

moving obstructions. Although much exhausted by his efforts he succeeded in releasing the patient, after nearly an hour's work. Shortly afterwards the roof and upper portions of the walls collapsed.

Taylor showed great courage and determination and, by his prompt action, saved the life of the patient.

Harley Harry Wright, Police Sergeant, "G" Division, Metropolitan Police.

Archibald Ernest Sexton, War Reserve Constable, "G" Division, Metropolitan Police.

A flying bomb demolished premises and started a large fire. There was a public shelter in the basement of the burning buildings, the entrances to which were blocked by debris. Sergeant Wright found a possible entrance in an area 10 feet below ground level. Debris blocked the area and had destroyed the steps down, but had not quite reached the doorway into the shelter.

In spite of the fact that the part of the building by the area was blazing and the walls and remaining floors were in imminent danger of collapse, the Sergeant, followed by Sexton, climbed the railings and dropped into the area. Additional danger arose from a covered bridge immediately overhead which was burning strongly and was likely to collapse at any moment. The officers discovered two men and a woman in the shelter. It was not possible to get back through the area, owing to the fire, and there was no chance of escape at the rear as the exit was blocked. The shelter was slowly flooding and was filled with smoke and debris, electric cables which had become detached from the walls were on fire and an electric fuse box exploded in the Sergeant's face causing temporary blindness and severe burns. Wright made the people lie down in the water in an endeavour to assist breathing, which was made difficult by the dense smoke and overpowering heat.

After some time the officers discovered that the fire around the area had abated, and it was decided to make an attempt to get out that way. With the assistance of the Sergeant, Sexton succeeded in climbing over the debris and railings and then ran to get assistance. Wright, who was by this time very weak and badly burned, was unable to assist the others but he managed to get himself out and secured assistance for the remainder of the party, who were successfully extricated by means of ropes and a ladder.

Wright and Sexton showed great courage and devotion to duty. It must have been obvious to both officers before they started on this rescue that a complete collapse of the building was more or less inevitable owing to the fierceness of the fire and that when once inside the shelter their means of escape might be blocked.

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

Henry Charles Allchorne, Dispensary Porter, London County Council Hospital Service.

Victor George Grout, General Porter, London County Council Hospital Service.

Leslie Lewis George Townsend, General Porter, London County Council Hospital Service.

A flying bomb exploded on a hospital and a fire immediately broke out. Townsend

played a hose on to the burning roof of the dispensary, under which he was obliged to stand close to many cylinders of gas and oxygen and bottles of ether. He was able thus to control the fire sufficiently at this point to enable Grout and Allchorne to remove 135 cylinders which were in imminent danger of exploding. Allchorne, Grout and Townsend worked without respite until the cylinders were removed and showed courage and determination throughout the whole incident.

Stanley Vincent Clark, Leading Fireman, No. 12 (Stevenage) Area, National Fire Service.

Houses were demolished by a flying bomb and fires broke out. A boy was heard screaming and Clark, without thought for his own safety, went into blazing and unsafe wreckage, released the trapped child and brought him to safety.

Clark by his courageous action undoubtedly saved the life of the boy.

Brian Edward Gill, Messenger, Civil Defence Messenger Service, Torquay.

A building was hit by a H.E. bomb. On hearing cries in the ruins, Gill entered the basement through a hole in the partially collapsed floor which was in danger of falling. A considerable amount of debris covered the injured persons and, after this had been removed, they were passed through the small hole in the collapsed floor and hauled to safety. Gill then joined a Rescue Party and assisted in the rescue of four more persons.

During the whole of these operations, which lasted more than an hour, Messenger Gill showed courage, disregard of danger and devotion to duty.

George Frederick Harris, G.M., Party Leader, London County Council Heavy Rescue Service.

Harry Charles Campbell, Driver, London County Council Heavy Rescue Service.

A flying bomb caused the collapse of the upper storeys of a block of flats. A man was trapped against the partition wall under the second floor. This floor had slipped owing to the outer wall bulging and was supporting the weight of debris from the floors above.

Harris formed a small tunnel by hand and, lying on his side or back, worked his way into the debris. After burrowing about 12 feet he eventually reached the casualty whom he succeeded in clearing of debris as far as his waist. Further progress by Harris was impossible owing to his size and Campbell undertook the completion of this dangerous task. He continued tunnelling until he had freed the casualty's head and shoulders, then the two men moved him out over their own bodies. These efforts caused a further fall of debris which buried Campbell but fortunately without serious results.

Harris's judgment in selecting the method of approach and, despite the personal danger, his persistence in following it as far as he could, together with Campbell's courageous efforts, made the rescue possible.

William James Holloway, Inspector, "Z" Division, Metropolitan Police.

A flying bomb demolished a house and lifted a nine-inch slab of concrete which formed the roof of the shelter under the house