enter the cellar, head first through a small opening of 12 inches to 15 inches square, and The fire was turn off the gas at the main. then extinguished without much difficulty.

His action, a particularly courageous one, undoubtedly saved the whole of these works from destruction.

Miss Betty Quinn, St. John's Ambulance Brigade, Coventry.

Miss Quinn was rendering voluntary service at an  $\Lambda$ .R.P. Post when a shower of incendiary bombs fell in the district. out waiting for assistance she ran outside. At this time A.A. Batteries were putting a heavy barrage and shrapnel was falling all round. Bombs began to fall and a man was injured by one. Miss Quinn assisted him to a public shelter. A report came in of an Anderson shelter receiving a direct hit and although bombs were still falling, Miss Quinn ran there and commenced digging in the crater with a spade. remained there and assisted to dig out seven persons who had been trapped and then attended to their injuries. She stayed until all had been removed by ambulance although shells were bursting overhead the whole of the time. She then returned to the Post and carried on with her duties assisting distressed people there.

Albert Edward Parsons Twyman, Chief Officer, Fire Brigade.

Walter Watson, Frederick Fireman, Fire

Brigade.

Serious fires were caused when a series of bombing and machine-gun attacks took place. Fire Brigades and Auxiliary Fire Services were called out, and worked under most dangerous conditions, saving much valuable equipment and extinguishing the fires before nightfall. Two men having entered a burning building with breathing apparatus, Chief Officer Twyman led others (not so equipped) by crawling into the building and forming a chain whereby material was passed out and the whole stock saved.

On another occasion Oil Stores were fired and the only water supply was from an underground tank within five feet of which a delayed action bomb had fallen. None the less this source of supply was used and, although fully realising the danger, Watson, the Pump Engineer, remained working within a few feet of the unexploded bomb whilst the fires were tackled. While this was being done a further bombing attack developed, a heavy H.E. bomb exploding within 20 feet of the place where the men had taken cover. Despite shock the men continued work and carried on during a later machine-gun attack, eventually extinguishing the fires before dark. Chief Officer Twyman showed great qualities of leadership and courage, setting a fine example to the men under him who, with him, fulfilled their important and dangerous Fireman Watson by his courage and devotion to duty enabled the only water supply to be utilised.

Thomas James Vickers, Works Fitter, South Metropolitan Gas Company.

During an air raid a gasholder was struck by an H.E. bomb. The gas in the holder was ignited and the flame set fire to offices and adjoining buildings. An adjacent gas-

holder had the side plates of the top lift pierced by fragments of the bomb or of shell, and the gas escaping from the perforations was ignited. The flame from the fire in the offices also endangered the safety of this

Vickers climbed the holder to a height of 60 feet and sealed the perforations with clay and afterwards with soft wooden plugs. The perforations were many, and Vickers' action greatly eased a serious situation, thus preserving the second gasholder and allowing all efforts to be concentrated on the extinction of the fire in the offices before During his action bombs were nightfall. falling nearby, and there was heavy gunfire.

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

Waters George Barnes, Alfred Messenger, Research Department, Ministry of Supply.

During a severe air raid Mr. Barnes was acting as first-aid man. He carried out all his duties with enthusiasm and efficiency. He went out of the post during the height of the bombardment without hesitation to attend to injured men in other shelters in the vicinity, and though when the bombardment was over he appeared exhausted, he remained on duty for the whole of the 24 hours allotted to him. During this time he was conspicuous by the cheerful and efficient manner in which he carried out any work assigned to him, and on his own initiative made arrangements for the removal of the dead bodies in the area.

On the completion of his tour of duty, Barnes asked permission to stay at his post. He declined to leave his post for the best part of 60 hours, during which time he had very little sleep or rest as there were more or less continuous air raids. He remained cool and efficient throughout and carried out a number of duties additional to his official one of firstaid man.

George Kewley, A.R.P. Warden, Birkenhead. Robert William Parry, A.R.P. Warden, Birkenhead.

During an enemy air raid a High Explosive bomb dropped on some dwelling houses. The Wardens were very quickly on the spot and rendered assistance before any of the Services arrived, doing valuable work

R. W. Parry was able to release three of the inmates of the house. On reaching the debris he carefully climbed up to the top and discovered an injured woman. Kewley followed Parry, stopping on a lower level and establishing himself to act as a "go between " to the man above and persons below. The injured woman was passed by Parry via Kewley to the ground, and first aid was rendered until the First Aid Party arrived.

Another woman was then found with head and shoulder protruding. Her baby, who was above her, was completely covered with slates and debris of all kinds. After carefully removing this, Parry, who had been joined by a civilian, was able to extricate the baby unhurt and passed the child down to Kewley.

Parry then turned to the other woman and proceeded to extricate her. It was found