

Skilern immediately took charge of the situation, controlled the operations for extinguishing the fire, and, at great personal risk, crawled through the debris into the basement where the buried people were entombed.

From this position he directed and encouraged the activities of his crew in their efforts to release these persons.

As a result of his leadership and the example to his men, twenty people were successfully rescued.

Albert Edward Smith, Gasholder Repair man.	} City of Birmingham Gas Department.
John Thomas Bonning, Gasholder Repair man.	

An incendiary bomb struck the crown of a Gasholder at an acute angle, causing a long split, and then emerged through the side of the holder.

J. T. Bonning and A. E. Smith, with assistance, attempted to extinguish the flame with clay. They were, however, unsuccessful. Later, together with several A.F.S. men, they climbed the holder again and used more clay in trying to get the fire out, but still without result. It was then decided that as all the clay heaped over the hole had dried out with the heat, it must be removed, and a further attempt made with fresh supplies of wet clay. This was successful. At the time, anti-aircraft fire was heavy and bombs could be heard dropping fairly close to the Works, but the men carried on at great risk to themselves and the flame was extinguished.

Gillian Kluane Tanner, Auxiliary, Women's Auxiliary Fire Service, London.

Six serious fires were in progress and for three hours Auxiliary Tanner drove a 30-cwt. lorry loaded with 150 gallons of petrol in cans from fire to fire replenishing petrol supplies, despite intense bombing at the time. She showed remarkable coolness and courage throughout.

Miss Dorothy May White, V.A.D. British Red Cross Society, Horsham and Worthing.

During an air raid V.A.D. White, together with two other V.A.D.'s, was on duty at the First Aid point at the Village Hall. While there an H.E. bomb was dropped on the District Nurse's cottage next door, completely demolishing it. The three V.A.D.s immediately went to the Nurse's help. They found her in the crater which had been the cottage, lying head downwards, alive but badly injured. The three V.A.D.s with great difficulty, on account of the depth of the crater and the loose rubble, lifted the Nurse out on to a stretcher, and carried her to the Village Hall.

While the other two V.A.D.s were doing all they could for the District Nurse, V.A.D. White went to the further end of the Hall to get some water. While there a bomb fell directly on to the Hall, demolishing the end where the injured Nurse lay, killing her, fatally injuring one of the V.A.D.s, and severely injuring the other.

With no thought for herself V.A.D. White scrambled over the debris and found the two injured members partly covered by fallen rubble. She immediately gave first aid with the help of a tourniquet made from her belt.

All dressings and equipment had been buried by the explosion. She got one of the injured V.A.D.s on to a stretcher and eventually into an ambulance with the assistance of the Police.

V.A.D. White then went down the road to help other casualties, and visited all the cottages in the village to find out whether anyone else was missing and if anyone needed attention.

All this time aeroplanes were flying overhead and delayed action bombs were dropped which exploded later. Miss White's coolness and courage were an example to all. In spite of the fact that her own house was so badly damaged as to render it uninhabitable, she carried on day after day in the village, helping in every possible way.

Aylmer Maurice Young, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

During an aerial bombardment a bomb fell causing a large crater on a kerbside, demolishing the lower part of the ground floor and basement of a public house and fracturing gas services and a large water main. Seven persons were sheltering in the basement which was rapidly filling with water. A trailer pump attended and immediately on arrival, Young, without hesitation and at great personal risk, entered the basement, which by this time had filled to a depth of about five feet and was in complete darkness, and succeeded in rescuing six of the inmates.

Young continued the search and located the seventh person, who was pinned beneath the water by a fallen girder, and, notwithstanding the fact that the water was still rising, managed to extricate the man and facilitate his removal to the street.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Thomas Austin Morrison, Police Constable, War Reserve, Metropolitan Police.

*Awarded the Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for Meritorious Service:—*

William Baldock, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

John Charles Rowswell, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

A block of working-class flats was partly demolished by an H.E. bomb in the early hours of the morning. Police attended and some hours after they had left a delayed action bomb exploded, killing a number of members of a Rescue and Demolition Party who were working on the site, and burying others. P.C.s Baldock and Rowswell heard the explosion and went immediately to the scene.

The survivors of the Demolition Squad told them what had happened and said that the conditions were too dangerous for further work. The Police Constables, however, entered the ground floor of the damaged building, where they heard cries for help. After removing large pieces of concrete and masonry the head and shoulders of a man were revealed. War Reserve Morrison supported him whilst the others continued the removal of debris. The rescued man, who was a member of the Demolition Squad, was