

Cesana handled the resources at his disposal with good effect, doing much towards the final extinguishing of the fire.

Charles Murray Codling, Gasholder and Governor Control Attendant, Coventry Corporation Gas Department.

During an intensive air raid on Coventry Codling proceeded to inspect a gasholder. An incendiary had pierced the crown, igniting the escaping gas, which flamed to a height of approximately 20 feet. He ascended the vertical iron ladder attached to the frame of the holder to a height of 40 feet. Whilst walking across the crown of the holder with wet clay blankets in bags, he was knocked off his feet by the "blast" of a bomb which exploded near by. He got up and dropped a clay blanket over the aperture in the crown, which momentarily extinguished the flame at this point. The pressure in the holder, however, lifted the clay bag and the gas ignited again from the flame overhead. He descended from the holder and reported.

With two other men Codling then proceeded to make another attempt to extinguish the flame on the gasholder crown with clay, and they were within 12 feet of the holder when it collapsed into its water sealing tank in a sheet of flame.

Aileen Jean, Mrs. Costigan, A.R.P. Warden, Coventry.

Mrs. Costigan was on duty for the whole of the time that Coventry was subjected to a severe enemy air attack. Many bombs were dropped in the district where she worked, but throughout the whole of the raid, and in spite of falling H.E. bombs and flying shrapnel, she assisted in extricating people who were buried under demolished houses. With the utmost indifference to her own safety she gave first-aid to the victims and repeatedly went to her home to obtain hot water, dressings and so forth. Her coolness under such hazardous conditions gave great confidence. As the First Aid Post in her district had been demolished and the Rest Centre nearby had been burnt out, she attended to the needs of many people throughout the night, going through the streets, time and again, for this purpose.

Cyril Terence Stewart McBride Cruickshank, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Samuel Davies, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Charles Thomas Francis, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

A large number of high explosive bombs fell, causing extensive damage to property and numerous casualties.

Police Constables Davies, Francis and Cruickshank, who were off duty, heard the bombs fall and immediately ran into the street to see if any help was required. They made a quick search of the surrounding property, and soon found that a house had received a direct hit. It was learned that three people were in the basement, underneath a considerable amount of wreckage. The officers hurriedly pulled aside loose debris outside the front window of the basement, and climbed in one by one. They discovered that part of the basement had col-

lapsed under the weight of the top part of the house, and there was danger of a further collapse.

They found a man and a woman who had managed to extricate themselves from the wreckage, who informed them that another woman was still beneath the debris. The officers could hear the groans of the third victim.

Cruickshank and Francis crawled under the collapsed floor and cleared away sufficient wreckage to enable them slightly to lift and support the floor on their arched backs. P.C. Davies was then able to crawl underneath and reach the woman. When he reached her, however, he found that she was trapped below a heavy piece of furniture which had fallen from the floor above, and that it would be necessary to move this obstacle before the woman could be released. There was a risk that when it was moved a further collapse would take place. As however the woman was seriously injured the P.C. took this risk and shifted it, releasing her and getting her to safety through the window.

The officers then left the basement and made their way outside. Within a few seconds the floor collapsed and completely filled the basement.

The rescued woman was taken to a nearby shelter and P.C. Davies rendered first aid.

Duncan Dunn, Police Constable, "V" Division, Metropolitan Police.

A bomb fell in some gardens, completely demolishing several houses and seriously damaging others.

P.C. Dunn, accompanied by other officers, arrived on the scene very shortly afterwards in a police car, and heard cries for help coming from underneath the wreckage. They commenced moving the debris and eventually found a hole, through which P.C. Dunn was suspended head first by the other officers. He discovered a coal fire still burning, and, owing to the danger it presented, his first action was to extinguish it with a pail of water.

Still suspended by his feet, he pulled more debris and rubble aside and freed the trapped victims. One by one, all four people were rescued and taken away, suffering from slight injuries only.

P.C. Dunn volunteered and carried out this extremely hazardous task with intelligence and courage.

Frederick William Elliott, Leader A.R.P. Rescue Party, East Ham.

An H.E. bomb exploded, totally wrecking a house. A woman had taken shelter under the cellar stairs which had partially collapsed and were loaded down with the debris. Elliott forced a way through the floor and getting under the stair pushed it upward and held it by sheer strength until a rope could be passed round the top tread and assistance given to hold it up. He then enlarged the hole and passed the woman out to the care of the stretcher bearers. Immediately afterwards fire broke out in this cellar, which was extinguished by the Fire Brigade who were in attendance. Elliott performed an almost superhuman feat and displayed grit, determination and endurance in