

others somewhere in the debris. With the assistance of Leader Crouch and Mr. Poulter, Mr. Bursnall made his way through the pile of debris to a girl who was conscious although pinned over the back of a settee with her legs doubled up behind her. The settee was undoubtedly supporting the whole of the debris of the second floor. After over an hour's hazardous work Crouch, Bursnall and Poulter assisted by others of the Rescue Party, succeeded in extricating the girl. Mr. Bursnall again wormed his way into the debris, gave Leader Crouch the position in which he thought the other woman must be lying, and Crouch, together with the help of others of the Rescue Squad, and in particular Poulter, succeeded, after removing some three or four tons of bricks, in recovering the body.

Awarded the George Medal:—

William Woods, Chief Officer, Fire Brigade, Twickenham.

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

Ernest Alfred Stevens, Section Officer, Twickenham Auxiliary Fire Service.

Ernest William Weller, Fireman, Twickenham Fire Brigade.

On the occasion of a serious bombing incident when a number of houses and shops were wrecked, Chief Officer Woods, Station Officer Stevens and Fireman Weller were occupied for nearly three hours in rescue work, obtaining access to trapped inmates through a small hole in the debris. All the time there was the greatest likelihood that tons of masonry would collapse on them. Much of this was only supported by a few loose bricks.

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

Christopher Bone. } Telephone Operators,
Francis McCullough. } Air Ministry Outstation

An R.A.F. Station was dive-bombed by about twenty enemy aircraft. Bone and McCullough, who are employed at the Station as civilian telephone operators, remained at their post (which was only partially protected) until the windows, door and roof collapsed. Bone received a superficial scalp wound and injuries to his shoulder and forearm which incapacitated him for two weeks. McCullough suffered a superficial scalp wound but after receiving attention he returned to the telephone exchange and continued his duties. Although four unexploded bombs were found in the roadway, outside the telephone exchange, McCullough carried on with his duties.

Both men displayed an unselfish devotion to duty without regard to their personal safety.

William Thomas Brown, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police Force.

An H.E. bomb almost completely demolished two houses. P.C. Brown, accompanied by two other police officers, was

travelling along the road a few minutes later and, seeing the damaged property, began rescue work with the assistance of women A.R.P. personnel who were already there.

Shouts for help were heard coming from among the debris and it was learned that a number of people were trapped on the top floor. Without hesitation, P.C. Brown climbed over the wreckage to reach them. The whole structure was in great danger of collapsing but in spite of this Brown succeeded in making a hole in the wrecked roof and helped a man and woman to escape. Both these people reached the ground in safety but before P.C. Brown could get down the whole building collapsed and partly buried the officer in the debris. He was very fortunate not to receive serious injuries.

Bombs were falling nearby and a good deal of shrapnel, during the period that P.C. Brown was carrying out these rescues.

Donald Edward Buckland, A.R.P. Warden, Mitcham.

Edward Silence, A.R.P. Warden, Mitcham.

Wardens Silence and Buckland were on patrol when an explosion was heard. Both proceeded to the scene and discovered two persons trapped beneath the wreckage of a dwelling house. They set to work at once to free the trapped people, despite the danger from the wrecked building, without waiting for the arrival of a rescue party. The work involved much risk and the prompt action of these two wardens, who showed great disregard of personal danger, undoubtedly saved the lives of the trapped persons. Throughout the period enemy planes were active overhead.

Edward William John Cackett, Police Sergeant, Metropolitan Police Force.

When a detached dwelling house was demolished by a high-explosive bomb, P.S. Cackett was one of the party of Police Officers who went to the scene of the bombing to render assistance.

On arrival at the wrecked house it was learnt that several people had been trapped under the wreckage. The only possible way of reaching them was through a small hole that had been made in the debris. This was hardly big enough for a man to crawl through.

Sergeant Cackett crawled down this hole and eventually succeeded in dragging to safety a young girl whom he carried to a waiting ambulance. He then returned, again crawled into the hole and, with assistance of members of the Rescue Squad, managed to free two more individuals who were eventually dragged to safety.

There remained one other man who was trapped in the wreckage. His legs only were visible. Sergeant Cackett persisted in his efforts at rescue and once more crawled down the hole. The casualty was pulled to the surface but unfortunately was found to be dead. Cackett entered the hole yet again to search for another member of the family still unaccounted for, but this time his efforts did not meet with success.

Sergeant Cackett performed excellent services at grave risk to his own life. During