

During an air raid the Control and Report Centre was set on fire by incendiary bombs and had to be evacuated. Mr. Knape successfully moved all the personnel to a Reserve Centre and organised an alternative system of communication by messengers which proved invaluable. He showed great ingenuity and resource in setting up an organisation to deal with the great difficulties which the cessation of telephone facilities produced. His courage and leadership were an inspiration to the staff under his control.

Awarded the George Medal:—

William Barlow, Leader, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Stretford.

A H.E. bomb demolished a house and a man and his wife were trapped.

A rescue party worked for three hours but were unable to reach the casualties.

An additional party, led by Barlow, arrived later. A fire was burning in the debris and thousands of gallons of water from a crater which had filled from a fractured main were flowing down to the cellars where the victims were trapped. Barlow's party succeeded in making an entrance under the floor and Barlow then knocked a hole, just large enough for him to crawl through, in the wall, which was supporting the floor boards.

The heat of the fire above him was growing in intensity, debris was falling and there was a danger of the floor collapsing on him. He found the persons pinned by the legs under the collapsed cellar steps. The water in the cellar was rising and there was danger that its weight would cause the remaining cellar walls to collapse.

Barlow continued to dig and eventually released the casualties. He worked with great courage and it was his leadership and determination that made the rescue possible.

May, Mrs. Beardsall, Portress, Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital, Coventry.

During a heavy enemy air attack, the Coventry and Warwickshire Hospital was repeatedly struck by H.E. bombs. Mrs. Beardsall was on duty throughout the night and, single handed, she fought and subdued a fire on the top floor of the hospital, despite the fact that a H.E. bomb had wrecked part of that wing. Although injured by falling debris, she clambered over wreckage and rescued several patients trapped in debris. She continued with this work until she herself was severely injured.

Mrs. Beardsall showed exceptional courage and disregard of danger.

Edward William Clark, Skilled Member, A.R.P. Rescue Party, Stoke Newington.

A H.E. bomb demolished a building. The gas and water mains were fractured and the wreckage caught fire.

People were trapped in the basement which was rapidly flooding. Despite the danger of further collapse of walls and debris, several men of the Rescue Party, among whom was Clark, succeeded in extricating a number of people.

Clark determined to satisfy himself that all had been saved. Again and again he dived into the water under the debris. His

perseverance and disregard of danger resulted in him saving a woman who, trapped at the far end of the basement, would certainly have been drowned but for Clark's gallant efforts.

Having completed his task, Clark collapsed from the effects of exposure and coal gas poisoning.

Mary, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Ambulance Driver, First Aid Unit, Plymouth.

During an air raid an ambulance, driven by Mrs. Fitzgerald, was wrecked by a bomb. She scrambled out, extricated her attendant and took the injured girl back to the Post. Mrs. Fitzgerald then asked for another ambulance and attendant and drove back to the incident, loaded up and conveyed the casualties to hospital. During this time the raid was in progress and bombs were falling.

Mrs. Fitzgerald showed outstanding gallantry and devotion to duty.

Sidney Harrold, Senior Leader,
Joseph Edward Sweetlove, Deputy Leader, } A.R.P. Rescue Party, Hornsey.

During an air raid an unexploded time bomb lodged in the first floor of a dwelling house with its nose protruding through the ceiling over the entrance hall. Shells were bursting overhead, shrapnel was falling and a nearby gun was making the whole building vibrate in such a manner that it threatened to dislodge the bomb from its precarious position. An elderly lady was in bed on the top floor. It was not possible to reach her by the stairs so Harrold, followed by Sweetlove, climbed a ladder to the room, and carried her down to safety. Later on the bomb exploded.

Harrold and Sweetlove showed great courage and devotion to duty being fully aware that at any moment the bomb might explode.

Richard Jones, Senior A.R.P. Warden, Litherland, Lancashire.

A high explosive bomb struck a surface shelter and people were trapped.

Some of the occupants were soon released but owing to the weight of the material pinning the victims and the state of the walls, which were being continually rocked by further bomb explosions, rescue of the remainder was difficult and dangerous.

Senior Warden Jones succeeded in crawling under the debris and freeing three victims.

One woman was still trapped, held by portions of the roof. Jones, lying on his stomach, hacked away pieces of concrete and eventually cleared a space to enable a doctor to crawl through to give her an injection. Then, despite his fatigue, Jones continued his dangerous work for two and a half hours and finally released the casualty.

Arthur John Rycroft, Chief Inspector, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

During an air raid a large number of incendiary bombs fell in a railway siding and wagons caught fire.

One of the wagons contained boxes of explosives and it was essential that it should be isolated. Explosions were constant and