

where several women were trapped. A search of the debris was made by the aid of hand torches. Three women were extricated and carried to safety.

The constables then entered other premises, despite the fact that these were collapsing and the air raid was still in progress. From this building five women were rescued. While carrying one of the casualties down from the third floor the staircase collapsed, throwing them a distance of about 25 feet into the debris in the basement. The woman was fortunately thrown clear without sustaining any hurt, but the two officers were injured.

The rescue work was carried out under extremely hazardous conditions, as a fire had broken out in the wreckage making it a target for enemy aircraft which were continually overhead. The officers persisted in their efforts despite collapsing buildings, water and escaping gas.

Samuel Stonehouse, Foreman, South Metropolitan Gas Company.

This man's devotion to duty during the last three months has been of the highest order. He has mounted to the crowns of gas holders on at least six occasions during night air raids to put out fires which had been caused by incendiary bombs. On one occasion he extinguished a fire on the crown of a holder, which was 72 feet high. On another occasion two holders were hit by H.E. bombs and caught fire. Stonehouse tackled these promptly and efficiently and made the collapsed holders safe from further chances of explosion.

Edward Cyril Ward, Inspector, Coventry Police Force.

When an incendiary bomb fell on a Police Station during a very heavy air attack on Coventry, Inspector Ward climbed into the roof and successfully dealt with it. His action was performed whilst H.E. and incendiary bombs were still falling close to the building.

Immediately after this, the Inspector led a police rescue party to a basement of a shop where several persons were trapped by debris from a H.E. bomb explosion. He worked with this party for two hours with complete disregard of the danger from falling bombs. Another bomb fell on the spot, killing the four men of the rescue party and the occupants of the basement. Inspector Ward was thrown some distance by the blast. He returned, however, to make his report, having shown outstanding courage, initiative and devotion to duty.

Alfred Ambrose Webster, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Manchester.

Four people were trapped alive in the cellar of a dwelling house which had been completely demolished by a H.E. bomb.

The rescue squad were able to locate two people, a man and his wife. After sawing through rafters and beams, they were eventually released. The opening from which the two casualties had been extricated was about 6 ft. in depth and 2½ ft. across. Two children were still underneath the debris. Webster immediately volunteered to attempt a rescue and was lowered head first into the hole, being held by the legs with a rope by

men on the surface. He burrowed his way with his hands and brought to the surface a child about twelve months old. He then went down again in the same manner, still burrowing his way with his hands, and rescued a second child of about three years of age. Debris was falling constantly, and just after the second child had reached safety, tons of rubble and masonry fell, closing up the hole in which Webster had been working. Webster showed great gallantry in the successful rescue of the two babies.

Edwin John Woodland, Depot Superintendent.	} A.R.P. Rescue Party, Birmingham.
Harold Rainbow, Foreman.	
Lewis Pickersgill, Second Man.	

Pickersgill, Rainbow and Woodland showed great courage and a high sense of duty in volunteering to enter a cellar which was filled with coal gas, knowing that a person previously had made the attempt and had succumbed.

The incident took place at night while an air raid was in progress. Several A.R.P. Services were present and a Sergeant of the Home Guard had just attempted a rescue but had been overcome by gas and died. Volunteers were called for, as it was thought that some of the trapped people were still alive. Pickersgill entered the cellar first and was overcome. Woodland then entered and rescued Pickersgill. He also brought another body to the entrance. Woodland, himself, then collapsed. At this stage, Rainbow entered and rescued Woodland. All three were rendered unconscious and two were transported to hospital.

Awarded the George Medal.

John Edgar Stanier, Deputy Gas Engineer, City of Stoke-on-Trent Gas Department.

Awarded the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for Meritorious Service.

John Simpson Warrillow, Engineering Assistant, City of Stoke-on-Trent Gas Department.

During an intensive air raid, H.E. and incendiary bombs fell on some Gas Works. The crowns of four gas-holders were penetrated in many places and gas from three of these ignited.

Under the direction of Mr. Stanier, the Works Fire Squad, Shift Workers, and Emergency Gang proceeded to tackle the fires.

Mr. Stanier directed the whole operation, remaining with his men on the crown of the holders while enemy planes were overhead. He sustained somewhat serious burns to one arm.

The manner in which he dealt with the situation was marked with a calm appreciation of the dangers involved. He was undoubtedly responsible for the success of the operation.

Throughout the incident Mr. Warrillow ably assisted Mr. Stanier and displayed great courage and resource in carrying out the instructions given to him. His conduct set an example to those working with him.