

another was left, this being in a dangerous condition. The premises were three storey buildings, and there were persons trapped in two of them.

Six live and two dead persons were recovered from one house after exhausting rescue work by two parties, considerably hampered by debris continually falling down the sides of the crater.

Six people were on the ground floor of another house when the upper floors crashed down carrying the ground floor about half way into the cellar. This made rescue work slow and difficult as there was danger of further collapse. Some hours later four casualties, suffering only from shock, had been removed by one rescue party. The floor then dropped about two feet leaving two casualties, an elderly man and his wife, trapped by the legs with dangerous debris hanging over them and covering them almost completely. The squads worked unceasingly, hampered many times by further falls of debris. The last casualty was not finally released until after some hours. Great difficulty was experienced in releasing the last victim as she could only be reached along a narrow tunnel.

All the personnel engaged worked well but particular mention is made of G. Bolton, who worked on the extraction of casualties from two houses and who by very hazardous operations provided tunnels through which the medical and first aid men made contact with the casualties, and E. H. Bent, who worked unceasingly, and was himself responsible for releasing three casualties.

George Collier, Chief Fire Officer, Works Fire Brigade, Coventry.

Chief Officer Collier throughout showed great zeal and gallantry in directing the Works Fire Brigade when the city was subjected to a heavy air raid. At one time when endeavouring to prevent flames from spreading he climbed to the top of the building. The building collapsed, and although hurt by his fall, he carried on his duties. Later, he continued to put out incendiary bombs although on three occasions H.E. bombs actually exploded in the building in which he was working. He was injured in the back by debris from one of them, but although in considerable pain he continued to direct his Second and Third Officers. It was not until the end of the raid that he would permit himself to be taken to the Surgery and then on to the Hospital.

In previous raids Chief Officer Collier has also shown great fearlessness and zeal, and he and his Brigade have dealt with several fires with great efficiency.

John Crawford Cunningham, D.S.O., Factory Defence Officer, Luton.

For gallantry in carrying out hazardous duties.

Leonard Frank Davis, Clerk of Works, A.R.P. Rescue Service, Westminster.

For bravery and devotion to duty in dangerous circumstances.

John William Donno, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Lewisham.

After the explosion of an enemy bomb, Donno displayed particularly fine courage and devotion to duty in effecting the rescue of four trapped casualties. Not being satisfied that all had been saved he caused some of the debris to be raised to enable him to crawl in and make a further search; this he did and discovered another casualty which was eventually rescued. During this latter operation Donno was himself trapped and buried, and upon being released was found to be injured and removed to hospital.

**Arthur Hames Foreman, Fire Brigade Officer.
Harry Taylor, Fireman.
Sidney Eric Friend, Factory Press Operator.**

During an air raid a bomb struck one of two trucks loaded with cordite standing outside a 60-ton Cordite Magazine. The truck immediately caught fire. The Fire Brigade at once turned out and attacked the fire from close range. Both trucks were blazing furiously and the flames spread to the Magazine through the doorway, the door having been wrenched off by the explosion. Regardless of personal danger the firemen, led by the Fire Brigade Officer, rapidly got the trucks under control and then entered the Magazine. One of the cordite boxes had already ignited and the exposed sides of many others were scorched. They extinguished this fire with hand appliances and then returned to and finally extinguished the burning trucks. As one of these had been derailed, it was necessary to remove the unburnt cordite from the truck.

But for the quick and efficient manner in which the Fire Brigade tackled the fire regardless of great personal risk, there is no doubt that the Magazine and contents would have been a complete loss.

George Thomas Groom, Member of A.R.P. Rescue Party, Greenwich.

Groom's party was called late in the night to some houses and shops demolished by an enemy bomb. Two live casualties were known to be under the debris. The only means of reaching them was through a flooded basement. Groom spent some hours in this flooded basement, in parts of which there were over 6 feet of water, and eventually these two stretcher cases were extricated. During all this period an air raid was in progress and bombs were falling round the site. Groom himself had ultimately to be assisted from the cellar and carried to hospital suffering from complete exhaustion.

Joseph Hoyle, Member of A.R.P. Rescue Party, Greenwich.

During an air raid a Hall was hit and a number of people were trapped in a cellar. The whole structure was in an exceedingly dangerous condition and bombs were constantly falling close by all through the night. Despite the fact that it appeared to be impossible to carry out rescue work in the darkness, J. Hoyle insisted on carrying on and worked in through a small aperture. After some hours, the efforts of Hoyle and others of his party resulted in three persons being rescued alive. All through this period Hoyle was aware that there was a likelihood that the whole structure would collapse on top of him but continued to work all night, showing an absolute disregard of his own personal safety. When the Hall was inspected in daylight it was found necessary to employ a special contractor to demolish a large part of the building, owing to the imminent danger of collapse. Hoyle showed an absolute disregard of his own safety in a position of grave danger and insisted on carrying on after his period of duty had expired.

Edward Henry James Moore, Auxiliary Fireman, Ramsgate A.F.S.

Fireman Moore and Auxiliary Fireman Herbert J. Wells were proceeding to report to their station, whilst bombs were falling, when a bomb exploded near them. Wells sustained a very severe laceration of the abdomen from a bomb splinter and was gravely injured. Fireman Moore received two splinter wounds in the right thigh and suffered from shock. The enemy then machine-gunned the two firemen and Moore received three bullets in the left arm, one making a hole through the arm whilst