

even if much shelter were available, and they have remained at their work in an area where the degree of danger is particularly great.

Blunt and Harris during the last nine weeks have completely threshed out the corn in the district and have therefore done most valuable work for the food production campaign by enabling many hundreds of quarters of corn to be made available for the nation's use, which would have been lost but for their efforts.

Miss Rose Ede, Wadhurst.

During an air raid a farm sustained a direct hit from an H.E. bomb and was completely demolished. Two persons were instantly killed but three children remained trapped in the debris. Mr. and Mrs. Ede and Rose Ede were the first on the scene and hearing the cries of the children they succeeded quite quickly in rescuing two of them. A baby remained trapped under the wreckage of an upstairs room. Rose Ede crawled under the fallen beams, which might have crushed her at any moment, and worked to get the child free whilst her father and other neighbours were endeavouring to lift the beams. She continued to work for over half an hour under the broken roof, moving the child inch by inch and comforting it until the beam was lifted sufficiently for her to rescue the child. She was in complete darkness, and in pouring rain with enemy planes overhead.

*Awarded the George Medal.*

E. Goodyear, Station Sergeant, Royal Marine Police.

H. D. Robbins, Deputy Armament Supply Officer.

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

Constable Drouet, Royal Marine Police.

Constable Taylor, Royal Marine Police.

During an air attack which began at a quarter to one in the morning, between 100 and 200 incendiary bombs were dropped, which started fires over a large area.

The Royal Marine Police at once attacked the flames and, with the help of the local Fire Brigades which arrived very soon, were able to prevent the fires from spreading.

The enemy returned about half past one and dropped some high explosive bombs.

For seven hours they worked in intense heat exposed to danger from exploding ammunition, the enemy's bombs, and a hail of debris from the burning buildings.

Station Sergeant Goodyear was in charge and directed operations with the utmost efficiency and coolness.

Mr. H. D. Robbins, Deputy Armament Supply Officer, though past 60, was active in the fire-fighting and himself put out a fire in the lobby where explosives were housed.

Constables Drouet and Taylor were approaching one of the fires with a hose when they had to throw themselves down to avoid the blast of a high explosive bomb. Undeterred they at once carried on with their work of extinguishing the flames.

*Awarded the George Medal.*

Henry Bernard Neale, Fireman, Auxiliary Fire Service.

During operations following an enemy air attack it became necessary to stop up a large leak that had appeared in the top of a tank which had been on fire. The flames had been extinguished but the oil pouring out of the tank was quite likely to catch fire again.

Neale, enlisting the aid of two firemen from another unit, secured a thirty-foot extension ladder and a plank. He then climbed the iron ladder that was secured to the side of the tank and, with help, dragged the extension ladder up to the top. He was joined by the Senior Officer and the Engineer, the ladder was extended to its full length and dropped over the other side of the tank. Neale then opened a lid on the top of the tank to ascertain the depth of the oil, which was found to be roughly eight feet from the top.

The Senior Officer then went down the ladder and plugged the hole with soft wood. The whole of this operation from start to finish was a very risky undertaking. Apart from fires in the vicinity and the likelihood of certain gases being given off in the tank, one slip on the top would no doubt have been fatal.

Neale also played a great part in the saving of another tank. This tank had a hole in it about four feet above the base and burning oil was pouring from it. The crew played two very strong jets at the leak, driving the flames away. Two more cross jets were used to drive away the burning oil at the base of the tank, making a passage between the tank and the fire. Neale and another fireman bridged the gap between the tank and the bank with a ladder and proceeded to plug the hole with wood. While this operation was in progress, two more jets were played above the men, making a curtain of water and at the same time cooling the tanks. If at any time the two cross jets had failed to beat back the burning oil, the two men would certainly have been burned, perhaps with serious consequences. The tank was saved.

Frederick Parkes, A.R.P. Warden.

Mr. Parkes who was not on duty heard that a bomb had been dropped on some works and he immediately went to see if he could be of assistance. An H.E. bomb had been dropped close to the outside wall and the premises were well alight as a 3-inch gas main had been broken and the gas ignited. The works' roof watchers had been able to get down from the roof safely and in company with these workers, Mr. Parkes went into the premises to see if it was possible to extinguish the fire. A considerable quantity of sand was applied to the source of the blaze but this was found to be ineffective. They then stopped an A.F.S. tender and the leader of the squad and Parkes made their way as far along the passage entrance as they could, but it was decided that it was impossible to get into the building, as there was every likelihood of the remaining unfallen structure coming down. Parkes was aware of the exact position of the gas cock in the cellar of the adjacent premises, and with the assistance of another employee managed to