

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

John Llewellyn Davies, Auxiliary Fireman,  
Chingford Auxiliary Fire Service.

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

Benjamin Stanley Musgrave, A.R.P. Warden,  
Chingford.

During a heavy air raid several houses were destroyed. The debris caught fire and blazed fiercely.

Fireman Davies' house was severely damaged and he was badly shaken. Immediately he had recovered he went to a wrecked house in which two persons and a child were trapped under a bed.

Having located the casualties, he burrowed into the debris with his bare hands. He succeeded in reaching the bed and, finding the baby, he passed it out to the Wardens. He then tried to release the other victims. This he could not do unaided and Warden Musgrave volunteered to help him.

Davies then levered up the debris with his body whilst Musgrave crawled under the bed and allowed himself to be pulled out with the woman on his back.

Still taking the weight of the debris, Davies, after fifteen minutes, succeeded in releasing the remaining trapped person, who was then drawn to safety.

Davies was in a state of collapse and had to receive first aid treatment but, when it was reported that another child was trapped, he again crawled under the wreckage and continued working for the rest of the night. His heroic action saved many lives.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Richard Noel Hateley, Superintendent, Walsall Corporation Gas Department.

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

Thomas Pearson, Section Officer, Walsall Auxiliary Fire Service.

Fred Thickett, Works Foreman, Walsall Corporation Gas Department.

A high explosive bomb struck the top edge of a gas-holder making a hole in the crown and igniting the gas.

Hoses were played upon the holder in order to keep it cool, but flames were still coming out of the hole. Throughout the proceedings Pearson, Thickett and Hateley were on the edge never more than three feet away from the fire. Efforts were made to stop up the opening by means of corrugated sheets. This was only partially effective, and flames were still coming through. Pearson and Thickett then endeavoured to cover the hole with a tarpaulin. With Hateley, they stepped on to the holder and pulled the sheet over the gaps that remained. During this time the three men were near the centre of the crown in very grave danger, for the holder had sunk to near the ground and there was risk of explosion.

Showing complete disregard for their own safety, they persisted in their efforts and were eventually successful in putting out the fire.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

George Peters, Lorry Driver, Swansea Gas Light Company.

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

J. Thompson, Works Foreman, Swansea Gas Light Company.

During an air raid on Swansea a gas-holder was hit by H.E. and incendiary bombs. The holder was full of gas and a fierce flame was issuing from the pierced crown. To ascend to the top it was necessary to carry a ladder up a girder and rest it against the top of the holder. Without hesitation, Peters and Thompson volunteered to undertake the risk. They carried the ladder to the girder and, whilst Thompson straddled across it and held the ladder in position, Peters climbed to the crown, and extinguished the flame with clay.

The action was particularly gallant as it was performed immediately after a very heavy high explosive bomb had dropped just outside the site and demolished a portion of the boundary wall. The two men displayed courage and resourcefulness in very difficult circumstances.

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

Sidney John Boissonade, Station Officer, Coventry Fire Brigade.

Norman Frederick Brown, Third Officer, Coventry Fire Brigade.

William Michael Maddocks, Divisional Officer, Coventry Auxiliary Fire Service.

During the heavy air raid on Coventry these officers undertook a tremendous task and carried it out in a most highly commendable manner. They were responsible for an extremely efficient and intricate system for relaying water in the centre of the City, as a result of which the spread of fire in this highly congested area was checked at many points. Between them they rallied and encouraged crews whose endurance was severely taxed.

In movements of men and appliances they employed skill and resource for which previous experience had set no standards to act as a guide. Their cheerfulness and absolute disregard of personal safety were outstanding.

Percy Alexander Bertram Boyes, Messenger, Southampton Auxiliary Fire Service.

During an air raid on Southampton this Messenger was attached to Headquarters for the purpose of guiding reinforcing Fire Brigades to the scenes of fires.

Boyes showed great courage and devotion to duty under heavy bombardment and remained at his post throughout.

James Thomas Clarke, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

Fred Thompson, Senior Fireman, London Fire Brigade.

When a large building was partly demolished by a high explosive bomb, several