

Harry Jesse Bates, Inspector, Metropolitan Police.

A house suffered a direct hit from an H.E. bomb. Three young children and a woman were trapped in the wreckage. Only a small portion of the shell of the house remained and this was in a very dangerous condition. A fire also had broken out.

Inspector Bates, accompanied by another Inspector and a Police Constable, proceeded to tunnel under the debris and wreckage in an attempt to rescue the trapped victims. They had no tools to assist them, and, during the whole time, they were working under very dangerous conditions owing to the state of the building and the fire. They eventually succeeded in rescuing all four persons alive.

Inspector Bates is untiring in his efforts to save life and on many other occasions he has displayed the highest courage during enemy bombing attacks.

He has exhibited great qualities of leadership and has set a fine example to his men in dangerous situations.

John Henry Crump, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

A bomb demolished a house causing an outbreak of fire and trapping a number of people beneath the wreckage.

The first on the scene was P.C. Crump, who at that time was off duty and in plain clothes. Hearing cries from an elderly woman the P.C. clambered up the remains of the front wall of the house, as it crumbled beneath him, to a small section of flooring some 18 feet from the ground on which he found a woman aged 70 precariously perched on a chair. He steadied her and endeavoured to quieten her hysterical condition.

Further police reinforcements then arrived but it was, at first, found impossible to help the P.C. as the only means of reaching him was the wall up which he had climbed and this had now collapsed. After a short time a ladder was obtained and when this was placed in position the P.C. carried down the woman to safety.

On another occasion the same officer was on his way to the Police Station when a block of flats nearby was demolished by an H.E. bomb. He proceeded to the spot and found wreckage from which the arm of a woman could be seen above the surface. P.C. Crump would allow nobody to come near as there was great danger owing to falling masonry. He, however, persisted in an effort to free the woman and eventually, unaided, he managed to release her.

On both these occasions bombs were falling nearby as the P.C. was carrying out his rescue work. He undoubtedly saved two lives at very great risk to his own.

Jackson Sweeting Davison, Police Sergeant, Metropolitan Police.

Three houses were demolished by enemy bombing and one seriously damaged.

Sergeant Davison was on his way to parade for night duty when he was informed of the incident, and learned that many people were trapped in the wreckage.

On arrival at the scene he clambered on to the top of the wreckage of the first floor, when he heard a cry for help. He found a man pinioned face downwards.

Sergeant Davison had himself roped for safety and then carried out a dangerous climb along a narrow crumbling ledge, eventually succeeding in reaching the trapped victim. He then set about clearing the debris until he was successful in securing the man's release. Having got this man to safety, he then made his way to the second floor, which was without roof or walls, and there found a girl in bed. To reach her, he had to obtain a saw with which he cut his way through fallen timber. He succeeded in rescuing the girl, who was then alive, but who expired shortly after being released.

This brave act is only one of many that Sergeant Davison has accomplished during enemy air raids. He has on numerous occasions been either directly or indirectly responsible for saving several lives, and has always been a splendid example to the men working under him.

Peter Cornelius Gerstel, Member of A.R.P. Rescue Party, Southwark.

Reginald Sidney Mence, Member of A.R.P. Rescue Party, Southwark.

Some premises were demolished by a high explosive bomb during the night and it was ascertained that, of nine people who had been sheltering in the basement, four were still alive. The flank wall and party walls, wholly unsupported and weighing in all some 60 tons, were still standing, and some 23 tons of debris lay in a huge heap between these walls and on top of the trapped people. In these circumstances it was decided to form an access way to them from the front and back by means of vertical and horizontal shafts.

Gerstel and Mence took the lead in excavating by hand, boring, strutting and propping, and after four hours succeeded in rescuing two casualties. After eight hours two more were located but these were in such a position that they could not be moved for some considerable time without causing the collapse of the tons of debris above. Extreme care was necessary at this stage to complete the hazardous work of shoring up and the two men refused to be relieved because, to quote their own words, they "knew every strut and every brick" in their improvised tunnel. After eighteen hours' work the two further casualties were released.

James Harris, Station Officer, London Fire Brigade.

Station Officer Harris has displayed outstanding initiative and courage at many large fires. His almost reckless courage in face of very grave danger was conspicuous when a fire occurred at a building containing explosives and his success in stopping the fire at a particularly vulnerable spot saved a number of buildings and magazines.

Leslie Francis Hughes, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

A large building was hit by an H.E. bomb and reduced to a mass of wreckage.

P.C. Hughes, who was on duty nearby, went to the scene of the disaster and was there joined by another man. They first assisted three people to escape from the wreckage. They then proceeded to worm their way into the basement of the building,