

To be an Additional Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

John Ellis Wakeford, Deputy Gas Engineer and Manager, Salford Corporation Gas Undertaking.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Herbert Waters, Foreman-in-Charge, Salford Corporation Gas Undertaking.

During an enemy air raid, bombs pierced the crowns of two gas-holders and the escaping gas ignited. Mr. Wakeford at once climbed to the top of one holder upon which two fires were burning. After several unsuccessful attempts to extinguish the flames, Mr. Wakeford quickly organised a squad of men to fill buckets with puddled clay, which were pulled up on to the crown by means of a wire rope. In this manner the two fires were kept in check and, with the aid of the A.F.S., finally extinguished. Gas was then escaping freely from the rents but, under Mr. Wakeford's direction, these were soon sealed up.

A fire on the other holder was dealt with by Foreman Waters. Although high explosive bombs were dropping, he climbed to the crown and eventually was successful in extinguishing the blaze. He performed this work single-handed and showed devotion to duty regardless of personal peril.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Albert Victor Gordon, War Reserve Constable, William Henry Young, War Reserve Constable,	} “ W ” Division, Metropolitan Police.

A high explosive bomb partially demolished a house and a woman was trapped.

The beams and boards which were pinning her down were also holding up the debris and masonry which had fallen from above. Despite the danger, War Reserve Young burrowed a hole large enough to work in and, after two hours, managed to clear away sufficient rubble for the woman to be extricated.

In the meantime War Reserve Gordon got into the wreckage from a different direction and protected the victim from falling debris. His position was cramped and dangerous but he remained there, comforting the woman and indicating the best method of effecting her release.

An air raid was in progress during the whole operation and there was the additional danger of the house collapsing, which it did shortly after the rescue was completed.

Gordon and Young showed outstanding courage and determination.

Hubert Francis Jones, Head A.R.P. Warden, Percy Barham, A.R.P. Warden,	} Coventry.

During an enemy air attack three houses were completely demolished by H.E. bombs. In order to reach people trapped in the

wreckage, a roof was lifted and propped. Barham and Jones then crawled underneath, wrenched away floor boards and removed bricks. During this time a bomb exploded nearby and caused a fall of debris which buried Barham, but Jones, at considerable risk, managed to release him and they continued their work and rescued a girl.

To reach other victims Barham, with Jones holding his feet, was suspended head downwards in the wreckage and, after working in these conditions for a considerable period, was able to extricate a woman and her son.

Both men showed great gallantry and it was due to their untiring efforts that three lives were saved.

Awarded the George Medal:—

William Wilfred Bennett, Auxiliary Fireman, Birmingham Auxiliary Fire Service.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

James Henry Meers, Auxiliary Fireman, Birmingham Auxiliary Fire Service.

During an air raid, Auxiliary Firemen Meers and Bennett were on duty at a Sub-Station on Works premises when it was wrecked and set on fire by a H.E. bomb.

A man on the second floor was blown by the blast across an exposed girder where he was in grave danger of being burnt to death. Meers and Bennett, although badly shaken by the explosion, at once attempted to rescue him.

Bennett, by climbing a girder, reached the victim and, with the help of Meers, brought the injured man to safety.

The fire spread rapidly and it was necessary to evacuate a basement shelter. Despite the intense heat and dense smoke, Meers and Bennett helped to remove the occupants, some of whom were injured. Later, hearing cries for help they re-entered the basement and guided two men to safety. They then rejoined their A.F.S. colleagues and tackled the fire.

Bennett showed great courage and initiative and was ably assisted by Meers.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Henry Frank Finch (deceased), Senior A.R.P. Post Warden, Finsbury.

(Award dated 9th May, 1941. Warden Finch has since been killed on duty, by enemy action.)

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Stanley Mead, A.R.P. Warden, Finsbury.

H.E. bombs demolished houses and the basements were flooded with water from a damaged main.

Wardens Finch and Mead waded in and were successful in getting several people to safety.

The water was rising fast but Mr. Finch continued his work and carried an elderly lady to a window where she was raised