

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

Wilfred Beckett, Works Fireman, Manchester.

Throughout the night and early hours of the morning during an enemy air attack, Beckett and his men fought a large fire in a warehouse. Beckett's conduct and bravery were outstanding. His constant activity greatly contributed to the saving of the warehouse and adjacent buildings. He fought the fire from an exposed fire escape, from the roof, and even from the interior of the burning building, with fearless courage.

Alfred John Brothers, Distribution Superintendent, Portsmouth and Gosport Gas Company.

During repeated enemy air attacks damage was caused to the Distributory Mains and Services of the Gas Company. The necessary repairs, often carried out whilst high explosive and incendiary bombs were still falling, have, in a number of instances, been rendered more difficult by the flooding of gas pipes as the result of broken water mains. During the whole of this period, Mr. Brothers has been directly responsible for the work of the various Repair Gangs, and it has been due to his enterprise and organising ability that the supply and distribution of gas has not been seriously interfered with for more than a few hours.

Freda Doreen, Mrs. Dykins, }  
Ambulance Driver. } West Lancs.  
Hilda, Mrs. McGreevy, } Casualty Service.  
Ambulance Attendant. }

These women were in charge of an ambulance containing wounded victims of a bomb explosion. During the time they were engaged on the work of removing the injured, both Mrs. Dykins and Mrs. McGreevy were constantly in danger from dropping bombs, both high explosive and incendiary. They carried on without a thought for themselves, doing what they could to comfort the casualties and showing a wonderful example of devotion to duty and bravery.

Mary, Mrs. Farr, S.C.M., Municipal Midwife, Portsmouth.

Nurse Farr was called to a patient during a heavy air raid which lasted over two hours. During that time, several bombs were dropped and exploded in the streets around the house. All the windows of the houses which were not demolished, were blown in and other serious damage done. The infant was born during the raid. At one period the surrounding destruction was so great that the midwife found it necessary to protect the mother with her own body, as it seemed that the house was collapsing on top of them.

Mrs. Farr showed high courage, resource and devotion to duty in most dangerous circumstances which, had she flinched, might have meant disaster to her patient.

Leslie William Harding, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Orpington.

An underground concrete shelter received a direct hit from a large calibre H.E. bomb. Part of the shelter was wrecked and both entrances were blocked with debris.

Squad Leader Harding, who was in charge of the Rescue Service, directed his men to clear the entrances.

Although a further attack developed, Harding and his Party worked on for over six hours and succeeded in rescuing six people. They only gave up when satisfied that there were no others in the shelter still alive.

In addition to the good leadership and initiative shown by Harding, he has, on all occasions, shown considerable courage and total disregard of personal risk in carrying out his duties.

Arthur William Joseph Harris, Shift Superintendent, Tottenham and District Gas Company.

An enemy bomb pierced the crown of a gasholder and the escaping gas ignited. The holder was then nearly full and the crown at a height of 120 feet from the ground. Harris climbed unaccompanied to the top of the holder to inspect the damage. He descended and gave instructions with the object of reducing the pressure. He then climbed again to the top of the holder and hauled up a bag of wet clay. This was made into a large plug, and dropped over the hole, smothering the flame.

During these operations high explosive bombs were dropped just outside the Works premises and there were numerous fires in the district.

Evelyn, Mrs. Leaver, Manchester.

During a heavy air raid, a doctor and a midwife were required to attend to a patient. It was not possible to get in touch with either, and, eventually, Mrs. Leaver was called. She is a qualified nurse and midwife, but has not followed her profession since her marriage, over twenty years ago.

She stood by the patient for more than two hours despite the fact that the area was being heavily attacked. Many incendiary and H.E. bombs had fallen and one fell in the roadway about 25 yards from the sick room, causing a big crater and igniting the gas from a broken gas main. This bomb blew in the window frames, the heavy front door, and wrecked the hall and staircase. Water was pouring through the ceilings from fractured house water mains. The conditions were almost indescribable. In spite of this, Mrs. Leaver, displaying wonderful courage and determination, managed to get the patient removed to the cellar where she continued to attend her until the arrival of a doctor. She remained and gave the utmost assistance until, three hours later, the child was born.

George Longmire, Senior A.R.P. Warden, Manchester.

An oil bomb struck the roof of a dwelling house setting the premises on fire. Longmire immediately ran to the house, entered it and saw a woman on the floor of the hall with her clothing on fire. Dragging her into the front garden he extinguished the burning clothing, afterwards entering the house again to see if anyone had been left inside. Finding that the occupants had been escorted to safety he ran to his own house nearby, brought back a garden hose and kept the