

wherever possible. His administrative ability, bravery, and leadership were outstanding, and he showed great devotion to duty with complete disregard for his own safety.

*Awarded the George Medal.*

Leslie Croft, A.R.P. Warden, Sheffield.

A high explosive bomb wrecked a house, forming a crater about 30 feet in diameter which filled with debris and across which a fractured gas main blazed. Five people were trapped underneath.

Warden Croft entered the crater, burrowed into the debris with his hands, made a tunnel down to the cellar and removed three injured people to safety. He then returned and attended to two more injured persons. The condition of the debris was such that extreme care had to be exercised when getting into the cellar, otherwise it would have collapsed and buried all inside with little hope of their recovery.

During this time enemy aircraft were dropping bombs nearby, obviously using the fractured gas main as a target.

It was due to Croft's high courage in the face of fire, bombs and the possibility of being buried alive, that five persons were saved.

Leslie Harold Currie, Sheffield.

A house was hit by a H.E. bomb and reduced to a heap of ruins. Five people were trapped underneath. Currie, at great personal risk, crawled under the wreckage and started to saw through wooden joists, propping the debris above him as he worked. For nearly three hours Currie toiled in this position without relief, before the first victim was released. He continued in his work and, shortly afterwards, a woman, a boy and a girl were rescued. He then cut through a beam and eventually extricated the body of a boy. Currie showed great courage and persisted in his efforts until satisfied that all the casualties had been freed.

Oscar Madeley Holden, M.D., B.Ch., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health, Croydon.

Miss Wendy Pauline Hollyer, A.R.P. Telephonist, Croydon.

A heavy calibre bomb hit a Report Centre, completely demolishing it. There were five telephonists in the room at the time, three of whom were killed instantaneously and two ultimately rescued alive. One of the latter was trapped under tons of debris, but was able to communicate with the Rescue Party personnel. It was seen that she had been severely injured. Dr. Holden, at great personal risk, crawled under the wreckage and proceeded in the most difficult conditions imaginable, to administer morphia to her. Owing to the abnormally confined space in which he had to work, Dr. Holden was only able to come out by crawling backwards. During the time he was working, debris was continually shifting and he was in great danger of being buried under the ruins.

Miss Hollyer was in the room adjoining and this was wrecked. She received severe wounds in the neck from a large window frame and other woodwork which was "blasted" across the Message Room, but, in spite of this and while still pinned under wreckage, she managed to reach the telephone

and accepted a message. She then tested the other telephones and, finding some of them in working order, cleared sufficient space to enable her to carry on. This she did throughout the evening and night until she was relieved the following morning. Miss Hollyer refused to leave her post—even to have her wounds dressed—until arrangements were made for another telephonist to take her place. Her devotion to duty in such circumstances allowed the vital Communication Service to function without interruption.

Samuel Radford, Police Constable, Sheffield Police Force.

A bomb fell, destroying a number of houses. Some of the people buried in the debris were able to crawl out without much assistance, but a youth was trapped in the wreckage. P.C. Radford, at considerable risk to himself, worked for more than three hours until he freed him. Two or three times the Constable himself was partly trapped. A fire started which was kept under control by means of stirrup pumps, and there was also danger from falling masonry.

After he had released the lad, Radford then helped in rescue work at another house where a number of persons was buried.

Edward Redknapp, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Holborn.

Some buildings were severely damaged by high explosive bombs and three large fires started. Redknapp was a member of one of four rescue parties sent to this incident.

Several persons were known to be trapped in a basement shelter. Shortly after the commencement of rescue operations a second bombing attack was made, causing heavy casualties to A.R.P. personnel and disorganising the rescue work. Redknapp and the remainder of his party, who by then had penetrated to the basement shelter, were ordered to get away. Soon afterwards, however, Redknapp led ten of the men back to the basement shelter and, under his leadership, rescue operations were resumed. Technically, the work was extremely difficult and dangerous. The general insecurity of the masses of debris was rendered more acute by the volume of water being poured over the burning building and flooding through to the basement. The careless movement of any part of it was liable to cause a subsidence which would have buried the rescue party along with the casualties already trapped. In spite of this ever present danger, Redknapp worked coolly and continuously for nearly four hours, inspiring, by his own example, the efforts of the rest of the squad, until the last live casualty had been extricated.

William Joseph Conrad Schermuly, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Thomas Tanner, War Reserve Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Some houses and a block of flats were demolished by bombing.

At the time Police Constables Schermuly and Tanner were off duty. The latter was in bed on the sick list.

On hearing the explosion they went to the scene and entered a badly damaged house