

They helped five elderly women and a family of three to safety, and then noticed a coal fire burning in the grate of a ground-floor room of a half demolished house. As a considerable amount of gas was escaping they took steps to extinguish the fire, and when clambering over a pile of debris, heard cries coming from the first floor room above, the floor of which was suspended over the crater.

Guided by the cries, they found a man wedged in the joists of the floor, pinned down with rafters and brickwork. Meek and Marks clambered on to the floor and hurriedly cleared debris from the man's chest and thighs, but then discovered that he was still pinned down by a rafter. With the aid of a saw obtained from a Rescue Squad, they eventually freed the man, placed him on a stretcher and carried him over the debris to a doctor who was in attendance. Shortly after the rescue work had been completed the rest of the house fell to the ground.

Emanuel Morris, A.R.P. Warden, Hackney.

A high explosive bomb fell upon a block of flats. Mr. Morris, who was on duty in his sector Post, went immediately to the scene and discovered that the front entrance to a public shelter had been completely blocked by wreckage. He then proceeded to the emergency exit at the rear, and found that a number of people had managed to open the exit and were leaving the shelter.

At some considerable personal risk, he entered and found persons trapped under wreckage. Morris was warned by the A.F.S. that he was entering the shelter at the risk of his own life. Working in two feet of water, he then released a woman who was pinned down by a beam of wood. He moved the beam and placed her on a bunk, and proceeded to the release of at least two more women, whom he also rescued from the water and placed on the bunks.

As the water was then up to his armpits, he left the shelter on the instructions of the Fire Brigade.

Richard Gordon Rickards, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

High explosive bombs were dropped by enemy planes, demolishing several houses and causing numerous casualties.

Police Constable Rickards, who was off duty in his home nearby, on hearing the noise of the explosions, ran to the scene. On arrival he heard groans coming from beneath the wreckage of a house which was partially demolished. Without hesitation, and at considerable risk of being buried under falling debris, the officer managed to work his way through the rubble into the front passage. There he found an elderly lady lying on the floor suffering from injuries, but conscious. The P.C. helped her through the wreckage, and had just reached the road when another H.E. bomb fell nearby, causing the remainder of the building to collapse, completely filling the passage and the channel the officer had made through the debris.

Rickards escorted the lady to a shelter, and returned to the scene to give further help.

Alfred Ernest Sharman, Tram Driver, London Passenger Transport Board.

Bombs were dropped on a Central Bus Garage. Fire broke out and the roof of the garage began to collapse. Driver Sharman, who was waiting to report for duty, proceeded to the scene. A number of buses as well as the garage building were then on fire and Driver Sharman proceeded single-handed to start up buses nearest the fire and to drive them out of the only available exit, negotiating a bomb crater outside. Some of the vehicles which were on fire were driven out of the garage by Driver Sharman despite the danger of further bombs falling and the risk of petrol explosions. The prompt and courageous action of Sharman saved a large number of buses and restricted the extent of the fire.

Sharman is a tram driver and is not employed at the garage at which these incidents occurred.

Thomas Morton Skelton, Inspector, Liverpool City Police.

Walter Evans, A.R.P. Warden, Liverpool.

An H.E. bomb demolished three houses, causing a number of casualties. Fire added to the difficulties. Inspector Skelton was lowered by a rope into a hole and with the aid of a stirrup pump was able to check the fire and effect some relief to trapped persons by cooling them with water. He had to retire eventually owing to smoke and heat. The trapped people were on the first floor, their escape being due to the fact that the ceiling had not fallen flat on the floor.

Meanwhile Warden Evans and a soldier found another entrance through which they were able to crawl and communicate with the trapped persons. Fire again hindered operations and the stirrup pump had to be brought into play.

A child was first extricated, then the father, whose foot was caught by an iron fender. It was necessary to prop and clear away debris and the rescuers had to pass over his body to reach the fender. Eventually, after about two hours, he was dragged away. The mother was trapped face downwards on a wooden bed and mattress with her baby beneath her. After one of the legs of the bed had been sawn through it was possible to drag her away. The baby, however, was dead.

Raymond Francis Taylor, Police Constable, "A" Division, Metropolitan Police.

Large numbers of incendiary bombs were dropped on flats over garages and residents started the task of extinguishing those bombs which had fallen in the roadway. It was discovered that two incendiary bombs had fallen on the roof of a building and were burning fiercely.

Police Constable Taylor came on the scene and quickly appreciated the danger. He tried the doors and found them securely locked. Dressed only in pyjamas, he scaled an old stack pipe on to the roof. The stack pipe was only secured to the wall by small brackets which might have given way at any moment.