

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

Henry Oliver, Purification Foreman, Gas Light and Coke Company, Ltd.

During enemy attacks on gas works, Oliver and Ditch showed outstanding courage in dealing with fires caused by ignited gas. On one occasion Ditch, despite having been seriously injured, successfully tackled an incendiary bomb and, displaying great courage, extinguished a serious fire. Oliver climbed to the crowns of gasholders and plugged a number of holes from which gas was escaping.

Both men showed great courage and devotion to duty.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Albert Webb, Gas Stoker, Gas Light and Coke Company Ltd.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

John Alexander Benn, Gas Stoker, }  
Edward Lawrence, Carbonising Foreman, } Gas Light and Coke Co. Ltd.

As Webb and Benn were closing the door of a retort house, a bomb exploded nearby. The blast threw another stoker into a conveyor trough. Had he not been pulled out he would have been seriously burned. Webb, despite the severe injuries which he had sustained, managed to rescue his workmate from the danger before collapsing. Benn, at considerable risk to himself, carried Webb to safety.

Lawrence, with great presence of mind and total disregard of the danger, immediately took the necessary steps to prevent more serious damage.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

Patricia Baxter, Telephonist, }  
Hazel Taylor, Telephone Operator, } Portsmouth Auxiliary Fire Service.  
May Georgina Whitcher, Telephone Operator, }

Buildings adjoining an Auxiliary Fire Service Station were on fire and the office equipment was brought down by blast. In these conditions the three telephonists carried on their duties in a cool and efficient manner until eventually a direct hit was received on the station and they were buried under the debris.

Gas was escaping but Miss Baxter managed to crawl to the tap and turn it off, thus saving other personnel, who were trapped and injured, from being gassed. She then went to the assistance of Miss Whitcher who had received a head injury and was trapped by fallen timber. By this time the roof of the building was alight. In spite of this the three girls, ignoring their own safety, helped to remove two lorries and to rescue a mobile dam which would otherwise have been destroyed. They helped to demolish the sand-bagged buttress to the premises, using the sand to put out incendiary bombs. Refusing to rest, the three girls then went to Headquarters and worked in the Canteen for the rest of the night.

Sidney Ernest Bendall, Foreman, }  
Ernest William Meadowcroft, Power House Attendant, } Gas Light and Coke Company Ltd.

Incendiary bombs fell on a Gas Works. One fell through the roof of a building where inflammable material was stored, becoming wedged in the boards which started to burn. Meadowcroft scaled the wall of the building, about thirty feet high, by means of iron cable stands. Climbing through clouds of smoke and steam, he got the fire under control. Another bomb fell among drums of benzol. Bendall got the door of the store open and moved the drums of benzol out of danger.

But for the prompt and brave actions of these men the Works would have suffered serious damage.

Walter Leslie Bishop, Physical Training Instructor, H.M. Borstal Institution.

A block of a Borstal Institution was hit by H.E. bombs and boys were buried in the wreckage. Bishop climbed all over the inside walls trying to locate them. With help he rescued four lads.

In his efforts to save life Bishop showed great courage and disregard of the danger of falling masonry and the possible collapse of the whole building. At all times during air raids he has set a fine example of coolness and courage.

Alfred Brady, Foreman, Bristol Gas Company.

One of two gasholders was struck by a bomb, the gas ignited and a great column of flame shot upwards. Bomb splinters pierced the adjoining holder from which jets of flame issued.

Brady, who was in charge of the Works assisted in extinguishing the fires in the first holder.

In dealing with the jets of flame from the second holder, it was necessary to approach close to the leaks, many of which were in the crown.

The courage and daring action of Mr. Brady contributed largely to the prevention of further damage to the plant.

George Burgess, Leader, }  
A.R.P. Rescue Party, }  
Patrick Dever, Member, } Kingston-upon-Thames.  
A.R.P. Rescue Party, }  
Alexander Keith Hay, }  
Stretcher Party Officer, }  
Frederick John Reeves, }  
A.R.P. Warden, }

A H.E. bomb demolished houses and trapped a man under debris which was smouldering.

Tunnelling work was carried out by Burgess, Reeves and Hay. They worked in the heat and the smoke from the smouldering fire for four hours until the head and body of the casualty were uncovered, but he was still held down by wreckage.

It was possible for only one man to work in the tunnel at a time and Dever went in. After half-an-hour of very strenuous work with an axe he was able to release the casualty, who was carefully withdrawn from his perilous position and removed to hospital.