

Still acted in complete disregard for his own safety. Had the bomb fallen through the top into the oil there would have been no escape for him.

A bomb had fallen on a gasholder and burnt through, causing a hole approximately 2 in. by 5 in. The gas had caught fire and a column of flame was roaring upwards. Higgins, with another man, tried to close the hole with clay, but found that the heat of the flame dried the clay before sealing could be effected. Without a thought for his own safety, Higgins threw a large piece of clay over the hole and jumped on it. The sudden application of his whole weight extinguished the flame and the sealing was complete.

Higgins is a Retort Stoker, who has nothing to do with gasholders. When he saw the trouble he left his own job, seized some clay and did the work. Had the flames not been extinguished when he jumped on top of the hole, he would have been instantly burnt to death. He acted without a thought for his own safety.

Herbert Algoma Matthews, Assistant Foreman, Port of London Authority.

As a result of intensive air raids, casualties occurred on a ship in a London Dock. Mr. Matthews immediately set out from the First Aid Post with his team, rendered first aid to some of the injured on the vessel and returned to the post with the first ambulance load of casualties. These he attended single-handed until the arrival of the Doctor.

He continued directing the operations of the stretcher parties from the post and assisted the doctors until the last casualty had been evacuated.

During the incessant bombing in the dock area throughout the night Matthews persisted in the rescue work and inspired into the whole party a spirit of confidence by his cheerful and imperturbable manner.

John Wynne Roberts, Senior A.R.P. Warden, Thurrock, Essex.

Senior Warden Roberts has shown outstanding initiative and ability in recent air raids. He has worked continually night after night in heavy gunfire reporting H.E.'s and extinguishing incendiary bombs. Roberts did splendid rescue and first aid work when a shelter received a direct hit from a bomb.

Henry Joseph Taylor, Chief Foreman, London, Midland and Scottish Railway, Poplar.

Taylor observed enemy raiders from the front door of his house. Bombs started to fall, one of which blew the whole of the windows from the house. Trucks were on fire on all sides of the docks, and although Taylor tried to extinguish these it was found that the water supply had been cut off. He organised the fire fighting arrangements by means of the fire pump, with water from the docks.

Taylor remained with the L.C.C. fire brigade throughout the night and the following day, rendering all the help possible, and finished up in an exhausted condition on the following day. Enemy action continued throughout most of the night.

William Sidney Woodley, Constable, Port of London Authority Police.

During the air raids on the Docks, Constable W. S. Woodley arrived at a building which was a raging inferno, and found stored on the quay, within 50 yards, a number of drums containing inflammable oil. The wind was blowing in the direction of the drums and the flames were fanned by the wind. He immediately started rolling the drums to safety, a task which he successfully completed despite continued bombing by the enemy.

Constable Woodley showed most commendable initiative, coolness and devotion to duty in undertaking this risky work single-handed and without waiting for orders.

COMMENDATIONS.

Those named below have been brought to notice for brave conduct in Civil Defence.

E. Anderson, Carpenter, Motor Vessel.

W. E. Armsdon, 2nd Class Clerk, Port of London Authority.

George Ash, Constable, Port of London Authority Police.

J. Atherfold, Stoker of Tug, Port of London Authority.

Miss Jean Bayes, Nurse, A.R.P. Casualty Service, St. Marylebone.

E. Beechill, Stoker of Tug, Port of London Authority.

T. Bending, Lockman, Port of London Authority.

Joseph Berry, Ordinary Seaman, Tug, Dover Harbour Board.

R. Biscoe, Assistant, Port of London Authority.

W. Bishop, Lockman, Port of London Authority.

Charles Boland, Senior A.R.P. Warden, Salford.

William Robert Burley, Member of A.R.P. Rescue Party, East Ham.

C. Butler, Permanent Labourer, Port of London Authority.

Gerald Joseph Carroll, Senior A.R.P. Warden, St. Pancras.

H. Chapman, Lockman, Port of London Authority.

Charles Henry Clark, Inspector, Port of London Authority Police.

George Hector Baden Clark, A.R.P. Messenger, Thurrock, Essex.

J. Clarke, Chief Electrician, Motor Vessel.

H. E. Clarkson, Constable (Fireman), Salford Fire Brigade.

Herbert Cocks, Ambulance Attendant, Port of London Authority Police.

Henry Parker Cooke, Gatekeeper, Westminster Gas Works, Gas Light and Coke Company.

J. J. Cox, Engineer of Tug, Port of London Authority.

A. S. Craven, Substation Engineer, Hornsey Electricity Department.

B. L. Crewe, Permanent Labourer, Port of London Authority.

William Crow, A.R.P. Warden, Salford.

W. Davey, Lock Foreman, Port of London Authority.

W. G. Day, Stableman-in-Charge, London Midland and Scottish Railway, Haydon Square.

W. A. Dixon, 1st Class Foreman, Port of London Authority.