

He then saw that the wooden decking around a coal hoist was on fire. Improvising a rope, by fastening together a number of sheet strings, he drew water from the dock in buckets and extinguished the fire, thereby saving the hoist from destruction.

Potter showed courage and resource in undertaking, unaided, a succession of highly dangerous tasks.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Robert Hume, Yard Inspector,	} London and North Eastern Railway.
John Steel, Driver,	

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Jonathan William Angus, Acting Class III Shunter,	} London and North Eastern Railway.
Charles Colthorpe, Yard Inspector,	
Robert Stephen Ward, Acting Yard Inspector,	

During an air raid on a Docks, incendiary bombs were dropped in and around sidings containing stacks of pit props, many of which were set alight. The sidings also contained 300 wagons, some loaded with ammunition, which were alongside the burning stacks. Seven wagons at different points were set alight.

Hume was in charge of the work in the sidings and he, with Colthorpe, Steel, Angus and Ward, extinguished a number of incendiary bombs. Realising that, in spite of their efforts, all the wagons were likely to become involved in the fire, Hume decided to remove them to a safer area.

With the assistance of the other men 274 of the wagons, including those loaded with ammunition and others which by this time were burning, were moved to sidings unaffected by the fires. Of the remaining wagons only one, containing steel helmets, was burned out.

The Fireman on Steel's engine was a lad of seventeen years of age and, in view of the great risk involved, Steel refused to allow him to remain on the engine, and manned it himself, single handed.

Hume, who is 65 years of age, took the lead in the difficult and dangerous operations and there is no doubt that, but for the courage and resource of these five men, the whole of the 300 wagons would have been lost. Tremendous destruction must have occurred had the wagons of ammunition exploded.

Awarded the George Medal:—

George Roberts, Goods Guard, London Midland and Scottish Railway.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Peter Kilshaw, Goods Guard,	} London Midland and Scottish Railway.
James Edward Rowland, Goods Guard,	

During an enemy air raid a bomb fell on a train of munitions stabled in an old siding. Roberts, accompanied by Kilshaw and Row-

land, volunteered to go to the scene and, at considerable risk to themselves, the men made an inspection of the sidings and uncoupled wagons which were in danger of burning.

During the whole of the time the men were engaged upon this work, explosions were occurring in the munitions train and there was added danger from high explosive bombs which continued to fall nearby.

Roberts, as the leader of the party, set a high example and showed considerable initiative and courage.

Kilshaw and Rowland, with complete disregard of the many dangers, carried out their duties with coolness and determination.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

John Edwin Ernest Antliff, Skilled Workman, Class I, Post Office Telephone Manager's Office, Plymouth.

During air raids Mr. Antliff has driven supervising Engineers round areas where many fires were raging. On one occasion, when the properties surrounding a Post Office building were blazing fiercely, Antliff entered a warehouse, although the roof was liable to collapse, and removed bales of straw which, had they ignited, would have greatly added to the danger. He also removed records to safety, in the course of which he drove through streets enveloped in flames.

Mr. Antliff is responsible for maintaining the large Private Branch Exchanges in Plymouth and, in spite of power supply failures, he did excellent work in keeping important installations functioning satisfactorily. His courage and devotion to duty have been a source of inspiration to his colleagues.

George Brown, Assistant Traffic Agent, London and North Eastern Railway.

During an air raid Brown, who was off duty, noticed a blaze in the direction of a Dock and immediately cycled from his home and found that incendiary bombs had been dropped in large numbers. He obtained the assistance of other staff and, although H.E. bombs and shrapnel were falling nearby, extinguished the incendiaries. Brown and the other men continued their efforts until a H.E. bomb demolished a chimney thirty yards away. The blast and debris injured three of the party, and Brown gave first aid to the wounded.

He then helped to put out fires in wagons loaded with ammunition.

Brown displayed a high standard of initiative and leadership and by his example encouraged the Yard staff to carry out difficult and dangerous operations.

William Edward Brown, Inspector (Engineering),	} Post Office Tele- phone Manager's Office, Plymouth.
Ernest Philip Stokes, Skilled Workman, Class I,	

During air raids a main trunk underground route was damaged and important cables were severed in two places by H.E. bombs, one crater being about fifty yards from a time