

tremendous showers of debris, until he reached the woman who was pinned down. She was terrified, and had almost collapsed. P.C. Spain, although he knew the grave danger he was running of being buried alive, remained with her the whole time, comforting her by his kind words and presence, until the work of the Rescue Party was complete, and she was released. He showed courage of the very highest order.

Harold Isaac William Young, Station Police Sergeant, "L" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

As a result of an enemy air raid a considerable number of cottages and adjoining property were demolished, one person being killed and a number injured. The explosion caused the fracture of a gas main and electrical cables whereby the danger was intensified. Station Sergeant Young, however, regardless of personal safety immediately entered the area affected and worked unceasingly in rescuing people from shelters and others trapped under the debris. Great difficulty was experienced on this occasion as it was impossible to use lights in consequence of an enemy aeroplane in the beam of the searchlights, which was circling overhead, immediately above the scene.

On another occasion two parachutes were detected falling in the same neighbourhood. The S.P.S. on being informed immediately ran towards the direction of the parachutes. When he was a short distance away a loud explosion occurred causing considerable damage over a wide area, involving loss of life and injuries. The explosion was that of land mines attached to the parachutes. Young was blown off his feet and thrown to the ground, sustaining shock. Regardless of his condition, however, he worked unceasingly in rescuing trapped people from under fallen debris. On his return to the station about an hour afterwards he was seen with his face completely covered in dirt and dust and his uniform plastered with grime, he himself being dazed and exhausted. He declined to see the Divisional Surgeon or to report sick.

Station Sergeant Young has rendered exceptional services in connection with the rescue of people concerned in other bombing incidents caused by enemy action.

*Awarded the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for Meritorious Service:—*

Edward Raymond Riordan Gahan, Station Inspector, "X" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Since the commencement of the heavy nightly aerial bombardment, Station Inspector Gahan has visited and dealt with no less than twenty-two incidents of varying magnitude, being a real leader and stimulus to all with whom he has come in contact.

On one occasion, two heavy bombs demolished three houses and damaged a very large number of others. Several persons were killed and a large number sustained injury. The Station Inspector, efficiently organising soldiers and civilians into a "chain gang," soon had three persons rescued after wholesale removal of debris.

On another occasion incendiary bombs were dropped causing several fires. One of these fires at a factory proved to be serious and Fire Services were in attendance. An H.E. bomb then fell on the premises causing the fire to spread to an adjoining factory and other premises. Small fires also began to break out in many places and the water supply was affected by explosions. The Station Inspector obtained four stirrup pumps and organised local teams of residents to obtain buckets of water from neighbouring houses. In this manner he succeeded in stopping several fires from spreading, being assisted in these efforts by women as well as men. He has also organised a number of evacuations following unexploded bombs and land mines. In one particular instance a very large evacuation was necessary which was carried out efficiently and methodically.

Herbert Charles Lusignea, Inspector, "Y" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Night after night the Inspector has taken charge of all incidents in his Section, and exhibited an inspiring leadership to all ranks serving under him. When he dealt with two unexploded bombs of a new type, the first in the Division, he realised their potential danger, closely examining them at great personal risk and organising evacuation of local residents on a large scale, involving two to three thousand people. This operation was carried out without a hitch.

#### *Commendations.*

Those named below have been brought to notice for gallantry or good service in connection with Civil Defence.

John Aspinall, Police Constable, West Riding of Yorkshire Constabulary.

Richard Harry MacDonald Atkins, Police Constable, "V" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Arthur W. Buddles, Borough Police Force, Sunderland.

Harry Gordon Peppiatt Carpenter, Police Constable, "X" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Sidney John Comley, Police Constable, "J" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

George M. Cook, Detective Constable, Borough Police Force, Sunderland.

Leonard George Francis, Porter, Southern Railway.

Charles Frederick Franklin, Police Constable, "X" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Ernest Walter George, Inspector, "X" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Richard David Hammerton, War Reserve, "L" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Thomas Hogarth, Police Sergeant, "G" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Brian Corkery Kelly, Police Constable, "N" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Robert Frederick William Lewin, Police Constable, "X" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Bernard Lowery, Police Constable, "X" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Alfred Thomas Lowes, Police Sergeant, "S" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

Albert McKechnie, Station Police Sergeant, "M" Division, Metropolitan Police Force.