

immediately took charge and most ably directed all operations. He kept in constant touch with the Fire Brigade so that fire fighting measures were carried out to the best possible advantage. On several other occasions when the docks have been bombed, Mr. Dowsett has displayed high qualities and leadership in difficult circumstances.

William Henry Simmons, Superintendent of Police, Port of London Authority.

Throughout the period of intensive air attacks directed against the Port of London, Superintendent Simmons has rendered invaluable services, and displayed outstanding powers of leadership with complete disregard for his personal safety.

He directed and assisted rescue work while raids were still in progress. When a large number of H.E. bombs were dropped on one of the Docks, Superintendent Simmons called for volunteers to accompany him while the raid was still in progress and, displaying great courage and inspiring leadership, he succeeded in removing casualties and arranged for their conveyance to hospital.

Superintendent Simmons showed the greatest devotion to duty by proceeding to the scenes of the worst fires and damaged areas in the widely spread dock systems, inspiring his officers and men. By a complete disregard of danger from falling bombs, fires and delayed action bombs, he set a splendid example. On many occasions he displayed organising ability of a high order.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

William John Allum,	} Tug, Port of London Authority.
Master.	
Henry Edward Allen,	
Deckhand.	

During a heavy air attack on the Docks the tug was putting out fires on barges and towing others out of danger. The tug Master was hailed from a lifeboat by members of the crew of a motor vessel and informed that their vessel had been bombed and set on fire. Allum and Deckhand Allen boarded her and having put out several fires commenced to play a hose on the stern of the ship which was threatened by fire from the dock-side. Allum decided that the vessel must be shifted. He accordingly called for and obtained volunteers from another vessel to go aboard to assist in the removal of the burning ship. Both tugs then proceeded to move her to a safe berth, Deckhand Allen going aboard and acting as dock pilot and directing the volunteer crew aboard.

Allen was a member of the first crew of the tug who had remained on duty with the night shift.

The conduct of the tug Masters and their Crews under circumstances of great danger is worthy of the highest praise and in particular Tug Master W. Allum displayed great initiative, resource and leadership. Deckhand H. E. Allen showed great devotion to duty as well as coolness and courage.

Ernest Victor Barker, Ticket Collector, London and North Eastern Railway, Bridlington.

Arthur Harrison, M.M., Chageman Asphalter, London and North Eastern Railway, Hull.

George William Whitehurst, Labourer, London and North Eastern Railway, Hull.

Harrison and Whitehurst were on duty with other men when an air raid took place and H.E. bombs fell on a Goods Shed causing casualties, damage and fires.

Harrison took the lead and, with Whitehurst, searched the Goods Shed which had been damaged to see if anyone had been injured. On being informed that there was a wounded soldier in the Goods Yard and another in a van, they hurried to the spot and removed the wounded soldier from the vicinity of a burning ammunition wagon containing shells which were exploding. They also entered the van in which the other injured soldier lay and which was on fire, but found that he was dead.

Barker with two other men manned the fire fighting appliances. The fire spread to some wagons, one of which contained live anti-aircraft ammunition. Although shells were exploding the three men continued to play water on the wagons. Three lengths of the Company's hose were punctured by shrapnel whilst being used by the men.

Captain John Penfield Epps, Dockmaster, Port of London Authority.

Ernest Joseph Pridmore,	} Tug, Port of London Authority.
Master of Tug.	
Henry William Oliver,	
Master of Tug.	
James Hendry,	
Engineman.	
Peter John Wilkins,	
Deckhand.	

Captain Epps personally organised members of the staff under his control into parties of fire fighters to extinguish outbreaks caused by a very large number of incendiary bombs which were dropped on London Docks.

He carried on throughout the whole of the night when many severe fires threatened, and, under his direction, tugs and craft, including some oil barges which were in danger of catching fire from the burning sheds and debris, were removed to places of safety. Those which had caught fire were taken in tow and the fires extinguished.

His devotion to duty under very dangerous conditions on this and subsequent occasions undoubtedly checked the progress of serious fires and saved much valuable property.

E. J. Pridmore, Master of Tug, led the first crew of his Tug in extinguishing fires caused by incendiary bombs and assisted in preventing serious fires at wharves. He helped to remove laden barges and craft in the docks which were in danger of fire. Throughout the period of heavy raids on the docks Pridmore has shown conspicuous ability, initiative and devotion to duty in circumstances of extreme danger.

H. W. Oliver, Master of Tug, was in charge of the second crew of the Tug which, in addition to removing ships and barges to safety, landed and gave assistance to victims of an air raid shelter which had received a direct hit from a H.E. bomb.

Both crews showed remarkable devotion to duty throughout and rendered valuable assistance.