

The released gas ignited and burned in fierce jets of flame.

Although enemy aircraft were overhead and bombs continued to fall, Mr. Sewell immediately climbed to the top of the tank and placed bags of sand over the holes, successfully extinguishing the fires. Mr. Sewell then climbed on to another tank and kicked to the ground a burning bomb. Mr. Sewell's gallant action prevented a serious fire and consequent loss of valuable product and installation.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Miss Margaret Brown, Works Nurse, Coventry.

A dwelling-house was demolished by a H.E. bomb. The back wall was blown in and the roof collapsed on top of the wreckage. Miss Brown crawled beneath the roof which was about two feet from the ground. Although in great danger from the shifting wreckage she tunnelled a way which enabled the Rescue Party to extricate two people. Bombs were dropped nearby but she showed complete disregard of her own safety. The same night a building received a direct hit causing many casualties. Miss Brown attended to these with such efficiency that many lives were saved.

Thomas Flood, Auxiliary Fireman, Liverpool Auxiliary Fire Service.

During an air raid a dwelling-house was wrecked.

Flood tunnelled under the debris and, after working for an hour, heard a baby crying. He continued and found a child underneath a perambulator. He obtained food and fed her and, with difficulty, he eventually extricated her unharmed. Flood heard the cry of another child under the rubble and, after tunnelling seven feet and sawing through an iron cot, he was successful in rescuing a small boy. Whilst Flood was under the rubble releasing the children, heavy pieces of masonry and timber were continually falling making his task both dangerous and difficult. Flood was exhausted but refused to be detained in hospital. Although he was too weak to take any physical part he directed further operations, which resulted in two more children being found.

Flood displayed great gallantry and determination in effecting these rescues.

Alexander Heron, Firemaster, Works Fire Fighting Service, Clydebank.

During an air raid incendiary bombs fell on a factory and fires were started.

Firemaster Heron extinguished a large number of incendiary bombs, handling them on many occasions with his bare hands. He led the fire fighters into a burning wood yard, while other firemen continually played water on them to prevent serious injury from burning. Afterwards he attacked the fire in the building and made every possible effort to extinguish the flames.

Heron showed great courage and was on continuous duty, without rest, for 100 hours,

Sidney Cecil Hill, House
Governor and Secretary,

Miss Joyce Elizabeth
Burton, Matron,
Miss Emma Horne,
Nursing Sister,

Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital,
Coventry.

During an enemy air attack the hospital was heavily damaged by direct hits from H.E. bombs.

Mr. Hill worked all night during and after the raid. He led parties to put out fires and to extricate patients from the ruined wards. After the explosion of a time bomb which wrecked part of the basement, he led a party down one of the tunnels, and at great risk, rescued a number of patients. His unselfish devotion to duty and his courage were an inspiration to others and he was instrumental in the saving of many lives.

Miss Burton went round the wards throughout the raid regardless of personal danger, cheering the patients and encouraging her nursing staff. Whenever a ward was hit she was quickly on the scene, directing and helping with the rescue work. By her courage and example she was largely responsible for the high morale of the patients and nursing staff.

Miss Burton showed great devotion to duty in extremely dangerous conditions.

Sister Horne was on duty on the second floor, when a direct hit carried away the end of a ward. She reassured the patients and spared no efforts to evacuate them to the basement. Two other wards then received direct hits and Sister Horne went to these wards and, regardless of personal danger, she helped to pull patients from the wreckage and remove them to safety. Later she managed to release a junior nurse who was trapped under debris and stayed with her in conditions of great danger until further help came.

Afterwards, for some hours Sister Horne worked unceasingly in the most difficult conditions to help evacuate the patients. By her efforts during the night many lives were saved.

William John Holtham, Chief Valveman, Gas Light and Coke Company Limited.

During an air raid Holtham was in the valveroom when a bomb exploded outside. The room was plunged into darkness and Holtham was struck on the head and dazed. He made his way to the door and saw that a gas holder was enveloped in flames. High piles of debris made it impossible to reach the valves by the direct route so Holtham assisted by two men walked right round the holder. Although much shaken he refused to take cover or to go to the Ambulance Station but stood by until the main valve had been closed. Still supported by the two men, he enlisted more help and closed the outlet valve of another holder. He then returned to the first holder, still a raging furnace. The heat made approach difficult and dangerous, nevertheless Holtham helped to remove the debris from the valves. When they were finally uncovered they were intensely hot but with assistance Holtham