

He went down this opening and saw the youth with his head under a beam. He released his head and dragged him out. A girl was pinned in a chair under a beam and it was necessary to saw the seat and one arm away to release her. Knibbs was working in a cramped position, close to the fire grate, for nearly two hours, and there was considerable risk of the house collapsing and trapping him. Bombs were also dropped in the neighbourhood during the time rescue work was being undertaken.

Mr. Knibbs acted in a most courageous manner without regard to his own safety.

Robert Pritchard, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Bootle.

David Charles Forshaw, Police Sergeant, Bootle Police Force.

Thomas Joseph McCarthy, Police Constable, Bootle Police Force.

Victor James Scott, Police Constable, Bootle Police Force.

A heavy calibre H.E. bomb completely demolished some houses and partially destroyed others.

Part of the debris was immediately removed and a hole made in it towards a window, below ground floor level, in front of the cellar. Sergeant Forshaw squeezed through and helped the imprisoned persons out. Whilst inside, the wreckage gradually subsided and, shortly after he got out, the debris burst into flames and crashed into the cellar. The Sergeant, who sustained burns and other injuries, showed courage of an extremely high order.

The whole structure of one house had collapsed in a tangled mass of timber and rubble. Showing considerable daring P.Cs. Scott and McCarthy were able to extricate a mother and daughter. Pritchard made a working space, carefully shifting the bricks.

Scott located a child lying face downwards partly protected by a piece of timber. In a very confined space, with no head room and in a cramped position, Scott cleared the boy's head and shoulders. Pritchard got half inside the inner clearance and, assisted by McCarthy, they continued to remove the debris covering the victim.

After a considerable time they were able to release the child who was then passed out unharmed.

McCarthy, Scott and Pritchard displayed great courage and daring, knowing that tons of loose debris above were likely to fall at any moment.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

William Gordon Adam, Superintendent.	} Gas Light and Coke Company.
Llewellyn Treleven Rinder, Works Officer.	
Frederick John Redman, M.M., Chief Valve- man.	

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

Frederick James Win- chester, Assistant Valveman.	} Gas Light and Coke Company.
George Cornelius Bond, Assistant Valveman.	
Leslie Cyril James Godward, Ambulance Driver.	
A n d r e w T h o m a s McGuire, Ambulance Driver.	

A very heavy air attack was made on a large gas works and high explosive and incendiary bombs caused many fires.

Steam, was escaping and dense clouds of sulphurous fumes blinded and choked the men who had to cope with the situation.

Mr. Adam and Mr. Rinder entered the blazing area to report on the conditions. They were joined by Mr. Winchester and the three men entered a retort house to turn off the valve of a broken main. While doing this a bomb fell close by and blew Rinder through the doorway. Eventually the valve was located and the flame brought under control. Three times during the night, while the raid was still in progress, the men entered burning retort houses to shut off valves, showing courage and coolness in the face of great danger.

Mr. Redman was responsible for saving some of the gas holders by turning off the valves, a long and difficult process. To do this he worked between blazing sheds and pumping stations with bombs falling all round. There was the added danger of exploding mains and gas fumes. Redman displayed great courage and endurance.

Mr. Bond remained at his post throughout the night and directed the operations necessary to save the complicated plant in his charge. His bravery and persistent devotion to duty were an inspiration to the men under him.

Mr. Godward and Mr. McGuire reported with the Company's Ambulance and First Aid services and performed rescue work in the open during heavy bombing and anti-aircraft fire. Their gallantry in collecting casualties and conveying them to hospital, was outstanding.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Thomas Meiklejohn, Deputy Divisional A.R.P. Warden, Stoke-on-Trent.

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

John Albert Steele, Head A.R.P. Warden, Stoke-on-Trent.

Frank Lowe, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Stoke-on-Trent.

Enemy bombs fell on a dwelling house and an adjoining public house. Seven persons were trapped under the wreckage. Mr. Meiklejohn assumed charge of the rescue work with Mr. Steele and Mr. Lowe helping.

They worked hard and continuously in very difficult conditions. A large gas main in the roadway was fractured and on fire.