

another severed an artery. A further bullet injured his left wrist. Although bleeding profusely from the severed artery, Fireman Moore dragged his comrade to a more protected spot and then tried to carry him to a First Aid Post. Wells was a very big man and Moore, being much smaller, found the task impossible. Moore succeeded, as quickly as his injuries and condition permitted, in staggering to a First Aid dressing station 350 yards away to report the condition of his comrade, and an ambulance was at once despatched. After first aid treatment had been applied Wells was at once conveyed to hospital, where he died three days later. Fireman Moore was in hospital for three weeks.

Leonard George Potter, Works Chief Fire and A.R.P. Officer.

A delayed action bomb fell on the factory together with two H.E.s. Although he was told there was a chance of the bomb exploding at any moment, Potter called for volunteers and directed the pumping out of water from the hole in which it was lodged. For several hours he led his men in building a sandbag wall round the hole to reduce the effect of the explosion had the bomb gone off.

On another occasion he showed courage and devotion to duty in his handling of a fire caused by an oil bomb which, had he not directed the Fire Brigade efficiently, may have spread to a much larger section of the Works and thus have more seriously held up production of urgent war supplies.

Miss Maude Steele, Supervising Telephonist, Sherborne.

A heavy air bombardment caused many casualties and extensive damage. Miss Steele was in charge of the telephone exchange at the time and showed distinct courage and devotion to duty at the risk of personal danger by refusing to leave the exchange although bombs were falling all round the building. By her action, and that of the temporary telephonist who remained with her and whom she inspired by her courageous attitude, Ambulance, Police, Fire and Air Raid Precautions Services were kept in constant touch with their respective headquarters and other vital services were maintained until the majority of the local lines were put out of action and the exchange became untenable. Even so, when a heavy bomb exploded within the Post Office precincts, Miss Steele proceeded from the refuge room to the exchange hoping she might still be of service. She was magnificent in the face of real danger and by her courageous action contributed in no small measure to the effective and efficient working of the Air Raid Precautions and other Services. She remained in the exchange until the position became absolutely impossible, and even then she was reluctant to leave in case she could still be of assistance.

Awarded the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

Henry John Bennison, Chief A.R.P. Instructor, Walthamstow.

As the result of a High Explosive Bomb striking a house a man was trapped in the wreckage.

The trapped man was sheltering under the stairs of the house upon which the bomb made a direct hit. Whether he could be saved was a matter for the greatest conjecture. Mr. Bennison was despatched to supervise rescue operations.

It appeared that the chimney stack would collapse at any moment on the trapped person, or anyone attempting to rescue him, but Mr. Bennison, with assistance, calmly proceeded to work and extricated the man from his precarious position.

Mr. Bennison, by reason of his training and experience, must have been well aware of the risks which he took.

Thomas Buckingham, Voluntary A.R.P. Warden, Southwark.

Mr. Buckingham has, since the outbreak of war, been Voluntary Air Raid Warden at the offices of his firm in Southwark, where he works by day as foundry trimmer. When a bomb fell near his post he showed great bravery in saving a woman trapped beneath the ruins of her house, by tunnelling through several feet of debris to rescue her. Three days later another bomb fell on a block of buildings, and Buckingham, without thought for his own safety, went in to search for victims, although the building might well have fallen in upon him at any moment.

Benjamin Graham Cunningham, Member of A.R.P. Stretcher Party, Lambeth.

Cunningham has shown courage and initiative on many occasions. At one incident he crawled under a pile of debris and rendered first aid as well as he could to a man who was trapped. He stayed with him until the rescue party were able to release him although there was danger of further collapse of debris. When off duty he habitually goes the round of the air raid shelters in his district. One night he was able to release people trapped in a cellar and rendered first aid before any of the services on duty reached the spot. He gave help on another occasion by burrowing through debris and reaching a woman to whom a Doctor was then able to give morphia. Bombs were exploding in the neighbourhood while he and the Doctor were attending to her.

His courage and devotion to duty have been a high inspiration to the other personnel in his depot.

Leonard A. Divall, Member of Works Fire Service, Harlesden.

During an air raid incendiary bombs set fire to a factory. Soon afterwards more bombs were dropped, setting fire to another building, part of which backs on to the factory.

Mr. Divall showed much personal bravery. By almost super-human efforts he, and the rest of the men in the fire service under his leadership, were able to save the factory from any serious damage by fire.

On another occasion, 14 incendiary bombs came through the roofs of various of the buildings during the night, and under his leadership again, these were all put out without doing anything but scorch damage.

Divall worked hard regardless of dangers from bombs and darkness. In spite of the fact that he had sprained his ankle, he refused to leave in order to have it treated, although he was in considerable pain.

William Dole, Foreman Rigger, Salvage Department, Southampton.

Arthur J. Kelly, Motor Engineer, Salvage Department, Southampton.

For bravery and devotion to duty when engaged on salvage work in face of repeated enemy bombing attacks.

Herbert Alfred Fagg, Foreman, Messrs. Mears Bros, Dover.

When a ship caught fire after being hit by a bomb, Fagg, with other volunteers, answered to a call to load and cart ammunition from the ship to a place of safety. The fire had spread to the wooden fenders along the breakwater which was covered with flame and black smoke. The men drove the dumper loaded with ammunition through the flames until the need for their services was past.

Edward Finn, Assistant Inspector, General Post Office, Liverpool.

During an air raid when all the staff except Mr. Finn and a Head Postman were in the air-raid shelter, six incendiary bombs fell on the