

Barwick, with his hands, tunnelled through the debris and found that the victim was trapped by a joist across his legs. Working in a most confined space and in a dangerous position Barwick placed a jack and began levering up the wreckage. After working for an hour he was exhausted, and had to be pulled out.

His place was taken by Pollock, who carried on the work in the same dangerous conditions for a further hour, and behaved with equal disregard of his personal safety. Pollock was then dragged out. Barwick again resumed work and finally the man was released.

Harry Bell, Skilled Workman, Class I (Engineering Department), North Shields Telephone Exchange.

A H.E. bomb damaged telephone cables near to Mr. Bell's home. Despite the fact that he was severely shaken by blast, he went on foot through the height of the raid to the telephone exchange, disconnected faulty lines and took the necessary measures to ensure the continuance of the telephone communications essential to the civil defence services. Bell refused to leave his self-imposed task, which was of an exacting nature, although during part of this time bombs were falling.

Bell displayed courage, zeal and initiative.

Paul Catterall, Acting Sub-Officer, Bolton Fire Brigade.

Sub-Officer Catterall was in charge of a contingent of men sent to a town to deal with fires, the result of enemy action. Under his leadership the crews remained steadfastly at their posts of duty in spite of the fact that large numbers of incendiary and high explosive bombs were showered around them.

He displayed calm courage and devotion to duty in exceptionally dangerous and harassing circumstances, and showed keen interest in the welfare of the men in his charge, giving first aid and arranging for the despatch of the injured to hospital.

William Albert Clare, Dairyman, Wallasey.

A H.E. bomb demolished houses and people were trapped. Although in grave danger from an unsafe wall which was liable to collapse, and from a fractured gas main which was alight near to him, Clare worked his way under the collapsed roof and succeeded in releasing nine people.

**Geoffrey John Burdon
Cox, Assistant Engineer.
Charles Wyatt, Scrubber Yard Attendant**

} Gas Light and Coke
Company Limited

During an air raid incendiary bombs fell on a gas works making it a target for further attacks. Whilst many H.E. bombs were dropped nearby, Cox and Wyatt mounted to the roofs of offices and dealt successfully with the resultant fires although at times they were in danger of being flung to the ground by blast.

Later H.E. bombs struck the Purifier House. Cox immediately took steps to isolate the purifiers in order to control the flames which were lighting up the Works.

Gas was flaring from broken mains, steam was escaping and the site was thickly covered with debris. Despite these difficulties and during continued bombing Cox and Wyatt carried on until all the necessary operations were completed.

**Frank Forrest, Chief
Valveman.
Fred Wilson, Works
Fireman.**

} Gas Light and Coke
Company Limited.

During a heavy air raid H.E. bombs ripped open the crown of a holder and the gas ignited. Forrest, who had twice been flung to the ground by the force of explosions and injured, hurried to the valves as fast as he could for gas was still entering the holder and feeding the flames. Debris was piled high and he had to skirt the flaming holder to reach the valves. Forrest had to work between two fires. The tremendous heat hampered the work, but the holder was soon out.

Wilson was also blown over by the explosion. Recovering, he went to the aid of two men and carried them to the Casualty Clearing Station. He next organised the fire fighting and tackled the fires until the blaze was out. Although bombs continued to fall nearby Forrest and Wilson showed great courage and carried on with the work of repairing the damage.

Amelia, Mrs. Johnson, A.R.P. Warden, Birmingham.

During an air attack a H.E. bomb demolished houses and eight persons were trapped in the debris. Mrs. Johnson at once went to the First Aid Post and secured the services of a doctor, but on the return journey the street was blocked and they had to make a detour. Mrs. Johnson tried to get through the debris into the cellar of one of the wrecked houses, but being unable to do so, she went for the Rescue Party. Returning, she helped to attend to the casualties as they were brought out.

The Warden went with the Doctor to another incident and then returned to the First Aid Post where she assisted for some hours in rendering aid to the injured.

Mrs Johnson showed courage and devotion to duty in making all these dangerous journeys whilst high explosive bombs were falling nearby and there was heavy A.A. fire.

Frederick James Ernest Laurie, Gas Fitter, Leytonstone.

A H.E. bomb damaged a block of flats. Laurie heard cries and, without hesitation, scaled an eight foot wall topped by glass and dropped to the ground on the other side. As he scrambled over the debris another bomb fell nearby and debris fell all round him. He found a girl standing on a small ledge which had formed part of the original first floor. The staircase was demolished, so carrying the girl on his shoulders and by the aid of the gun flashes, he found his way down to ground level.

Laurie is nearly sixty years of age and performed this gallant rescue without thought for his own safety.