

to burrow into the debris. He worked continuously with his bare hands for about four hours in darkness and foul atmosphere and released three of the victims. In order to extricate them, he had to take the weight of a girder on his shoulders while passing debris back between his legs. Mr. Blackstone displayed conspicuous courage and suffered considerably from the effects of the gas and bad atmosphere in which he had been working. The tottering wall fell soon after the rescues had been effected.

Sub-Officer Boulter, although wet through and exhausted after seven hours strenuous fire-fighting, also assisted in the rescue of two of those trapped who were on the side of the ground floor away from the dangerous wall. He tunnelled downwards and, held by his feet, wriggled down vertically through the debris to a man who was pinned under a steel girder and covered in masonry. After three hours' hard work in darkness and a gas-fouled atmosphere he released the man and brought him out alive. After this rescue Boulter assisted the other party until the last victim was recovered.

Boulter displayed endurance and great courage in the face of extreme danger.

Albert William Clarke, Auxiliary Fireman, London Auxiliary Fire Service.

A H.E. bomb demolished a dwelling house and a woman was trapped. Auxiliary Fireman Clarke, who was not on duty, entered the wreckage and found the victim but was himself trapped by falling debris.

Although there was a strong concentration of coal gas, Clarke managed to direct the operations of the rescue party outside and a saw was passed to him with which he was able to cut away parts of the staircase and so release the woman.

The rescue operations lasted for two hours during which bombs continued to fall nearby and the remainder of the building was likely to collapse. Auxiliary Fireman Clarke showed great courage and initiative and by his direction the life of the woman was saved.

Christopher John Gartland, }
Police Sergeant, }
Herbert Frederick Collier } Liverpool Police
Baker, Police Constable, } Force.
John Edward Willington }
Uren, Police Constable, }
Thomas Tolen, Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, }
Liverpool. }

During an air raid a building was demolished by enemy action. Portions of the interior walls collapsed, and the outside wall was leaning dangerously inwards.

Gartland, Baker and Uren, accompanied by Tolen, entered the building and, after searching in complete darkness, they found a firewatcher, trapped and almost buried under the debris on the ground floor. When some of the wreckage had been removed a large wooden beam, which was carrying the weight of the debris of the roof and upper floor and which was directly over the trapped man, appeared about to collapse. Constable Uren at once got under the beam, supporting it with his

shoulder. He remained in this position for a considerable time, during which the other three men worked frantically to free the victim. The weight of the beam became too much for Uren to support and Baker took up a position beside him. It was clear that the whole building might collapse at any moment and the Sergeant, who is a man of exceptional strength, placed his arms round the man's body and with a powerful and sustained effort pulled him clear of the debris. Constable Baker then got away from the beam but owing to the great weight Uren was unable to move. The Sergeant took hold of him and snatched him away bodily. As he did so the upper floor collapsed, completely covering the place where the rescuers had been working.

During the whole of this time Tolen had been untiring in his efforts to release the trapped man, entirely regardless of the near danger. Constables Uren and Baker, by supporting the beam for over an hour, made the rescue possible. Had they collapsed under the severe strain, the rescuers and rescued would have been killed. Sergeant Gartland, who was in charge of the operation, showed initiative and leadership of the highest order with complete disregard of danger.

Stephen Hay, A.F.C., Station Engineer, Gas Light and Coke Company.

During enemy raids on gas works Mr. Hay has shown outstanding qualities of leadership and courage.

On one occasion, when a Retort House received a direct hit, a 24 inch gas main and a steam pipe were fractured. The gas being made in the house was blazing up to the roof from the fractured main and there was danger that heavy girders displaced by the explosion would crash. Mr. Hay, with complete disregard of personal danger, climbed thirty feet to the top of the Retort settings and isolated the affected plant.

On other occasions Mr. Hay has displayed courage and resource in dealing with fires at the works and throughout the attacks has consistently set a splendid example to the staff.

Charles William Hill, Sub-Officer, Hendon Fire Brigade.

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

During a heavy air raid on London two persons were trapped in the basement of a building that was alight from ground to top floor. Station Officer Morgan and Sub-Officer Hill entered the building by the ground floor passage but were unable to advance owing to the terrific heat. The Officers then broke the pavement light and by this means entered the basement. Although the heat and smoke were intense Morgan and Hill brought the two trapped persons to a position in the front part of the basement from which they were hauled up to the street.

Sub-Officer Hill was then helped out and finally Station Officer Morgan, who was considerably affected by the smoke and in a very exhausted condition, was assisted up to the ground level by means of a line.

During the time that the rescue was being effected the rear part of the building