

William Allan Britton, A.R.P. Warden, Southampton.

Warden Britton showed courage and devotion to duty during the bombing of Southampton. He has rescued persons trapped in demolished houses and has dealt with a number of incendiary bombs.

On one occasion, after he had been slightly injured by a bomb which dropped less than 20 yards away, he effected the release of three persons from a building which had been hit and was on fire.

John Cannon, Member, } A.R.P. Rescue
James Hughes, Member, } Party,
John Summerfield, Member, } Liverpool.

During an air raid a large fire developed at some houses where many people had been trapped. Summerfield, Hughes and Cannon went to the rear of the premises and tunnelled their way underneath until they eventually reached two persons completely covered by debris. The tunnel in which the rescue party worked was likely to collapse at any moment and a fire nearby showed signs of spreading. Regardless of their own safety the three men continued their valiant efforts for nearly two hours before they were able to release the casualties.

Reginald Charles Cooper, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

Following a long period during which the Fire Service had been fighting a number of serious fires, a fresh attack caused an even larger conflagration. It was urgently necessary to bring up pumps to new positions and this severely taxed the stamina of men already sorely tried by hours of incessant labour. Cooper, at this critical stage, realised how important it was that extra hose should be readily available and, making stupendous efforts and displaying outstanding initiative, produced from great distances the necessary hose for the successful attack on the fire.

Arthur Delbridge, Deputy Head A.R.P. Warden, Southampton.

During the raids on Southampton, Delbridge did outstanding rescue work, particularly when a direct hit by an H.E. bomb had wrecked a house, which caught fire. Four people were trapped in the wreckage. Delbridge organised a team of eight stirrup pumps which dealt with the fire, and the four people were rescued. He has been conspicuous in actions of this character on previous occasions during enemy action.

Brinley Evans, Fireman, Port Talbot Fire Brigade.

Fireman Evans was a member of a crew engaged in fighting a factory fire when the building on which they were working received a direct hit from a high-explosive bomb. One fireman was completely buried in the debris and as his branch, still charged, was buried with him, he was in considerable danger from drowning, quite apart from his already very precarious position.

Evans immediately began rescue operations and was able to get through the debris to the fireman. He kept the man's head above water whilst he continued to release him, persisting in his efforts without any regard whatever for his own personal safety. After nearly an hour Evans was able to extricate his comrade.

Walter Heath, Volunteer Works Fireman, Birmingham.

Heath was one of two voluntary firemen on duty when fire-bombs fell, setting fire to some timber stored in a yard. In spite of intense bombing, Heath tackled the conflagration and fought it for seven hours with no concern for his personal safety.

Early in the morning a bomb fell in the middle of the fire, demolishing the building. Although Heath and the other fireman were slightly injured by this bomb, they went on fighting the fire with the help of outside services.

Harold Loads, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

A high-explosive bomb fell demolishing a number of cottages. A man was reported buried beneath the debris of one of them. The cottage was in a dangerous condition and adjacent to a gas main which was alight. Auxiliary Fireman Loads, however, burrowed under the brickwork, removed the debris by hand and, with great difficulty, extricated the man who had been pinned by the legs.

Samuel McGill, Inspector, Coventry Police Force.

Inspector McGill was on duty during a severe enemy air attack on Coventry. He displayed exceptional gallantry and leadership in handling the men under him and in organising them for duty at air raid incidents. He went out repeatedly to establish contact whilst bombs were still dropping. Inspector McGill has on other occasions during air attacks on the City performed duties with utter disregard for his own safety.

Frederick Patch, Senior A.R.P. Warden, Southampton.

Mr. Patch was on duty during a major air raid on Southampton. When information was received that a warden had been injured, Patch immediately left the Post and, despite H.E. bombs and incendiaries which were constantly dropping, reached the man and administered First Aid. With assistance, he conveyed him back to the Post. Patch then went out in search of two other wardens who had been injured and, after attending to them, arranged for their removal to a Casualty post. He also helped to put out a number of fires and assisted in the rescue of people who were buried beneath wrecked houses.

Albert Henry Westerman, Acting Sub-Officer, London Fire Brigade.

Sub-Officer Westerman was officer-in-charge of the first appliances to arrive at serious fires which occurred during an enemy