

Peter Charles Coyle, Member, Civil Defence Stretcher Party Service, City of London.

When a building was damaged by bombs the whole of the stone staircase and lift cage above ground floor collapsed and remained suspended against the lift cable and cage iron work. A man was trapped in the lift shaft between the ground floor and the basement. Coyle worked his way through gaps in the fallen debris and put himself in such a position that the casualty, who was suspended by an arm, could sit on his back. Morphine was administered to the trapped person but Coyle continued to support him while the Rescue Party cut a way through the dangerous structure and masonry. Throughout this time there was a risk that a further collapse of the building might take place, but Mr. Coyle remained with the victim until the rescue was completed.

George Ferrow, Book Dealer, Yarmouth.

A bomb demolished one house and damaged others. A Rescue Squad started working to release the trapped people and Ferrow helped them. The rubble was cleared and a small hole cut in the floor. Ferrow dropped through the hole to the cellar floor and in the darkness started to tunnel through the debris towards the casualties. He carried on with this work although there was danger of being trapped and was able to guide three of the victims to the exit where they were lifted out to safety.

Robert Gibson, Chageman of Engine Fitters, H.M. Dockyard, Malta.

Mr. Gibson was Engineer-in-Charge of a floating crane during a heavy attack by enemy aircraft. Bombs fell nearby and caused fires on the deck.

Mr. Gibson remained at his post throughout the attack and, single-handed, extinguished the fires.

He showed great devotion to duty and disregard of his own safety.

Edward Richard Harris, Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, St. Pancras.

During an air raid a building was partly demolished by a bomb. People were trapped in flats on the upper storeys the rear walls of which had been blown out leaving the floor unsupported. Using a ladder Harris got to the second floor and cut his way through to the floors above. He reached the victims, lowered them to the second floor and finally carried them down the ladder to safety.

Harris then located a man lying on a bed wedged between a collapsed floor and ceiling. He cut through the springs of the bed, released the casualty and dragged him to safety through a hole tunnelled in the wreckage.

Harris, by his courage, resourcefulness and determination, saved many lives.

William Albert Horton, Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, St. Pancras.

Two people were trapped under a collapsed shelter which was in an extremely precarious state, with tons of shattered concrete and brickwork above. Horton, lying face downwards in a very limited space, cleared a tremendous amount of debris with his hands

and after four hours unceasing work, succeeded in bringing out both persons injured but alive.

Edward Joseph Smith, Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, St. Pancras.

A dwelling house was demolished by a H.E. bomb. The whole of the upper portion had fallen and was leaning against the flank wall, which was without lateral support.

Leader Smith began to work towards the cavity in which the casualties were trapped when another bomb fell nearby and caused the wall to collapse. Smith was flung across the debris but although exhausted and suffering from shock he crawled into the hole again and brought out a baby and a girl.

Leader Smith worked tirelessly and set a fearless example to all the men who worked with him.

Lewis Charles Thorogood, Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, St. Pancras.

A house was hit by a bomb. The upper floors and roof collapsed and were propped precariously against the party wall, forming a triangular cavity at ground floor level wherein people were trapped. Debris was piled against these fallen floors and the whole was liable to collapse.

Thorogood tunnelled a distance of twelve feet under the debris and after six hours arduous work he released three women. Although greatly fatigued he continued until he had prepared a way of release for a man and another woman, who were eventually brought to safety.

Thorogood set a splendid example of courage, leadership and devotion to duty.

Cephas Percy Walker, Leader, Civil Defence Rescue Service, Woolwich.

A building was demolished by a H.E. bomb and people were buried beneath the wreckage.

Leader Walker tunnelled under the debris and administered restoratives to a man who was pinned down by iron beams on which were resting several slabs of concrete. To release him Walker had to cut these slabs with a hammer and chisel which necessitated several hours of strenuous labour. During this time he was working in the most difficult and dangerous conditions as there was a possibility of large steel girders falling. He was repeatedly warned of this but continued working until the victim was eventually released. Although suffering greatly from exhaustion Walker directed operations until all the buried persons had been located.

Walker's coolness, courage and initiative were an inspiration to all who worked with him.

#### COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been commended for brave conduct in Civil Defence:—

Arthur Appleton, Timberman, Civil Defence Rescue Service, City of London.

William George Batt, Warden, Civil Defence Wardens Service, Southampton.

Thomas Ernest Stanley Bedford, Deputy Head Warden, Civil Defence Wardens Service, Coventry.