

seen to be on fire and out of reach of the firemen's hose. The fire was gaining and, had it taken hold, the consequences would have been disastrous over a wide area of the Factory.

Mr. Denny entered the building alone. He sought some way of getting at the flames and having found this, came out and explained the position to Forbes and Topping. Without hesitation the two men volunteered to enter the building and tackle the fire from within at the proposed angle and range. The three men cautiously groped their way into the wrecked building. Standing among the damaged ammunition, which the rush of water was sufficient to disturb, with consequent risk of detonation, they brought the fire under control and completely extinguished it.

Byron, Christian and Hankin took their hose into another part of the wrecked building. They showed devotion to duty and voluntarily exposed themselves to the danger of death or serious injury.

Mr. Gale, who was on leave when the explosion occurred, returned immediately. A preliminary survey was made and a scheme, evolved by the Superintendent. It was carried successfully into effect mainly through his initiative and leadership. He organised and thoroughly tested the safety precautions, was present a considerable part of every day when work was in progress and no fresh step was taken until he had personally assured himself that the methods were as safe as his knowledge and ingenuity could make them. By his coolness, ability, courage and inspiring leadership, Mr. Gale completed a unique and terrifying salvage task without a single casualty.

Bywater, Edwards, Fitzmaurice, Murdoch, Panton and Rowling formed the team of volunteers who cleared the wrecked building. In a task presenting vast problems they displayed courage and co-operation of the highest order. The ammunition which had caused the accident was anti-personnel and anti-disturbance, and the fused time-bombs, scattered over and under the debris, made clearance nearly impossible by detonating without warning and in an absolutely unpredictable manner. A constant risk was the movement of wreckage and any one member of the team could, by ignorance, negligence or a moment's carelessness endanger the lives of the others. The high standard of the team work at Kirkby is shown by the fact that during the clearance operations there was no casualty.

All members of the team, under the leadership of Mr. Gale and Mr. Denny, showed high courage and devotion to duty in volunteering for and carrying through over a period of three months, so arduous, unpleasant and dangerous a task.

*To be Additional Members of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—*

Miss Lise M. de BAISSAC, First Aid Nursing Yeomanry.

Miss Jacqueline NEARNE, First Aid Nursing Yeomanry.

For services in France during the enemy occupation.

Miss Jane WALKER, British Resident in Warsaw.

For services to members of British and Allied Forces in Poland.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Mohamed SHAFFI (since deceased), Guide, Dodan Village, Maungdaw Area. (Award dated 16th September, 1944).

For services in connection with the Burma Campaign, 16th November, 1943, to 15th May, 1944.

Thomas Harold STAINTON, Locomotive Driver (Selby), London and North Eastern Railway Company.

Stainton was working a goods train which consisted of 47 wagons, the twelve nearest the engine containing bombs. He noticed that one of the sheets covering a loaded wagon was on fire. The train ran into a line set aside for its reception in the Goods Yard and when nearly stopped, Stainton instructed the fireman to stop the train while he got off the engine and ran towards the wagon which was on fire. When the train came to a stand-still Stainton uncoupled the first 7 wagons from the burning wagon, got back to his engine and immediately drew the front portion ahead.

A small explosion occurred shortly after and was followed by a major explosion which caused considerable damage to the permanent way.

Stainton's courageous and prompt action, without regard for his personal safety, probably averted a much more serious explosion.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

Miss Harriette Evelyn BENDY, Member, Christian Contemplative Charity, Burton Mere, Dorsetshire.

When an aircraft crashed in a field, Miss Bendy, an elderly woman, noticed an airman stumbling round the burning machine and from his actions she realised that the pilot was still in the wreckage. Finding a gap in the barbed wire fence, Miss Bendy ran to the aircraft and tried to pull out the pilot who was held fast by the foot. With help, Miss Bendy succeeded in releasing the trapped man and dragged him clear. Whilst so doing the wreckage was burning furiously and Verey cartridges were exploding. She then stopped a passing car and with assistance lifted the helpless man over a wall and into the car.

Miss Bendy, by her prompt and fearless action, was instrumental in saving the pilot's life.

Miss Jean HERRING, Member, Women's Land Army, Bury St. Edmunds.

Claude Frederick PALFREY, Public Service Vehicle Driver, Stradishall, Nr. Newmarket, Suffolk.

An aircraft crashed in a field alongside a road, and immediately burst into flames. Palfrey, who was driving a bus along the road as the aircraft came down, pulled up on the grass verge to avoid a collision with one of its wings. He and Miss Herring, a passenger, ran to the scene of the crash and between them rescued two of the crew who were pinned underneath the front part of