

Police Constable Payne, assisted by Pritchard, removed debris from the spot where two persons were known to be buried. It was very dangerous work as not only were bombs falling nearby, but the walls that were left standing were in a tottering state and there was a complete staircase hanging in a precarious position overhead.

It was necessary for the rescuers to sit in a hole with their backs to the wall while they worked to prevent the masonry falling on to the casualties. After two and a half hours work in the dangerous conditions the victims were extricated.

Police Constable Payne and Mr. Pritchard then went to the ruins of the other house and tunnelled through the wall of the cellar in an effort to reach the buried people.

They worked for several hours until relieved by a Rescue Party.

Arthur James Rickman, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Wandsworth.

A large building was damaged by a H.E. bomb and the first floor and superstructure collapsed in large slabs, many tons in weight, on to the ground floor. Between these two floors casualties were trapped.

Leader Rickman began to tunnel in an attempt to extricate the victims. The work was of a most hazardous nature since it was done in darkness and during a very heavy raid. Almost every part of the structure remaining between the floors was contributing to the prevention of further collapse and the necessary removal of material incidental to the tunnelling was accompanied by a proportionate risk.

Leader Rickman showed complete indifference to danger and was instrumental in rescuing over twenty people.

George Albert Rickman, Officer in Charge, Road Repair Parties, Orpington.

A bomb fell on a garage and a brick shelter and people were trapped. Mr. Rickman, after removing debris, was able to get into the shelter and brought out five casualties. A man in the shelter was found seriously injured, pinned down with brickwork and steel. Rickman, although in danger from collapsing debris, worked until he was able to release the victim and remove him to a place of safety. Rickman then went to another incident and rescued an elderly lady who was buried beneath timber. Mr. Rickman carried out his duties with courage and skill and without any regard for his personal safety.

Stephen Thomas Rouse, Skilled Workman, Class II, London Telecommunications Region, General Post Office.

During intensive enemy action incendiary bombs lodged on the roof of Post Office premises.

Mr. Rouse dealt with the situation with great courage and resource. He made his way to the roof and put out incendiary bombs. Then, crawling along a narrow ledge with a precarious foothold, whilst flames were licking across from the building opposite, he battered down a burning door giving access

to the next door premises, which were burning furiously. He cut away the handrails and the burning platform close to the skylight. By preventing the flames from spreading over the roof he undoubtedly saved the building from becoming involved in the fire.

Courtenay Brennan Smith, Head A.R.P. Warden and Divisional Fire Party Liaison Officer, Plymouth.

Mr. Smith has organised the fire fighters of his Division in a most efficient way and his constant presence amongst them during the most intensive raids has been a source of help and inspiration. His personal organisation and encouragement of the parties has been instrumental in saving many lives as well as much valuable property.

In addition he has been on constant patrol during heavy bombing, assisted in rescue work and, when an unexploded time bomb made evacuation necessary, he made arrangements and cared for the victims.

Richard Walter Smith, Established Skilled Labourer, Admiralty Outstation.

During an air raid the roof of a workshop was set on fire. When, owing to the high wind, efforts to put this out by manual pump did not succeed, Smith climbed over the slates to the top of the burning roof. After working for an hour and a half the fire was extinguished.

James Tarbuck, Police Constable, Liverpool Police Force.

High explosive bombs demolished several houses and trapped a number of people.

Constable Tarbuck, who was off duty, was engaged in extinguishing an incendiary bomb on the roof of a nearby building. He was blown to the ground by the blast of the bomb and injured his left knee cap. Despite his injury, he immediately went to the incident and organised a rescue party of volunteers. Under his direction and leadership ten people were rescued alive from the debris. During these operations the district was subjected to a very heavy bombardment. Although in considerable pain from his injured knee Constable Tarbuck worked with courage and untiring devotion to duty.

COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been brought to notice for brave conduct in Civil Defence.

Sidney Frederick Harvey Abel, Barging Plant Attendant, Gas Light and Coke Company.

George Stanley Alexander, Motor Driver, Bootle.

Ivy Louise Ashwell, Auxiliary, London Women's Auxiliary Fire Service.

Herbert Richard Baldwin, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Willesden.

Arthur Joseph Balkham, A.R.P. Warden, Eastbourne.

Harry Mear Barnes, Senior A.R.P. Warden, Eastbourne.

Richard Samuel Bate, Retort House Shift-worker, City of Plymouth Gas Department.

Herbert Macklin Blomeley, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Lambeth.

Robert James Bonwell, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Wandsworth.