

In moving debris as he did Douglas took grave risks, for had there been further collapse he would have been crushed.

Frank Edward Evans, Senior Station Officer, Brentford and Chiswick Fire Brigade.

During a fight with one of three fires which were raging simultaneously, a large corrugated iron and wooden structure, containing paraffin wax, was involved. The building collapsed and the molten and ignited wax began to flow towards the river bank, and into some disused sludge tanks containing quantities of inflammable material. The burning wax which had flowed into the river was for a time held up by a number of barges, but eventually the mooring ropes burnt through, and as the barges began to move on the stream, the burning wax flared up around men on the wharf and endangered two pumps which were at work.

Station Officer Evans and a Patrol Officer made every endeavour to save these pumps, and it was only when they were blinded by the heat and smoke that they gave up the attempt. In retreating, Station Officer Evans stumbled, fell into the wax, and was burnt on the hands and face. Assisted by the Patrol Officer he succeeded in collecting the personnel and reorganising them at strategic points to deal with the fires. Having done this he received first aid, and, later, he returned to the scene of the fire, where he remained until it was extinguished, some eleven hours afterwards.

George Grimwood, Lengthman, London Passenger Transport Board.

Following a bombing attack, Grimwood volunteered to enter a deep crater on the track of a station, where there was an unexploded bomb, to examine the under-side of the track for signs of damage. Next day, when it was necessary for a hole to be dug in the pit of the crater Grimwood volunteered to do this work, which was highly dangerous. His courage and cheerfulness were an example to all with whom he came in contact.

Harold John Hardwick, Special Constable, Warwickshire Special Constabulary.

Alfred John Knight, A.R.P. Warden, Warwickshire.

A large calibre high explosive bomb fell at the side of a railway marshalling yard and an oil bomb fell on the middle one of three working-class cottages.

Although several people were soon on the scene, the Warden and Special Constable were first there and, realising that the occupants—a very old couple—were probably in bed, quickly gained entrance to the house by forcing the back door. Although the stairs and casing were fiercely burning and in a dangerous condition, the men succeeded in reaching the upper floor and made their way through the flames into the bedroom, where they saw the old lady obviously dead in bed. Her husband, in great agony, had managed to crawl on to the landing. Without any regard for the danger to themselves from the tottering and burning staircase, the Warden and the Special Constable carried him to safety.

In taking the action they did they displayed great coolness and courage.

William John Higgot, A.R.P. Warden, Leicester.

Warden Higgot arrived at an incident immediately after a bomb had exploded and, without regard for his own safety, entered one of the buildings, which was a mass of ruins and in an unsafe condition. He came out on the first occasion with two children, one under each arm. He then returned once more and put out a fire that had started in the upper part of the premises. He next went to a neighbouring building and extinguished a fire there. Subsequently he did extraordinarily good work and extinguished another fire where a large bomb had exploded at the corner of two roads. He showed a very high degree of courage and efficiency.

Charles Henry Higgs, Foreman Mainlayer and Gas Fitter, Clacton Gas and Water Department.

The side of a large Gas Holder had been ignited by a hot bomb fragment and a fierce flame was burning from the crown of the holder.

The Fire Brigade had made ineffectual attempts to extinguish the flames with water and with foam when Higgs volunteered to climb the fire escape and tried to extinguish the flames with clay. He almost succeeded the first time but the heat drove him back. He came down and made a second attempt from the fire escape but again did not quite succeed. He then went up an ordinary ladder propped against the side of the holder and, with hoses playing on him and the holder side, succeeded in putting the flames out with clay and stopping the escape of gas.

The position of the holder was such that Higgs was working on a ladder about 40 feet from ground level when he made his final and successful attempt. Higgs is not normally employed in the Gas Works but he volunteered for this duty.

Barnett Lewis, Leader A.R.P. Rescue Party, East Ham.

Allister William Christie, Member A.R.P. Rescue Party, East Ham.

A large H.E. bomb fell on three shops under which were two public shelters containing over sixty persons. The roof of the shelters collapsed. The bomb also caused a water main to burst which flooded them to a depth of approximately 2½ feet before it could be turned off. Those who were not injured were quickly got out, but one man was trapped and in danger of being drowned, while four other men were pinned by the legs.

Lewis waded through the water to the first man, and finding that he was wedged in with large pieces of brickwork and timber, jacked up the dangerous roof and by sheer strength forced the brickwork away. He then found that the timber was still holding the man down. He crawled back and obtained a saw with which he cut this away, thus freeing the man just as the water reached his head. Lewis no doubt saved his life.

Meanwhile another member of his Rescue Party, A. W. Christie forced his way through the half demolished party wall of the shelters to the four trapped men, and, finding he