

Walter Hill, Inspector, Bristol Police Force.

Five persons were trapped when an H.E. bomb fell on an hotel. Inspector Hill and a squad of Special Constables were at once ordered to the scene of the incident. They removed the debris and succeeded in rescuing the licensee's son. The Inspector continued to direct the work of rescue and himself laboured for nearly fourteen hours below ground level, despite the possibility that the badly damaged walls would collapse. Eight bodies were recovered from the cellar.

Inspector Hill showed fearless and determined leadership.

Amelia, Mrs. Matty, Head of Works Night Canteen, Birmingham.

Mrs. Matty was in charge of a Works Canteen when a heavy raid was in progress. She was the only woman that night on the factory site.

Incendiaries had started several fires and there were a number of minor injuries. Mrs. Matty proceeded, in a cool and efficient manner, to help in the first aid work.

She was in the canteen when an H.E. bomb fell which caused considerable damage. A number of men were injured and Mrs. Matty, although herself badly shaken, immediately went to their assistance.

Her cheerfulness and courage were in evidence throughout the night until the raid finished, and were important factors in maintaining morale.

Beatrice Maud, Mrs. Plimmer, Company Officer, London Women's Auxiliary Fire Service.

Mrs. Plimmer showed great courage and coolness whilst in charge of the Women Auxiliaries when large fires and intensive enemy bombing were persistent in the London Dock Area. In addition to maintaining communications, Company Officer Plimmer organised a first aid post and emergency canteen, and saw to the comfort of wounded firemen.

Thomas Brakespear Rippon, War Reserve Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

George Robertson, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

P.C. Robertson was driving a Police van with War Reserve Rippon as passenger, when a number of high explosive bombs fell nearby. Two exploded very close to the van which was considerably damaged and covered with debris. The officers were much shaken but not actually injured. Another constable arrived and reported that nearby premises had been demolished and that he believed people were trapped. All three officers at once went to the incident where they found a house completely wrecked except for a portion of the roof which was suspended at an angle of about 60 degrees from the party wall and in a very precarious condition.

Voices were heard coming from the debris and the three officers, working together, succeeded in enlarging a small hole sufficiently to allow P.C. Robertson to enter the room in which the people were trapped. The atmosphere was very foul as there was a strong escape of gas mingling with the dust caused by the explosion.

P.C. Robertson found five persons in the room, four of whom were under beds, surrounded and heaped up with debris, and one entangled in the bed springs. P.C. Rippon then crawled in and helped Robertson to release the trapped people. The roof collapsed after the rescue work had been completed. Both these men have on previous occasions exhibited coolness and presence of mind under dangerous conditions and have been an excellent example to fellow officers.

John Chasue Sargent, Second Officer, Tottenham Fire Brigade.

Second Officer Sargent supervised the fighting of oil fires during very heavy bombing. He has attended the large majority of all the serious fires in his district and on at least six occasions has nearly lost his life in such endeavours.

Jesse Samuel Weston, Inspector, Leicester Police Force.

Inspector Weston took control at a point where very severe bomb damage and a heavy death roll occurred and continued to direct operations throughout the night, while bombs were still falling in the area. He was an inspiration to all those at the incident because of the extremely calm and collected way in which he organised his men, directed Rescue Parties and other helpers and arranged for the evacuation of large numbers of people after unexploded bombs had been discovered. He acted with great devotion to duty and a disregard of his own safety.

COMMENDATIONS.

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

- Leslie Joseph Arkinstall, Auxiliary Fireman, Birmingham Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Sidney Squires Baker, Temporary Acting Sub-Officer, London Fire Brigade.
- Donald Herbert Carlill, Depot Leader, A.R.P. Stretcher Party, Bromley.
- Hilda Ann May Carter, Auxiliary, London Women's Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Alfred James Churchward, Despatch Rider, London Auxiliary Fire Service.
- John Ernest Dane, Commandant, A.R.P. Stretcher Party, Croydon.
- Stewart Neish Davidson, Fire Patrol Member, Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.
- Eric William Filer, Despatch Rider, London Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Frederick George Ford, Leading Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.
- John Bailey Garner, Divisional A.R.P. Warden, Leicester.
- Ernest Berry Garrett, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Medical Officer, A.R.P. Casualty Service, Leicester.
- George Douglas Godwin, Temporary Clerk, Grade II, Southampton.
- Thomas Edward Greenslade, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.
- Miss Hilda Ivy Griffith, Telephonist, Tottenham Auxiliary Fire Service.
- Joseph George Griffiths, Auxiliary Fireman, Tottenham Auxiliary Fire Service.
- William Hale, Leader, A.R.P. Stretcher Party, Croydon.
- Allan Charles Harmer, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.