

Awarded the George Medal :—

William Henry Allen, Police Constable, " G " Division, Metropolitan Police Force.

A high explosive bomb exploded resulting in the demolition of property and a number of casualties.

So extensive was the devastation that the Rescue Squad were of the opinion that any persons trapped beneath the wreckage must be dead. P.C. Allen, however, called aloud several times, and was certain he heard a faint reply. Allen believed the response to his shouts came from the basement of what had been a shop, and aided by the other officers, commenced to clear some of the debris in a corner.

At great risk to himself, Allen crawled into the hole and found, beneath the wreckage, two elderly men and two young girls pinioned by debris. Allen passed the two girls and one of the men, who were uninjured, through the hole to the men above. The remaining casualty he found to be suffering from a fractured forearm and severe head injuries, and he called for First Aid kit. This was passed down to him and the P.C. bandaged the unconscious man's arm and head, and effected his rescue in a similar manner to the others. Reassuring himself by further search that no more people were left in the basement, the P.C. crawled back to safety.

Miss Charity Bick, A.R.P. Despatch Rider, West Bromwich.

During a very heavy air raid, Miss Bick played an heroic part under nerve-racking conditions. At the outset when incendiary bombs began to fall she assisted her father, a Post Warden, to put out one of these, in the roof of a shop, with the aid of a stirrup pump and bucket of water. The pump proved to be out of order, but nothing daunted she proceeded to splash the water with her hands and eventually put out the fire. While endeavouring to get out of the roof the charred rafters gave way and she fell through to the room below and sustained minor injuries.

Miss Bick and her father then returned to the A.R.P. Post. Almost immediately high explosive bombs began to fall and a terrific explosion nearly shook them off their feet. They discovered that a bomb had destroyed two houses opposite and another one nearby. The Wardens attached to the Post were all on duty, so she borrowed a bicycle and rushed out to take a message to the Control Room amidst shrapnel from guns and falling bombs. She made repeated attempts to get through and several times had to dismount and fall flat on the ground for safety. Covered with dirt and grime she eventually delivered the message.

She made three journeys from her Post to the Control Room, a distance of approximately one and a quarter miles, during the height of the raid, and made further journeys afterwards.

Miss Bick, by acting as a means of communication between the Wardens' Post to which she was attached and the Control Room, did very valuable work and released other Wardens for duty. She displayed outstanding courage and coolness in very trying circumstances.

Sidney Ernest George Bradford, Despatch Rider, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

A high explosive bomb demolished a house and people were buried in the wreckage. Despatch Rider Bradford, who was off duty at the time, and taking shelter nearby, immediately went to their assistance, and by hanging head downwards, whilst someone held his legs, cleared away wreckage for a period of one hour, after which he was overcome by gas. He received first aid treatment and wanted to carry on but was not allowed to do so. Through Bradford's efforts two people were rescued with only minor injuries.

Frederick Maurice Burgess, Police Sergeant, " J " Division, Metropolitan Police.

A very large bomb exploded, demolishing a number of houses.

Police Sergeant Burgess, in company with a Police Constable, went to the scene and heard shouts coming from the debris of one of the houses. He answered and learned that eight people were trapped in a basement shelter and were unharmed, but that water from a broken main was entering at a great rate. The two Police Officers, with Air Raid Wardens, pulled away debris and eventually found a hole through which the Sergeant was able to crawl into the basement. He helped the eight people on to a ledge from which they were pulled to safety.

Part of the basement shelter threatened to collapse at any moment, and the Sergeant was compelled to support it with his shoulders whilst the entombed people made good their escape.

Having assisted them to safety, the Sergeant himself was pulled out. Almost immediately afterwards the remaining portion of the basement collapsed.

Henry Burgoyne,	} " D " Division, Metropolitan Police.
Police Constable,	
John Philip James,	
Police Constable,	

A high explosive bomb was dropped on a block of flats and demolished one end of the building. The debris was piled up with the roof lying at an angle across the top. Gas supply pipes in the premises were broken and a considerable amount of gas was escaping.

P.C. James arrived on the scene and commenced searching the wreckage for victims. He was overcome by gas, however, and was compelled to retire for first aid treatment. P.C. Burgoyne then arrived, and, after further search, a cry was heard from someone buried immediately under the roof, which appeared likely to slide further towards the ground at any moment.

P.C. Burgoyne began to clear debris from under the roof, and made a hole large enough to get into. He then went under the roof and continued to remove rubble from the spot from which the cry came. Meanwhile P.C. James had recovered from the effects of gas, and returned to the incident. He entered the hole with Burgoyne and helped him in his work. The roof began to slide, and the two police constables had to arch their backs and prevent it from falling further. A.R.P. workers then held up the roof until it was propped up by a wooden strut.