

rescue operations very dangerous. Matthews burrowed a small hole, and by working in a prone position, was able to remove bricks and masonry with his hands. He worked thus for nearly three hours during which time he was in continual danger of being trapped and crushed by a further collapse of debris. As a result of his efforts the woman was extricated unharmed.

Leader Matthews throughout set a fine example of courage, initiative and devotion to duty.

Francis Harlow Tritt Leader, James Wood, Mem- ber,	}	A.R.P. Rescue Party, Stoke Newington.
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A high explosive bomb wrecked a house and a family was buried under the debris. The mother was pinned from the waist downwards with a collapsed floor only a few inches above her head. Tritt, assisted by Wood, cut a way down to her. The two men then started digging with small shovels and uncovered the heads of a son and a daughter. Another member of the family was pinned down with the leg of a bed on one shoulder, and a fireplace on the other. The leg of the bed was sawn away and the weight of the fireplace taken off his shoulder.

In order to release the mother and son much of the debris had to be scooped into buckets by hand as the space was too restricted for the use of tools. Several times further falls reburied the casualties but eventually they were extricated. After further digging, in steadily worsening conditions, the daughter was also released.

Tritt and Wood next began the task of getting the remaining victim out but constantly falling debris made this extremely difficult and dangerous. Tritt used his own body to shield the injured boy, and after eleven hours work the rescue was complete.

Tritt and Wood, by their gallantry and devotion to duty, saved the whole family.

Edwin Vanderleit, Plumber, A.R.P. Rescue Service, Hackney.

People were trapped under the wreckage of houses demolished by bombs. Vanderleit was lowered into a small hole despite the dangerous condition of the debris which was liable to slip and collapse at any moment. He found a woman and, supporting her with one arm, gave her refreshment which was passed down through a tube by a Doctor.

Other members of the squad then worked to reach Vanderleit and the trapped woman. This took four hours owing to the loose and dangerous state of the wreckage. During this time Vanderleit continued to support the casualty and protect her from the slipping debris. He displayed outstanding courage and devotion to duty and through his efforts the woman was extricated alive.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Frederick George Riley, Depot Superintendent, A.R.P. Rescue Service, Ealing.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Frank Ernest Diment, Plumber. Leonard Ralph, Labourer	}	A.R.P. Rescue Service, Ealing.
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When extensive damage was caused by enemy action Riley, Ralph and Diment showed great coolness and disregard of personal safety in their determination to rescue persons trapped amongst debris. Riley crawled under wreckage to rescue a woman who was suspended between the floor and the ground level. He released her and passed her horizontally over his body to safety. The building collapsed just as Riley got out.

Ralph and Diment cleared a small tunnel under the wreckage of a house and, with complete disregard of their own safety, rescued a woman who was trapped.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Alfred Stanley Sandford Barlow, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Malden and Coombe.

A mother and daughter were trapped under the stairs in a bombed house.

Leader Barlow, after skilfully sawing away floor boards and joists, released the mother.

Owing to the confined space debris was then passed back by means of a hand chain and the daughter was eventually freed.

The rescue work took over two hours, during which time it was evident that the building might collapse.

Mr. Barlow showed great bravery in effecting these rescues.

Henry John Albert Croker, Ambulance Driver, Public Assistance Committee, Bristol.

Mr. Croker showed great courage and devotion to duty during the air raids on Bristol.

He drove through blazing streets to bring in casualties and searched bombed houses for victims. In one of these houses he succeeded in rescuing people who were trapped. He also entered a burning building, removed a 50 gallon drum of oil and then helped to get the fire under control.

John Arthur James Dixon, Officer in Charge. James Slavin, Leader.	}	A.R.P. Stretcher Party, Deptford.
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Bombs demolished houses and people were trapped. A tunnel was made under the debris and contact with four persons was established. Slavin then crawled into the tunnel and, although in continual danger of being buried by falling debris and overcome by gas fumes, he encouraged the trapped persons, supplying them with drinks through a tube and administering morphia under the directions of a doctor. Eventually Slavin had to be withdrawn from the tunnel and Dixon then carried on in a similar manner until the casualties were rescued four hours later.

John Edward Fleming, Police Constable, "G" Division, Metropolitan Police.

Incendiary bombs caused a fire in an upstairs flat occupied by an elderly woman who was bedridden.

Without hesitation Police Constable Fleming, who was off duty, entered the house and ran up the stairs into a room which was full of smoke. Failing to find the victim, he crawled into another room which was on fire and eventually reached the bed on which the woman was lying. He got her to the landing and carried her down the stairs to safety.

The courageous action of Fleming undoubtedly saved the woman's life.