

hauled up hose and foam equipment to the platform on top of the outside stairway. Wright, without hesitation, then descended the inner ladder to the roof and started his attack on the fire. He made gallant efforts to extinguish the flames but was not able to complete the circuit without assistance. Lidstone immediately descended to the roof and with his help the fire was successfully overcome.

These men showed great gallantry as they were fully aware of the possibility of an explosion which would have cost them their lives.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Thomas Edward Holliday, Police Inspector, Lancashire County Constabulary.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Cuthbert Dickenson	} Lancashire County Constabulary.
Morrison, Police Sergeant.	
John Thomas Brewer, Police Constable.	
John Vincent James Denney, Police Constable.	
John Robert Leach, Police Constable.	
Edward Gerard McClorry, Police Constable.	

Inspector Holliday organised a police party composed of the officers mentioned above, and welded them into a most effective team. They went from place to place and worked unceasingly and untiringly with spades, picks and their bare hands to relieve or rescue suffering people buried or trapped by the wreckage of demolished buildings. The team was ably led by Holliday and, regardless of danger from fires, collapsing property and falling bombs, was on duty for forty-five hours.

They set a fine example of courage, determination and devotion to duty.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Thomas Edward Mahir, Station Inspector.	} " H " Division, Metropolitan Police.
John Aidan Hastings	
Gott, Junior Station Inspector.	

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Alexander Sneddon, Police Sergeant, " H " Division, Metropolitan Police.

When a bomb demolished two houses, the roof and chimney stack of one house fell across the ruins of the other and the whole formed a heap of wreckage about fifteen feet high.

Station Inspector Mahir and Junior Station Inspector Gott tore away debris and found a hole down which Mahir crawled. A man, buried up to the chin, was pinned down by a rafter, in a cavity about seven feet deep and two feet wide.

Gott had the mouth of the hole widened and then crawled down to joint Mahir. They reached the man who informed them that a friend was below him and Mahir crawled out to investigate while Gott took on his shoulders the weight of the debris above the man's head. At this point P.S. Sneddon arrived from another incident and Mahir showed him where the other man was thought to be whilst he himself returned to relieve Gott.

Sneddon sent his men to collect buckets from nearby houses to carry away the rubble and organised their work so well that the man was soon released.

A lot of rubble had fallen and the strain on the two Inspectors was greatly increased. The whole of the pile was nearly brought down on to the three men when those outside tried to dig through to them.

Mahir and Gott used the broken rafter to shore up the cavity and sawed through a bedstead and a sofa, eventually releasing the victim who was only slightly injured.

Mahir, Gott and Sneddon were, throughout, subject to the risk of being crushed by shifting rubble and in danger from leaking gas. At one time water from the burst main in the crater outside threatened to overflow into the hole in which the two Inspectors were working.

The Inspectors showed resourcefulness, courage and determination and were ably supported by P.S. Sneddon.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Brinley Thomas Pedrick, Police Constable, " L " Division, Metropolitan Police.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

William Sydney Bignall, Police Constable, " L " Division, Metropolitan War Reserve Police.

A high explosive bomb demolished two houses and a family was trapped beneath the debris. The explosion had disrupted the gas and water services resulting in the rescuers having to contend with the danger of flooding and asphyxiation. A portion of the party wall between the two houses was in danger of collapse.

P.C. Pedrick crawled into the wreckage and, by removing debris with his hands, he tunnelled his way towards the centre. He had no tools for this purpose with the exception of a small pocket knife with which he was able to hack his way through the remains of a tiled bathroom wall. Eventually Pedrick made a narrow sloping shaft which he shored with slabs of fallen masonry.

Bignall then entered the shaft behind Pedrick. Further tunnelling revealed a bath under which Pedrick crawled and found a man pinned underneath a door. A saw was then passed to the rescuers and Pedrick was successful in freeing the victim who was pulled clear by Bignall. The man informed them that his wife was trapped just beyond the point where he was rescued. Pedrick continued in his work and discovered the unconscious woman. During the process of extrication a portion of the upper masonry started to move, and Pedrick supported this