

extricated alive after about three-quarters of an hour, and the remainder of the building collapsed an hour later.

Morrison was the moving spirit on this occasion and he has shown great courage and determination in rescue work. On other occasions he has been responsible for saving a number of lives under very dangerous conditions.

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

Richard Henry Ashton, Acting Sub-Officer, London Fire Brigade.

About fifty persons were cut off by fire and were in danger of being driven into the river by the flames.

With great difficulty and while bombing was continuing Sub-Officer Ashton, who was in charge of a fire-boat, rescued the stranded people by towing them in a barge, skilfully avoiding other burning barges and disembarked them in safety.

Frederick William Curtis, Section Officer, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

Curtis, whilst in charge of a trailer pump at a fire, was rendered unconscious by the blast from an explosive bomb. On recovering consciousness, he again took command of the fire, and set an outstanding example of courage and leadership to the men under his charge.

David Glyndwr Davies, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

An H.E. bomb damaged a number of houses demolishing two of them. It also fractured the gas and water mains and the gas main caught fire. P.C. Davies who was on duty nearby went to the scene at once and learned that a man and his wife were trapped under the wreckage. He took charge of the operations, entered the crater and standing on a crumbling wall waist deep in debris and water, directed the removal of the wreckage which was holding the two people down. They were both extricated eventually, but one was dead.

The position of the P.C. during these operations was a precarious one. The gas main was blazing nearby, water was pouring into the crater and the officer was in great danger of losing his foothold and falling into the cellar. Aircraft were still overhead during the incident.

Frank William Handley, District Officer, London Fire Brigade.

District Officer Handley has set an outstanding example by his general good leadership and devotion to duty during extensive bombing of his area. His courage has inspired all the crews under his charge. During the nights of the heaviest attacks on London he attended many serious fires, and at several of these he was in sole charge until the arrival of a senior officer. His intimate knowledge of the area, inspiring leadership and devotion to duty, undoubtedly contributed to a great extent towards the manner in which these fires were dealt with. As a result of his untiring efforts to secure water when a serious shortage existed at one fire a large part of the buildings involved were saved.

John Jack Hollands, Builder's Foreman, Eastbourne.

Upon the occasion of an air raid, property was demolished and four men were trapped underneath the wreckage. Gas and water were escaping. Hollands arrived on the scene and, with the assistance of another man, pushed open what was left of the front door, and entered the passage. As they did so the ceiling collapsed. They made their way along the passage, Holland leading. In going through the kitchen door it collapsed on the top of him. Hollands succeeded in his efforts to get through a hole in the debris and had to lie on his stomach when rescuing one of the injured men. He worked the debris back with his hands for other helpers to remove. In this way he succeeded in passing two injured persons out through the hole and, in doing so, injured his left arm which was pinned under bricks for a time.

The injury to his arm together with the effects of the escaping gas, necessitated his removal to hospital.

Harold Hydes, District Officer, London Fire Brigade.

Hydes has been in charge of a station which has been subjected to severe bombing. He has displayed exceptional leadership, courage and initiative and has set an excellent example under the most trying and dangerous circumstances at fires due to enemy action.

Jack Johnson, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

Dennis McCarthy, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

Auxiliary Firemen Johnson and Auxiliary Fireman D. McCarthy were at work on a Wharf when the explosion of a bomb nearby caused the wall to collapse, throwing them both to the ground and partially burying them in the debris. Although bruised and shaken they did not relax their efforts to subdue the flames and prevent the fire from showing a light to the enemy aircraft which were overhead.

Frederick Benjamin McQuillan, Leader of A.R.P. Rescue Party, Islington.

George Turner, Leader of A.R.P. Rescue Party, Islington.

A house was demolished by a bomb, two boys being trapped in the basement. Turner and McQuillan dug a tunnel 18 feet long and about 2 feet square, working in succession, lying on their stomachs, throwing back debris and fixing struts and bearers as they advanced—a risky operation cleverly performed. The work was carried out in darkness during a raid and the boys were released after about three hours.

Edward Moylan, Acting Sub-Officer, London Fire Brigade.

At a time when all efforts were being concentrated on a very large fire, this officer, with a comparatively small amount of apparatus and personnel at his disposal, successfully checked and eventually subdued a fire in a cartridge-filling factory. By his excellent leadership he saved another building, which, if it had become involved, would have caused a serious explosion.