

persons were buried under the debris. Thompson and Clarke, at great personal risk, repeatedly entered the building for rescue purposes, searching for and rendering first aid to the victims. Their courage and endurance set a fine example.

Derek Albert Durbridge, Messenger, Coventry Auxiliary Fire Service.

Messenger Durbridge was acting as guide to a crew during an air raid on Coventry when a bomb exploded nearby and he was blown across the street. He recovered consciousness some time later to find himself lying within a few feet of a blazing building. He was covered with debris, and it was some time before he could extricate himself. He reported back to the Central Fire Station and insisted on resuming his duties. Later in the night he was again caught by the blast of an exploding bomb and flung against a wall. Despite a badly bruised back he carried out his duties during the remainder of the night.

Richard Charles Hayes, Skilled Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Coulsdon and Purley.

A house was demolished by a bomb and persons were trapped in the wreckage.

The members of the Rescue Party cleared away some of the debris to enable Hayes to crawl underneath. He fixed a jack to support the mass of rubble and masonry, which was impeding rescue work. The space in the hole was very confined and it was necessary for Hayes to crawl out backwards, dragging the victims with him.

Samuel Roy Johnston, Youth-in-Training, Post Office, Manchester.

Frederick Moore, Skilled Workman, Class I, Post Office, Manchester.

Moore and Johnston were alone in a Post Office building when bombs were dropped nearby. During the next eight or nine hours, H.E. and incendiary bombs fell at frequent intervals near the office, blowing in windows and doors, breaking down partitions and causing cracks in walls. Nevertheless, Moore and Johnston remained in the building, working to trace and remove faults in apparatus so that communications could continue. They did not leave until a large building immediately opposite was blazing and in danger of collapse. They returned later and continued their efforts to repair the damage to instruments.

Robert McBrien, Police Constable, Surrey County Constabulary.

A heavy H.E. bomb made a direct hit on a house, completely demolishing it. A woman was trapped in the wreckage.

P.C. McBrien, quite regardless of the danger from possible further collapse of the debris, at once crawled in through a small hole and managed to free her. She was then dragged out, suffering only from superficial injuries. During all the time he was inside, McBrien ran continuous risk as, had the wreckage slipped, he would undoubtedly have been very seriously injured.

Edward William Robert Morgan, Station Officer, London Fire Brigade.

A large six-floor warehouse received direct hits from bombs. Whilst fire-fighting was in progress, crews were subjected to further bombing and the Officer in charge was killed. Others of the detachment were severely injured, water mains fractured and gas mains set alight.

Station Officer Morgan temporarily assumed command. The severely injured were removed to hospital, the water supply was augmented and the fire brought under control. This was in large measure due to his courage and leadership.

William Morris, Police Constable, Manchester City Police.

Dwelling houses were demolished by a H.E. bomb. Constable Morris worked his way into a cellar and rescued two women who were injured. He returned and carried out a man who was injured and unconscious. Morris then collapsed and, although told to rest, voluntarily went out again to help in further rescue work. Throughout the night he displayed unusual courage, initiative and resource.

Francis Owens, Retort House Captain, Liverpool Gas Company.

During a heavy bombardment a gasholder crown was fractured. Owens climbed to the top and successfully sealed the hole with clay which was held in position by weights which he took up with him.

Later, when incendiary bombs pierced the crown of another holder, Owens, without hesitation, climbed up and successfully dealt with the resultant fires.

Sydney Herbert Pow, Station Officer, London Fire Brigade.

A number of firemen were trapped beneath debris after a building had received a direct hit by high explosive and incendiary bombs. Pow assisted to extricate them at considerable personal risk.

Over the whole period of air raids he has shown great devotion to duty and has played a conspicuous part in fighting serious fires and bringing them under control.

Fred Spruce, Acting Manager, Cleansing Depot, Manchester.

During an intense enemy air raid on Manchester, a Cleansing Depot was showered with a large number of incendiary bombs.

Mr. Spruce led a party to the stables and corn lofts where, fed by combustible material, the fire was spreading rapidly. High explosive and incendiary bombs continued to fall on the Depot while Spruce and his party made every effort to get the fire under control. It was due mainly to the initiative of Mr. Spruce that eighty-three horses and a large part of the buildings were saved from total destruction.

Denys George Wells, Deputy A.R.P. Post Warden, Malden and Coombe.

On his way to report for duty during an air raid, Wells was severely wounded by a bomb which demolished a church and a