

William George Hack, Police Constable, " J " Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

During an air raid a crude oil bomb was dropped on a factory and a huge fire resulted and dwelling-houses quickly became enveloped. H.E. bombs were also dropped.

Within a minute or two P.C. Hack arrived and found six persons trapped in a shelter by debris. Here, despite the heat, flames and additional bombs, he succeeded in making a hole in the debris large enough to pull the six people through and sent them away to safety.

Continuing along the road, Hack found a man trapped to the waist in debris. Here again the P.C. showed great devotion to duty and did his utmost to release the man unaided. Finding the task beyond him, however, he obtained the assistance of P.S. Osborne and P.C. Comley. All three officers then commenced to remove the debris which had become ignited, and after several minutes of work in intense heat, and at considerable personal risk, succeeded in releasing the man, who was unconscious.

P.C. Hack undoubtedly saved six lives and was primarily responsible for saving a seventh.

Joseph James Harper, Fire Brigade Station Officer.

Two members of a Bomb Disposal Section were trapped in a crater while attempting to dig out an unexploded bomb.

The Fire Brigade special service tender was immediately despatched, and upon arrival it was found that an opening approximately 6 ft. 6 in. by 18 ft. deep had been dug out, showing a circular hole at the bottom about 18 ins. in diameter. The two men had been lowered through this opening, and had been immediately overcome by the gas in the cavity below, although they were wearing general service respirators.

Station Officer Harper, wearing a " Salvus " breathing apparatus, was immediately lowered through the opening, although he was informed that the bomb had not yet exploded. He located the men, and fastened a rope round them; they were then hauled to the surface by other members of the Brigade.

Edward William Thomas Jackson, Police Constable.	} " L " Division Metropolitan Police Force.
Albert George Parsons, War Reserve.	

Late one night a high explosive bomb burst in South-East London, demolishing one house and partly demolishing another.

A party of police immediately proceeded to the scene of the explosion where they were informed that several people were in the remains of the partially demolished house. After assisting two children and three adults to safety, they were further informed that a man was still trapped in wreckage on the top floor.

Although the remainder of the house was in danger of collapse and enemy aeroplanes still overhead Jackson and Parsons made their way through the debris to the top floor where they found a man pinioned by fallen woodwork. Near his head was a broken gas

pipe, from which gas was freely escaping. Jackson plugged the pipe, and, with the assistance of the War Reserve, attempted to extricate the trapped and injured man. To do this, they had to support the fallen roof upon their shoulders while parts of the house were still crumbling. They persisted in their efforts for twenty minutes when with the aid of a Rescue Squad, they were able to release the man. First aid was then rendered to the patient, who was later removed to hospital.

George Frederick Keen, Sub Ganger.	} Southern Railway Company.
George Henry Leach, Lengthman.	

An ammunition train, of some fifty wagons, standing on a single line railway, was hit by an explosive bomb during an air raid. Keen and Leach hastily collected a working party to help remove the damaged wagons to a place of safety. The moving of the wagons took about two hours and during the whole of that time the burning wagons were exploding and debris was shooting in all directions. But for the action of Keen and Leach in starting and directing the work of moving the wagons it is likely that most of the train would have caught fire with greater danger to life and property in the neighbourhood. Both men acted quite regardless of their own safety and at very considerable personal risk.

Edward Phillip Kerrison, Police Constable, " L " Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

As a result of enemy action during an air raid a public house was completely demolished by an H.E. bomb and several persons were trapped under the debris. On the first floor supported by the wreckage, P.C. Kerrison saw a woman partly dressed lying across a bath which was protruding over the deep crater caused by the bomb. The woman appeared terrified and her struggles caused the bath to slip towards the crater, the danger being intensified by the steep gradient of the street, at the corner of which the public house was situated. The night was very dark and enemy planes were still bombing overhead but the officer, in spite of the danger likely to arise from falling woodwork, masonry, etc., or through slipping in the debris, climbed over the wreckage and forced his way to the first floor and rescued the woman from her perilous position. Shortly afterwards the bath overbalanced and fell.

On another occasion some premises were completely demolished by an H.E. bomb. Several persons were trapped under debris, two of whom were dead. P.C. Kerrison accompanied by an Inspector and a War Reserve entered the basement, the balustrade and steps of which were in danger of collapsing and the passage blocked by debris. They succeeded in rescuing a baby and two women through the side of the demolished shelter. The coping stones at the side of the steps collapsed whilst they were carrying a woman out of the basement. It was then discovered that another woman was on the top floor, all the rooms of which were ex-