

the whole time bombs were falling nearby and there was a serious escape of coal gas into the hole where he was working.

Raymond Thomas Corn, A.R.P. Messenger, Coventry.

This messenger rendered yeoman service during the whole of an exceedingly heavy and sustained enemy air attack on Coventry. Early in the evening telephonic communications ceased and Corn volunteered to carry vital messages. During extremely heavy enemy action Corn made his way to Central Control despite the fact that his route for most of its length was obstructed by fire and debris. He handed in his messages and afterwards he made at least three journeys to a first aid post with casualties and also to call for first aid assistance. Throughout the whole of the night Corn, without any thought of personal danger, gave unstinting help wherever it was needed.

Leslie John Hall, Acting Sub-Officer, Barking Fire Brigade.

Two machines left the station with Mr. Hall as Officer-in-Charge during intense enemy air activity. A bomb fell at the off-side of the towing vehicle on which the Officer-in-Charge was riding. The crew, who had dismounted, were thrown to the ground and Hall was thrown by the blast against a brick pillar some distance away.

The towing vehicle had been seriously effected by the bomb explosion and could not be removed. Hall thereupon ordered the crew to uncouple the trailer pump and manhandle it to the scene of the fire, where he and his men got to work.

When the fire was extinguished Hall was taken to hospital.

Frank Hickman, Squad Foreman, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Bexley.

Following heavy bombing a number of people were trapped under the wreckage of a large building. It was seen that a heavy girder was overhanging a roof and threatening to fall, thus endangering the lives of those engaged in the rescue work. The building itself was in danger of complete collapse and Mr. Hickman at very great personal risk succeeded, by clinging on to what was already a dangerous wall, in loosening the girder and bringing it to the ground so that the normal rescue work could go on without the added danger of the beam falling.

George Luff, A.R.P. Rescue Party Foreman, Gosport.

Thomas Arthur Johnson, Leader A.R.P. Rescue Party, Gosport.

An enemy H.E. bomb of large calibre was dropped and as a result the rear portion of a house collapsed burying beneath the debris a woman who was at work in the kitchen.

A Rescue Party promptly began operations to rescue her.

To extricate this woman the Rescue Party had to cut their way through a small aperture sawing through joists and supporting debris as they went. Lying on their stomachs they removed soil and debris with their hands and the work was so strenuous, apart altogether from the danger, that they collapsed from time to time and had to be dragged out

by their heels. It was only possible for one man to work at a time and as one collapsed he was dragged out and restored and this operation went on for nearly six hours. Foreman Luff and Leader Johnson were outstanding during the untiring efforts of the Party to rescue the victims.

Michael Parkinson, Leader of A.R.P. Stretcher Party, Fulham.

Two houses were hit by a high explosive bomb. The lower stories were demolished and the upper ones partly so. Seven people were sheltering in these houses and were found to be trapped in the basement.

A Stretcher Party under Leader Parkinson and an R.S.D. Party were despatched to the incident and on arrival located the casualties but found it impossible to gain access to them. The upper storey was found to be in an insecure state and it was evident that it would collapse at any moment. Further intense bombardment was in progress at this time. A hole was excavated in the party wall of the basement and through this the casualties could be seen. First Aid was given and morphia administered, but it was found impossible to extricate them. A second hole was then made in the party wall and while this was being done a bomb fell nearby and the upper storey collapsed on the Stretcher Party. In spite of this the work was continued and the casualties extricated from the basement. Both rescue work and First Aid showed an extremely high degree of efficiency in spite of the difficult circumstances, and four of the casualties were extricated alive. The courage and bearing of the men was excellent and complete contempt of danger was displayed.

Jenkyn Shanklyn, Member, Works Rescue Squad, Coventry.

When Coventry experienced a very heavy enemy air attack Shanklyn's party was sent to where a large bomb had exploded and caused heavy devastation to private dwelling-houses. Shanklyn was the outstanding figure of the Rescue Party. He dug his way through the debris of two houses near the big bomb crater; and after an arduous task found two bodies, which he dragged out and carried to ambulances. He searched further, removing bricks from the stairway, and rescued a female alive. She was conveyed to hospital in an ambulance.

Shanklyn continued his work in other parts of the town and throughout showed no regard for his own well-being or safety.

COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been brought to notice for brave conduct in Civil Defence.

William Hughes Allen, A.R.P. Ambulance Driver, West Bromwich.

Miss Grace Aucutt, A.R.P. Warden, Deptford.

Albert Wilfred Barnes, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Coventry.

William Harold Barnes, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Coventry.

John Cadogan, Officer-in-Charge, Works Fire Brigade, Bethnal Green.

John S. Cameron, Assistant Medical Officer, Emergency Medical Service, Fulham.