the pavement and pinning the casualties in the vault beneath. Lying at an angle, the bus acted as a shore supporting the damaged front wall of the house. Rescue work under these obviously dangerous conditions called for considerable courage and initiative. Stewart without hesitation volunteered. The removal of debris was liable to bring the bus down upon him, together with the wall it supported. Two people were released by Leader Stewart and only when he had ascertained that the remaining casualties were dead did he desist.

George Henry Wright,	} Plymouth Auxiliary
Patrol Officer.	
Cyril George Lidstone,	
Leading Fireman.	} Fire Service.

During an intense enemy air raid on Plymouth a large petrol tank was set alight. The roof was well down in the tank and to reach it it was necessary to scale a steel stairway on the outside of the tank and then descend a steel ladder to a depth of thirty-two feet inside the tank.

The petrol was well ablaze around the sealing ring, between the rim of the roof and the tank wall. With the contents of the tank so low the possibility of an explosion became a very serious contingency. Patrol Officer Wright and Leading Fireman Lidstone