

collapsed. Both Morgan and Hill showed utter disregard of danger and displayed conspicuous courage and fortitude.

Jack Hurrell, Sub-Officer, London Fire Brigade.

A high explosive bomb severely damaged the basement of a factory, in which people were sheltering, and burst a large water main. Sub-Officer Hurrell detailed certain of his crew to attend to the fires which had broken out and set two trailer pumps into the crater in an attempt to arrest the inrush of water, so that efforts could be made to rescue the imprisoned persons. By this time the basement had filled with water to within about two feet of the ceiling but notwithstanding the extreme danger to himself, Sub-Officer Hurrell entered the basement, which was in darkness, and crawled from bunk to bunk to ensure that no casualties remained.

Hurrell exhibited coolness, initiative and courage in very distressing and dangerous conditions.

Alexander Hodge Nisbet, Firemaster, Coaf-bridge Fire Brigade.

Firemaster Nisbet was temporarily attached to the London Fire Service for practical experience of fires under air raid conditions and attended many during heavy and intensive bombing.

At one fire three auxiliary firemen were trapped on the first floor of a burning building. The intense heat and acrid fumes from burning cable made it almost impossible to approach the building. A short ladder was procured but as the buildings were surrounded by barrels and cable reels, no firm base could be established on which to rest it. As a last resort the ladder was balanced and held by two fire brigade officers. Mr. Nisbet, without the slightest hesitation, ascended to the top of the ladder, which fell short of the first floor window but, by securing a hold on surrounding piping, Mr. Nisbet managed to scramble into the room. Then by placing himself in a very precarious position on a ledge, he helped the three trapped men to descend, following down when the last man was safe. If it had not been for the very courageous act of Mr. Nisbet, the men would certainly have lost their lives.

Although cut, bruised and suffering from exhaustion, Mr. Nisbet, after a very short rest, helped to fight other fires in the neighbourhood and his coolness, leadership and courage were an inspiration to the men under his command.

Stanley Edward Penberthy, Skilled Labourer, Plymouth.

During an air raid Penberthy entered a blazing building and, despite the risk of an explosion which might have happened at any moment, removed several boxes of primers and cordite from among burning debris.

Awarded the George Medal:—

David Craig Bertram (Major, the King's Royal Rifle Corps, T.A.), Deputy Station Engineer,	} Gas Light and Coke Company.
Robert Edgcombe Robinson, Draughtsman,	

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Leslie Joseph Clark, Assistant Mechanical Engineer,	} Gas Light and Coke Company.
James Coppin, Works Fireman,	
Peter James Eldridge, Dehydration Plant Attendant,	
James Allen Nichols, Senior Assistant Engineer,	

A severe attack was made on a gas works and high explosive and incendiary bombs started serious fires.

Steam pipes, water mains and electrical cables were fractured and barrels of tar caught fire and exploded. Gas mains flared and the blaze was fed by benzole which dripped from damaged flanges.

Mr. Bertram displayed outstanding courage and leadership in dealing with the situation. He ran through the flames to shut down gas valves, put out fires on the top of a holder and made gallant efforts to rescue two men who were trapped in a plant house which had been wrecked by an explosion.

Mr. Coppin was on duty in a valveroom when an explosion occurred. The premises were enveloped in steam and flames but Coppin, with no regard for his own safety, got his hoses to work and after three hours the fire was put out. He continued, throughout the night, to organise the firefighting in the works and was ably assisted by Mr. Nichols and Mr. Eldridge. These men by their coolness and courage set a splendid example to the others and worked in scorching heat while H.E. and incendiary bombs were falling.

Mr. Robinson, after helping to put out a number of fires, learned that two men were trapped in a plant house which had been partially demolished by a bomb. The explosion had blown the walls outwards and caused part of the roof to cave in but Robinson got into the building and made his way to the basement where he thought the men might be. Great blocks of concrete and wrecked machinery were everywhere. He was warned that the rest of the roof was collapsing and he got out just before it did. In spite of the danger of being trapped himself, of the steam, burning gas and flaring benzole, Mr. Robinson made further attempts to get at the men but was forced to give up when the basement flooded.

Mr. Robinson displayed outstanding courage and determination.

Mr. Clark was on holiday on the night of the raid but he borrowed a child's bicycle, the only one he could get, and pedalled through the raid to the Works, a distance of eighteen miles. He gave invaluable help in reorganising the damaged steam and water systems and in getting power supplies going.

Mr. Clark has shown exceptional devotion to duty and disregard of his own safety during this and other raids.

Awarded the George Medal:—

William Brodie, Works Fireman,	} Gas Light and Coke Company.
Robert George James, Pumpman,	