

SECRET

HULL CORPORATION.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

Using information from a document held at The Hull History Centre we track the events of some of the City's darkest hours whilst commemorating the bravery and resilience of its citizens



The Hull Blitz
7th/8th/9th May 1941

The Second World War arrived in Hull on the 19th/20th June 1940 when the first incendiary device was dropped to the east of the City at 01.40 hours. This is known as Raid 1. Thankfully there were no casualties on this occasion, but as the conflict progressed the bombings increased both in numbers and intensity causing loss of life, injury and widespread devastation across the City.

In all there were to be 82 Raids between that first incident and the last on the 17th March 1945. By the bombardment of Hull known as *The Hull Blitz* on the 7th/8th/9th May 1941, there had already been 44 raids ranging from clusters of or single incendiaries, oil bombs and high explosives, but it was the raids over those two nights in May 1941 which would change the face of the City forever.

This report, written by *Mr. William Morris*, Assoc. AT. Inst. C.E., F.S.I., City Engineer & Surveyor, in June 1941, records incidents which took place over the two nights and details how the City Engineer's Rescue, Demolition and Repair Services responded to the vast challenges that faced them. It includes statistics on salvage operations, housing repairs, the deployment of men and vehicles, assistance given by Mutual Assistance Parties and a report on the bombing of The Prudential Building, an incident which has caused considerable controversy through the proceeding decades. The fact that such a detailed account could be produced within seven weeks of these raids is testament to the courage of the men and women who risked their lives night after night to rescue and assist those in need, whilst recording every little detail to ensure that everyone was accounted for and received the help they so badly needed.

We recognise that some of the information within the report is sensitive and may cause some upset, so although the entire report can be read in full at The History Centre, we have chosen to redact small elements of the online version to reflect the sensitivities of a wider audience. The report can be read by requesting file C TYW/2/3/4 which includes an earlier version of the report compiled on the 20th May 1941.

For further information on Hull's Second World War records see [Introduction to Second World War Records at The Hull History Centre](#) and our downloadable PDFs, [Wardens, Welfare & Victory](#) and [Discovering Records Relating to The Second World War at The Hull History Centre](#)

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REPORT ON
CITY ENGINEER'S RESCUE, DEMOLITION
AND REPAIR SERVICES FOLLOWING
SEVERE ENEMY AIR ATTACK 7TH/8TH
MAY, 1941, AND 9TH MAY, 1941.

Guildhall,
HULL.
27th June, 1941.
Revised.

Wm. MORRIS, M.Inst. C.E., F.S.I.,
City Engineer & Surveyor.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.REPORT ONCITY ENGINEER'S RESCUE, DEMOLITION AND REPAIR SERVICES.

Severe Enemy Air Attack 7th/8th May, 1941, (period of alarm 2317 to 0509 hours and 9th May, 1941, (period of alarm 0008 to 0555 hours).

For convenience, the operations following the two raid nights, Wednesday and Thursday, have been grouped together and treated as one operation.

Organisation.

The City is divided into four divisions and there is at present one main Rescue Depot and a sub-depot in each division. Further sub-depots are proposed; two are in the course of construction and a scheme for a third is before the Ministry of Home Security. The ultimate scheme will consist of four main depots and seven sub-depots. At the present, premises near the sites of the proposed sub-depots are used as assembly points and these are in effect sub-depots.

Rescue Parties.

During the first raid 38 Hull Rescue Parties were available and these were further reinforced by 22 Mutual Assistance Parties (20 from the East and West Ridings of Yorkshire and 2 Military Rescue Parties from the Royal Engineers). During the second raid 32 Hull Rescue Parties were available and the Mutual Assistance Parties were still in the City. The total number of volunteers which reported to the depots following the warnings was 280 and 223 respectively.

In addition to the above, about 40 men from the Works Department and 200 soldiers assisted on major rescue operations.

Rescue parties operating during the actual raids did magnificent work without thought for their personal safety and were remarkably fortunate to suffer no casualties within their own ranks beyond burns caused by handling debris in close proximity to fires and cuts and bruises caused through other high explosives exploding close by their rescue operations and knocking them off their feet.

It should be borne in mind that a very large proportion of the depot staff and members of parties both paid and unpaid, had their own houses completely and partially demolished, and the manner in which they responded to calls without protest or refusal, was truly commendable.

Peculiarly enough, there was no incident which necessitated the wearing of coal gas respirators.

A.R.P. Depots.

Organisation at the A.R.P. Depots worked smoothly and efficiently though seriously hampered by telephone breakdowns, lack of water and electricity supplies, etc. and they can be congratulated for the manner in which they tackled the many problems arising during and after the raids and the control and billeting of the various assisting parties.

The service depots were fortunate to escape being hit by anything other than the small incendiary bombs, the only depot failing to continue to function through structural damage being the James Reckitt Avenue

Sub-Depot. Control was often transferred from main depot to sub-depot, but this was not on account of structural damage.

Operational Control at Incidents.

In many cases the Wardens Service was quite unable to supply specific information re persons missing, numbers of residents, etc. and as a consequence, arrangements were made for party foremen to restrict their immediate operations to obvious rescue, search in likely places, organised calling and listening, and lastly, recovery of bodies when information was available, and when satisfied on these points, to report back to their depots.

Later, such incidents were investigated and if satisfied that persons were still unaccounted for, parties were re-called to complete. This has proved to be the best method of utilizing the available labour to avoid wastage, although it has demanded a great deal of the supervising staff's time and has involved many meetings in Wardens' Posts and the like between works foremen, relatives, wardens and policemen, and the despatch of enquiries to rescued persons and casualties in hospitals as far afield as Drifffield.

Eastern Division.

The largest incidents were Buckingham Street, Nornabell Street, Naylors Row, New Bridge Road/Southcoates Lane junction.

All operations in this area were seriously handicapped by the complete breakdown of the telephone system and the Training Officer's car proved extremely useful.

Buckingham Street Incident.

This incident was caused by a parachute mine falling on the site of No.16 Cremorna Terrace, the crater being approximately 25 feet in diameter and of similar depth. Approximately 30 small houses were completely demolished, together with two Anderson shelters. One large communal shelter of concrete and timber construction, although within about 10 yards of the crater, was undamaged except for blockage at the exits through debris and clay.

There was the usual difficulty of being unable to obtain precise information regarding missing persons, and the early stages of rescue and recovery were based upon search and investigation. As a result of enquiries made amongst residents in the vicinity, and information received from the Wardens Service from time to time, it was ascertained by the time the "all clear" was sounding that one person was unaccounted for from No.7, two persons from No.8 and 4 persons from No.73 Buckingham Street. Operations continued on these particular sites and at approximately 11 a.m. it was learned from the Wardens Sector Leader that the person from No.7 had now been accounted for. Later in the day the bodies of the above missing persons were recovered. The most dangerous and complicated rescue accomplished at this incident was the release of a young man from the collapsed debris of No.67 Buckingham Street and who was wedged across the body of his father. Because of the very restricted area in which operations could take place, the release of this person did not take place until approximately 7.15 a.m. By nightfall, this incident was completed and resulted in the release and rescue of 15 persons and the recovery of 8 bodies.

Naylors Row Incident.

This was another mine incident, causing the demolition of approximately 25 houses, and was complicated by extensive fire during the whole time that rescue parties were operating. Further

complications were caused by the non-appearance of fire services or first aid services until after the "all clear" had sounded. Excellent work was accomplished by the rescue parties who, whilst releasing persons as speedily as possible, had to control the two separate fires with buckets of water during the whole of the period. The foreman obtained permission from tenants of a small house close by to use same as his headquarters and as a casualty clearing centre until the arrival of the first aid parties. By nightfall this incident had been completed and had resulted in the rescue and release of 21 persons and one horse, and the recovery of 9 bodies.

Nornabell Street Incident.

A bomb falling upon houses in Fredericks Terrace completely demolished the terrace communal shelter and approximately 15 houses. The earlier rescue work was taken over by a party of soldiers and subsequently handed over to a team of mutual assistance parties from Harrogate. There appeared to be a lack of understanding by the team leader and his foremen about the manner in which to obtain necessary information regarding persons unaccounted for, but when a schedule was drawn up and the position clarified, the incident progressed satisfactorily. With permission of the tenant of one of the terrace houses, the front room was used as headquarters and the warden was asked to report there from time to time upon receipt of any vital new information. The whole of the shelter site was completely excavated and by early the following morning the incident was closed, having resulted in the rescue and release of 23 persons and the recovery of 21 bodies.

Newtown Buildings Incident.

One small bomb fell in the front and another in the rear of flats in the above buildings and after the necessary parties had attended, the incident was quickly closed as completed. However, during the next day, a delayed report was received that three persons were thought to be missing, and after search by a rescue party, two bodies were recovered, there being no trace of the third person. The incident was again closed temporarily and upon visiting same the next day, the Rescue Service was informed that this suspected missing person was now accounted for. However, whilst on the site, a dog was heard within the wreckage and this was rescued apparently little the worse and handed over to the Dogs' Home representative.

Ellerby Grove Incident.

This incident was caused by a bomb at the junction of Cammerton and Ellerby Groves and had completely demolished Nos. 1/17 and 2/16, blocking the roadway with debris. Rescue Parties attended during the raid and this incident was closed, being informed by the Wardens Service that no other persons were missing. However, at 5.15 p.m. on the 22nd May, a lady deputy Head Warden from the area reported to the Rescue Service Leader that although a complete search and enquiry had been made by the Wardens Service and relatives, a young girl was missing from No. 4 Cammerton Grove and it was suggested that she was still within the debris of that house. Consequently a rescue party attended at 6 p.m. and operated until 9 p.m. but without success. Whilst these operations were still in progress the Rescue Service Leader made enquiries and was informed by two neighbours of the above family and who had assisted with the rescue work, that the missing girl was certainly recovered and handed over to the first aid parties in their presence. Because of the obvious doubts, the Rescue Service Leader closed this incident pending enquiries. The next day the Rescue Service Leader made enquiries at the Morrill Street Clinic, the Hull Royal Infirmary, the Sutton Annexe, Anlaby Road Hospital, the

Women's Hospital, Children's Hospital, the Beverley Road Hospital, Beverley Base Hospital, Driffeld Base Hospital and the Seacroft Hospital, Leeds, but was unable to find any trace or record of the missing girl. The following day the Rescue Service Leader visited the Wardens Headquarters in the vicinity, the Southcoates Lane First Aid Post and then the Sutton Annexe. He had discovered that there were two young members of the girl's family who had been treated at the Hospitals and he wished to have personal contact with them if possible, in order to obtain precise information about the girl still thought to be missing. However, before locating these children, the Rescue Service Leader was diverted to Mr. Fox, schoolmaster, Bilton, then to Miss Bloom, Bilton, in charge of evacuees in that area, and finally to Mrs. Allen, who was a married sister of the missing girl and who had taken temporary charge of these two children. The Rescue Service Leader interviewed these people and obtained sufficient information about the missing girl's clothing, etc. to enable him to assume at that time that a certain unidentified body at the Preston Road mortuary would be this missing girl. His next move was to contact P.C. Allen, which meant visits to the Laburnum Avenue Sub-Police Station, Drypool Green, and Crowle Street Police Station. At Crowle Street Police Station the Rescue Service Leader interviewed P.C. Allen in the presence of Superintendent Armitage and asked if the Constable would accompany him to the mortuary to attempt identification. This was agreed to by the Superintendent and the Rescue Service Leader took P.C. Allen to the mortuary, went through all records of the body which he suspected to be his sister-in-law, obtained certain items of jewelry and conveyed him to Bilton to see if the missing girl's young man and relations could identify the property. All these people did identify the jewelry, etc. and the Rescue Service Leader then arranged for P.C. Allen to view the photograph of the unidentified female which was filed in the Town Clerk's Department. The Rescue Service Leader's assumption proved to be correct and this incident was closed. In justification of the days which the Rescue Service Leader had spent on this particular enquiry, he stated that the only other method would have been to remove all materials from the site of the damage and even then, of course, the Rescue Service would have had to inform the Controller that no trace of the missing person could be found, which would have been unsatisfactory to all concerned.

Telford Street Incident.

Because of unexploded bombs in the vicinity of Telford Street all residents were evacuated in that area after the first heavy raid. During the second night's raid, a bomb completely demolished Nos. 1, 3 & 5 Telford Street and the roadway was blocked with debris. It was not thought that any persons were within the properties because of the compulsory evacuation, but it was learned that during the second night three persons had return to their house in Telford Street. As a result of this delayed report, a rescue party attended and subsequently recovered the bodies of three persons. It should be noted that there were three unexploded bombs in the vicinity whilst the rescue parties were operating, and all normal traffic had been suspended in that area.

General.

Considering the enormous difficulties facing the Service in this division, caused through the almost complete breakdown of the telephone system and the numerous lengthy detours through unexploded bombs and the like, it was very creditable to know that all incidents in this division, so far as the Rescue Service were concerned, were completed by Saturday afternoon or approximately 3 days after the first heavy raid.

Central Division.

The major incidents in this division were Prudential Buildings, Albany Street, Lister Street, St. Paul Street and the Alexandra Theatre site.

Much time was spent by the Service Leader in investigating incidents where some cases of doubt existed as to missing persons.

Lack of information again handicapped operations and after complete search had been made, it was decided to clear sites in order that further doubts could not exist. This clearance proceeded at Albany Street, Lister Street, St. Paul Street, Prudential Buildings and the Alexandra Theatre sites.

Although the St. Paul Street incident was closed by the Incident Officer, further enquiries were pursued by the Rescue Service Leader.

The following are brief reports of the principal incidents in this division.

St. Paul Street/Waterloo Street Incident.

This incident was probably the largest in the Central Division and was caused by a parachute mine exploding within Appleby Terrace, St. Paul Street, completely demolishing every house in the terrace and at least another 15 houses surrounding the terrace. A communal shelter was totally demolished and it was known that many people were within. The recovery work on this site proceeded daily until Monday the 12th May, when the Incident Officer decided to close the incident and ordered the rescue parties back to their depot. The parties operating at that time were of the Spen Valley team and the Rescue Service Leader received a note from the Leader which said "Police in charge at Waterloo Street informed me that this incident is closed for rescue work". The Rescue Service Leader had only just commenced investigation into incidents in this division and he was pleased to think that this major incident was closed, although he did intend to investigate same later. On Sunday the 18th May, the Rescue Service Leader met this Incident Officer and he informed the Rescue Service Leader that he had closed the incident but that there were 5 or 6 people still missing. The Rescue Service Leader asked why he had done this and he said that he was certain everything had been searched and all that was left was work for the "demolition parties". The Rescue Service Leader informed the Incident Officer that it was incorrect for him to assume responsibility for closing an incident without being requested to do so by the parties operating, and further enlightened him regarding the Rescue Service operations and the functions of the City Engineer's Department. Because of the unsatisfactory position, this incident was re-opened and on Monday the 19th May, another body was recovered, two on the 20th May and one on the 21st May. From deep enquiries made into the position, the Rescue Service Leader now felt satisfied that the incident was cleared up and advised the Incident Officer that so far as the Service was concerned, the incident was closed.

The Rescue Service Leader was informed by the Incident Officer that a man was in the habit of coming on to the site each night after the parties had retired and that in conversation with him the constable had learned that the man had lost his wife and that no trace could be found. The Rescue Service Leader asked the constable to obtain the man's new address and to tell him that the Rescue Service Leader would call and discuss the problem with him. Consequently the Rescue Service Leader interviewed Mr. Loughborough of 11 Blake Street, who told him that his wife and daughter had been in the shelter which was hit and that he had identified his daughter's body at the mortuary but that there was no trace of his wife. The Rescue Service Leader assured him that no more bodies would be recovered and that he was satisfied that Mr. Loughborough's wife's body was at the mortuary unidentified.

The Rescue Service Leader obtained from him particulars of his wife's clothing, etc. and when he asked if the wife was ruptured, he said "Yes, on the left side". The Rescue Service Leader knew from his records and previous visits to the mortuary that there was a similar unidentified female at the Northern mortuary and he arranged to take Mr. Loughborough there the next night in order to continue enquiries. This was carried out but Mr. Loughborough was not altogether satisfied, so the Rescue Service Leader arranged with Mr. Priestley, the Deputy Town Clerk, to meet Mr. Loughborough that night at the Town Clerk's Office, in order that he might see the photograph of this particular unidentified body. Even then he was not entirely satisfied and the Rescue Service Leader arranged for him to view the clothing held at the mortuary. Mr. Loughborough was able to finally identify this positively and this incident was then closed, 30 persons having been rescued or released and 34 bodies recovered.

Jordan Avenue, Kimberley Street Incident.

This particular incident was caused by an H.E. bomb striking a small terrace shelter and causing it to be driven well into the ground. Rescue Parties attended this incident shortly after the occurrence and were dismissed from the site by the Wardens Service, the incident being considered closed. Whilst visiting the Wardens Headquarters in Park Street at about 4.30 p.m. on Sunday, the 11th May,

to make enquiries regarding missing persons at another incident in this division, the Rescue Service Leader was informed in conversation that wardens were "digging" at Kimberley Street [redacted]

[redacted] My Rescue Service Leader asked if this incident had been reported to the Rescue Service and why the wardens were attempting the recovery work themselves. He obtained no satisfactory answers, but arranged immediately for rescue parties to operate at this incident. This finally resulted in the recovery of 13 bodies [redacted]

[redacted] Since the number of bodies recovered tallied with the number of persons known to be missing, the Rescue Service Leader closed this incident so far as the Rescue Service were concerned, and reported same to the Incident Officer.

Goddard, Walker & Brown Incident.

This incident was caused by several H.E. bombs and oil bombs having burst upon these works, completely demolishing a very large works brick built surface shelter and completely burning out everything within the area. Rescue parties attended upon an urgent call at the height of the raid which stated that fire was spreading rapidly throughout the works. After strenuous efforts, aggravated by intense heat from the fire, which had almost reached the trapped men, three men were rescued alive and removed. The fire spread so rapidly, forcing the party back, that the party found it impossible to continue further search. This particular area was being concentrated upon by the enemy 'planes and bombs of all types were exploding close by during the operations.

The Rescue Service Leader visited this incident after the departure of the party and realised that no further investigation was possible until the fire had been controlled by the fire service. When this was accomplished, rescue parties commenced the recovery of bodies, six being removed on the 9th and 2 more on the 10th May, when the incident was closed, acting upon the information then known to the Wardens Service.

On Sunday, the 11th May, the Rescue Service Leader made investigations into this particular incident but was unable to obtain any more information from the Wardens Service regarding the possibility of any other missing persons. Not being satisfied, he again visited the Scale Lane and Market Place Wardens Posts and arranged for Wardens

to contact representatives of Goddard, Walker and Brown, Ltd., and other firms in the vicinity of High Street, whom it was felt would have fire-watchers on duty at the time of the raid. At the same time, the Rescue Service Leader asked the Wardens Service to contact a Mr. Burkitt, who was at the Driffield Base Hospital and one of the three men rescued during the night. As arranged, the Rescue Service Leader interviewed a representative of Messrs. Gilyott, Goddard, Walker & Brown, and the Warden Sector Leader, and after examination of the fire-watchers' reporting book, conversations with the members present, and information regarding persons known to be in the shelter obtained from the rescued man at Driffield, the Rescue Service Leader was able to ascertain that there was still one fire-watcher named Eltherington unaccounted for.

Rescue parties were brought back to this incident and the body of the missing man recovered in about two more hours, which finally closed the incident.

Lister Street Incident.

Two large explosive bombs and incendiary bombs had completely demolished Nos. 25, 25, 27, 29, 33, 35, 37 and 39, the first three of these having been completely burnt out as well as demolished. The L.N.E.R. stables immediately opposite were also burnt out at one end

Rescue parties attending at this incident during the raid rescued a total of 14 persons and recovered the bodies of 8 others. These houses were old and of the basement type. The wardens were quite unable to give any reliable information regarding residents because of the "floating population" which the wardens said changed almost nightly. This was borne out by the fact that two French sailors were rescued from one demolished house which they had evidently been visiting. Because of these circumstances, it was decided to clear the whole of this area and military assistance was obtained daily for this purpose. Rescue parties continued to turn over debris and search for missing persons whilst the military loaded up such debris and transported same to tips. During these removal operations ten more bodies were recovered, resulting in a total of 14 persons rescued and 18 recovered. Because it was impossible to obtain any reliable information as to identities on the site, the Rescue Service Leader made many visits to the mortuaries, in order to keep his records complete. During these visits, the Rescue Service Leader always asked whether any enquiries had been made regarding persons still missing from any incidents and he was informed that a Mrs. Mooney of 14 Jeannet Terrace, Gillett Street, had been making enquiries regarding her brother, Samuel Murray, who had, she thought, been residing at No. 35 Lister Street. Since there were at this time three unidentified males, the Rescue Service Leader visited this woman and advised her of the position and the fact that the incident was now closed and that no further bodies would be recovered. She informed him that the missing man had been employed by Alderman Woodliffe of Gillett Street and that he was also interested in the matter. The Rescue Service leader visited St. Andrew's Dock and finally the works in Gillett Street, where he had a conversation with Alderman Woodliffe. Mrs. Mooney had not been at all certain whether her brother had, in fact, been working at the time, and my Rescue Service Leader was naturally interested to know whether he was missing from St. Andrew's Dock or Lister Street. The Rescue Service Leader was assured that the missing man had, in fact, been paid off the day before the blitz and it was reasonably certain that his body had been recovered from Lister Street and was unidentified.

It is worthy of note that a large unexploded bomb had dropped in Waverley Street close by and that the whole of the rescue and recovery operations were continued in spite of this and the fact that Lister Street itself was roped off to all other traffic.

Albany Street Incident.

This was apparently a mine or large explosive bomb incident and had caused the demolition of five reasonably large houses. Rescue parties attended during the raid and effected the rescue of three people and the bodies of four others. Because of doubts arising regarding lodgers and visitors, it was considered better to clear this area at the same time as the search was being made. Consequently, soldiers and departmental men and transport attended daily at this incident assisting with the removal of debris after the search had been completed. A party of Home Guard from Brandesburton also gave assistance during the whole of one afternoon, apparently acting on the suggestion submitted by an ex-volunteer of the Hull Rescue Service, and now with the Home Guard. This incident finally resulted in a total of 14 bodies [redacted] being recovered, apart from the three persons rescued.

Thornton Hall Incident.

Damage on these premises had resulted in a report that persons were thought to be missing because of the fact that they were in the habit of using the boiler house as a shelter and the entrance to the boiler house was blocked and the boiler house itself was full of water. Rescue parties had attended but because of the unsatisfactory nature of the wardens' story, had returned to the depot. The Rescue Service leader investigated this incident and after conversation with the warden who had submitted the report, arranged that he should contact the clergyman in charge of the premises to see if he could supply information regarding the whereabouts of his caretaker and the other persons thought by the warden to be missing. The Rescue Service Leader called again the next day and was assured by the wardens that all these persons were definitely accounted for, thus closing the incident.

Porter Street Incident.

Nos. 78-82 were demolished and a report had been submitted in the same way as the Thornton Hall incident and by the same warden, because of doubts concerning five persons resident at these premises. Rescue parties made investigations for some time and were finally dismissed by the Incident Officer because he had personally seen these five persons in the vicinity some days after the incident. The Rescue Service Leader investigated this and was assured that no further action needed to be taken by the Rescue Service.

Humber Street Incident.

Practically the whole of Little Humber Street on both sides was demolished or burnt out in the raid on the first night and a rescue party was requested for the London Hotel, where people were known to be living. Two persons were rescued alive after very strenuous efforts, and the incident was closed. During the next night's heavy raid further damage was done in this area and an unexploded mine had dropped close by the London Hotel. About this time a delayed report had been received stating that an elderly couple were feared within the debris of the house next to the London Hotel. Because of the presence of the mine, no action could be taken on this delayed report. It had been anticipated that the police would inform the Rescue Service when the unexploded mine had been removed or rendered safe so that the recovery of the missing persons could be commenced. This did not arrive, however, and after some days' delay, the Rescue Service Leader found that the area was now safe and rescue parties were brought on to the site. The two bodies were recovered on the 15th May and the incident was closed.

Prudential Buildings Incident.

This block of buildings on the junction of King Edward Street and Waterworks Street, was hit by a high explosive bomb or a mine and

certainly within 15 minutes was a white hot inferno caused, no doubt, by the demolition of the boilerhouse in the basement and the fracture of gas mains, etc. The fire was so troublesome that it was impossible for rescue parties to operate for approximately 48 hours, and even when they did commence, the debris proved to be uncomfortably hot. There is no doubt that all the persons within the basement of this building would be killed instantly and there was no chance for rescue work to be effective. From the time that rescue parties were in operation, it proved exceedingly hard to obtain any precise information regarding the occupants of the shelter. There were many rumours of great numbers of Admiralty staff, W.R.N.S., etc., being within the building, quite apart from the firewatchers of the various offices within the block of buildings. Rescue parties commenced to remove a considerable weight of debris from the basement and were ably assisted by the Military, who supplied all transport for the removal of debris to tips. The existence of steel girders proved troublesome, and after using military vehicles to assist in the removal, the services of a steam roller were obtained and the results proved to be more satisfactory. When sufficient debris had been removed from the site and the bottom of the basement exposed to a reasonable extent and the metal work pulled clear, it was determined to turn over remaining debris and to fill in the cleared area in the rear.

When the Rescue Service Leader commenced investigation into this incident, he found that the Wardens Service had no idea of the number of occupants, that no real effort was being made to obtain same and that no warden was in attendance. He made several visits to the headquarters in Park Street and it was finally agreed that a warden should be posted to stand by at this incident so that any enquiries could be made through him. From the early days of this incident, a Corporal in the R.A.M.C. named Tennyson, who said that his wife (the manageress of Quarton's Stores) was missing and definitely within the debris, stood by and assisted the rescue parties, and gave valuable information regarding the layout of the shelter, the building generally, and the habits of the regular attenders in the shelter. My Rescue Service Leader was able to ascertain through this man that a Mr. Boase, manager of Quarton's, Mrs. Boase and child, and Mrs. Tennyson, were definitely in the shelter. In order to obtain precise information regarding the Admiralty staff on duty at the time of the damage, the Rescue Service Leader located and visited the temporary headquarters in Sunnybank and was informed that they "thought there would be at least eight of their staff in the building". Some days afterwards the Rescue Service Leader made another visit and was informed by another senior officer that there were five persons on duty that night. The following week, he made a further call and was informed by another official that there was definitely only one member of the Admiralty staff on duty that night and that there were no civilian staff or W.R.N.S. in the building. The Rescue Service Leader heard from time to time that a certain person had managed to scramble out of the wreckage at the time of the incident and after many enquiries, found that he was an employee of Messrs. Smailes, Holtby and Gray, Accountants, and late of Prudential Buildings, and now at their temporary offices in Marlborough Avenue. The Rescue Service Leader visited Marlborough Avenue and had a conversation with this Mr. Maslin who gave him a very full account of the incident and his knowledge of the persons who were inside the shelter. Mr. Maslin further informed the Rescue Service Leader that he had been firewatching along with another employee of his firm but that there was no third person from their staff, as had been suggested by the Wardens Service. The Rescue Service Leader twice visited the Punch Hotel to obtain information from the new manager regarding the persons missing from that hotel and known to be regular visitors to the Prudential shelter. He was informed that there were six persons in all.

Thus, the Rescue Service Leader was able to determine that there were 16 persons within the shelter, and since by the time that the whole of the area had been thoroughly turned over and searched, the

bodies of ten persons had been recovered, [redacted]
[redacted] it was assumed that six persons
were still missing and unaccounted for. [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] Because of this difficulty in identification on the site, the Rescue Service Leader found it necessary to make many visits to the mortuaries in order to maintain up-to-date records of this incident.

Alexandra Theatre Incident.

This incident was surrounded by many others in close proximity and it appears that the theatre had been damaged by three separate bombs, or a mine and two bombs. The collapsed tower had completely blocked Bourne Street to a height of approximately 15 feet and about 25 yards in length. There had been no report regarding trapped or missing persons and it was only after the visit of the City Engineer and others to the site and enquiries being made by persons at that same time, that it was arranged to call out rescue parties. Because of the enormous amount of debris in Bourne Street and George Street, military assistance was obtained in the clearance of these roadways. In the earlier days after the raid, hundreds of tons of debris were removed from the site by the military working in conjunction with the rescue parties. It was then ascertained that the barman, named Ridley, and his son, aged 14, and the electrician named Bewick, were somewhere on the site at the time of the damage, and that Canon Sedgewick was also missing from the vicarage at the corner of Bourne Street. The removal of debris from Bourne Street resulted in the recovery of Mr. Sedgewick [redacted]

[redacted] Rescue parties operating on the theatre site located and removed the body of the electrician.

Whilst these operations were in progress, the Rescue Service Leader had made many unsuccessful visits to all mortuaries in order to establish that no unidentified male corresponding to the description of Mr. Ridley, had been recovered. After many enquiries, he located and contacted the missing man's wife at an address in Wincolmlee and questioned her regarding the circumstances of the incident and the habits and dress of her husband. At the request of the Rescue Service Leader, she accompanied him to the site and said she was convinced that her husband would be within a certain heap of debris approximating to his pit bar and because of this, the Rescue Service Leader arranged for the area to be excavated. It was found that the whole of the concrete floor of the bar had broken through and had entirely filled the cellar below so that the position was that approximately 25 or 30 feet of very heavy type debris had to be removed and, unfortunately, this was accomplished without success. After the visit at the request of the Rescue Service Leader, Mrs. Ridley made frequent visits and because of the frequent change of mind and the complications that were arising on this account, the Rescue Service Leader determined to ignore the various suggestions and to systematically remove all debris from the floor of the theatre and to deposit same in the area where the stage had been and which was now a large pit. In this way, the whole of the upper debris was turned over and carried well back, but without any success. Before this turning over could be accomplished, the services of a steam roller were utilised to remove the many heavy girders which had collapsed and which were within the debris at all angles. Use was also made in this work of acetylene cutters. After the clearance of the upper floor, the whole of the underground corridors were systematically searched, after water which had accumulated within the cellars had been pumped away by the fire brigade. This water was a constant complication to the operations, because of the speed at which it accumulated, and it was apparently being supplied from a well close by the underground cabin bar.

About this time the Rescue Service Leader interviewed an elder son of Mrs. Ridley's because he had been informed that the young man had personally investigated the incident some two hours after the occurrence and that he had personally traversed the underground passages.

The Rescue Service Leader arranged for the son to accompany him and a foreman to the corridors in order that he could be aware of which blockages existed at the time the boy made his entry and which blockages had appeared since. This was done and the son indicated that three of the existing blockages were not there immediately after the raid but that two other blockages had existed at that time. It was therefore arranged that these two blockages be removed and this was completed without success. Because of the amount of damage immediately surrounding this incident, continuous searches were being made by foremen in an effort to locate the missing man, on the assumption that he may have been in the street and blown a considerable distance over or on to buildings in the vicinity, but again without success. At various times during these operations, the Rescue Service Leader heard rumours that a man had scrambled out of the wreckage just after the occurrence and because of the possibility of this and the fact that information supplied by such a person would be so valuable, the Rescue Service Leader made every endeavour to locate him. He visited the fire station, Worship Street and left certain information with Inspector Dann, who promised to let him know the following day if he had obtained any useful information regarding the incident. As a result, the Rescue Service Leader obtained three addresses of employees and paid visits to each of these. The first was Mr. Charles Witty, 33 Leonard Street, who informed him that he was not at the theatre at the time of the occurrence and consequently had no knowledge of the occupants at that time. The second man the Rescue Service Leader visited was Mr. Goddard of 12 Louis Crescent, Albermarle Street, a violinist in the orchestra who was on firewatch duty, and he informed the Rescue Service Leader that he did not see or speak to Mr. Ridley at any time after the theatre was closed for the night and he explained further how, after the first bomb struck the building, he must have been knocked unconscious and does not remember any thing between that time and awaking in hospital. The Rescue Service Leader visited the third person, Mr. Walford, 26 Colville Avenue, but found that he had now removed to No. 12 Kenwardley Avenue, Willerby Road. The Rescue Service Leader found that this man had been quite conscious during the whole of the time and was with Mr. Goddard when the first bomb fell. Apparently this bomb pierced the roof and outer wall at the stage end of the theatre and exploded in Bourne Street. After the first explosion, Mr. Goddard and Mr. Walford made their way across the stage to an underground passageway leading towards the cabin bar on the Bourne Street side. However, during this journey, a second bomb struck the building, extinguished all the lighting and carried them some distance and partially burying them with debris. Just before this second explosion, Mr. Walford heard cries for help apparently coming from Bourne Street and he remembers hearing the voices of Messrs. Bewick and Ridley coming from the direction of the pit bar and of shouting to them to come down below, which they promised to do. However, after the second explosion, he heard nothing more from anybody, got no answers to his shouts and furthermore, his friend, Mr. Goddard, had completely disappeared. He groped his way along the corridor and was luckily guided by a fire outside the building which was shining through the debris ahead of him. He made an effort to reach this, and after removal of certain debris, found himself in Bourne Street.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Since the closing of this incident, a very pronounced smell has emerged from a manhole at the end of Bourne Street and in line with the Mason Street footpath and the Highways Surveyor is breaking open the whole of this area to investigate same.

Trinity Almshouses Incident.

This building was badly damaged by an H.E. bomb. The front of the building was blown out along with some of the foundations, leaving internal walls suspended. Under the building was a series of

cellars in which a number of people were sheltering. The arches of these cellars had collapsed, trapping the people under the masonry which had crashed through.

An entry to the cellars was found at the rear of the building and clearance of debris commenced. Work was carried out under great difficulty owing to the internal walls having lost their foundations. Shoring of these walls was attempted but was not a great success and eventually certain of these walls had to be demolished to allow rescue operations to continue. Information at this incident was very meagre due in the main to the fact that the people sheltering in these cellars were firewatchers from neighbouring buildings. Some hours elapsed before the complete number could be ascertained. Only one person was alive when released.

South West Division.

Operations commenced in the early part of the first raid by a stick of H.E. bombs straddling the Boulevard Depot, the first bomb exploding at the junction of Anlaby Road and Selby Street; although the Depot was rocked by the explosion, the behaviour of the personnel was exemplary. Within two minutes the first duty party had left the depot and commenced rescue operations, the habits of the occupiers of the wrecked property being well known to all depot personnel. The first message from South West Report Centre arrived twenty three minutes after operations had commenced.

From this time onwards all parties were fully engaged in dealing with incidents. Notable operations were wrecked shelters in Regent Street and South Parade, in which twenty seven and twenty eight people respectively were trapped, Goulton Street eight people, domestic shelters at Linnaeus Street, Waverley Street, etc.

At other incidents fire hindered operations

Good work was done by the Pontefract parties in recovery at this incident. Mining knowledge was put to good use in driving tunnels through the debris of Pickering and Haldane's works.

The following are brief reports of the principal incidents in this Division.

Regent Street - Linnaeus Street.

In an area bounded by Regent Street on the west and Linnaeus Street on the east, a parachute mine and at least one H.E. bomb exploded, devastating a large area. The works of Messrs. Binnington were demolished and caught fire. Houses and domestic surface shelters in Linnaeus Street received the full blast of the explosions, several of these shelters being completely demolished. A brick communal shelter in La Trobe Terrace, Regent Street was also wrecked by blast.

A large number of people were trapped by the collapsing of these shelters. No special difficulties were experienced in the release of the people, with the exception of freeing the unfortunate ones from the bunks in which they had become entangled. The wardens' record cards proved at this incident to be useless, and were of no use in checking up the number of residents involved. This was particularly notable in Linnaeus Street, probably due to a number of the houses being occupied by more than one family or let as flats. Service personnel were involved in Linnaeus Street and difficulty was encountered in re-contacting them for information regarding missing persons.

Airlie Street Incident.

This was another parachute mine which exploded at the rear of houses near the entrance to the Boulevard Football Ground. Houses and domestic surface shelters in the immediate vicinity collapsed and a number of people were trapped under the wreckage. This incident presented no great difficulties and the Wardens Service were able to give the information necessary regarding the residents.

Goulton Street Incident.

A large H.E. bomb had exploded in the carriageway alongside a number of surface shelters which had been erected in the street.

The fact that the shelters had a good foundation through being built on the carriageway no doubt assisted in the splendid way in which these shelters remained standing, although damaged, and resulted in no lives being lost. Although a number of people were trapped inside, owing to the entrances being blocked, these blockages were quickly cleared and the people released.

South Parade.

This was an incident in which a parachute mine and a H.E. bomb exploded in the same area. A number of houses, a school and brick surface shelter in St. Georges Terrace were damaged or demolished. The shelter had been completely demolished and about 30 people were trapped under the debris. Difficulty was encountered in removing some of the large portions of roof slab, the obstacle being overcome by tunnelling. The Wardens Service co-operated efficiently. The incident closed after clearing the site, with one person unaccounted for.

Anlaby Road - Wilberforce Street.

A number of large houses let as flats, were completely demolished. The record cards of the Wardens Service proved of no avail because of the continual change of tenancy. A number of Service personnel were involved at this incident.

The continual exchange of relief mutual assistance parties at major incidents did not assist recovery operations, though it can be said that they proceeded satisfactorily.

Not all assisting party leaders acted on advice given from time to time and in connection with blasting operations, the military did not co-operate with the Rescue Service, which occasionally resulted in extra debris being dropped upon the site where recovery was taking place.

With regard to military assistance generally, it may be said that invaluable assistance has been rendered to the Service by the energetic removal of debris from sites.

Summary of Incidents - Eastern Division.

<u>Incident.</u>	<u>Rescued.</u>	<u>Recovered.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
Naylors Row	21	9	Incident closed.
Church Street	-	4	do.
Buckingham Street	15	8	do.
New Bridge Road junction	2	3	do.
Foston Grove	20	1	do.
Ellerby Grove	16	2	do.
Hilston Grove	6	2	do.
Harpham Grove	6	2	do.
Ellesmere Avenue	6	2	do. Military assistance.

Summary of Incidents - Eastern Division (contd.)

<u>Incident.</u>	<u>Rescued.</u>	<u>Recovered.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
Barnsley Street	4	2	Incident closed.
Nornabell Street			
(a) Rhodas Terrace	8	2	do. Military assistance.
(b) Kates Terrace	10	-	do. do.
(c) Fredericks Terrace	23	21	do. do.
Courtney Street	18	1	do.
Elm Avenue, Garden Village	10	-	do.
Watt Street	12	-	do.
Telford Street	4	3	do.
Mersey Street	6	-	do.
Durham Street	4	-	do.
Ings Road	4	-	do.
Westminster Avenue	-	-	do.
Newtown Buildings	-	2	do. 1 dog rescued.
Lee Street	-	-	do.
James Reckitt Avenue	-	-	do.
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Totals	195	57	

Summary of Incidents - Central Division.

<u>Incident.</u>	<u>Rescued.</u>	<u>Recovered.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
Middleton Street	5	4	Incident closed.
Guildhall	-	-	do.
Humber Street	2	2	do.
Prudential Buildings	-	10	do. Military assistance.
Albany Street	3	11	do.
Lister Street	14	17	do.
Kimberley Street two sites	10	13	do.
Waverley Street	9	1	do.
Goddard, Walker & Brown.	3	9	do.
Porter Street	5	-	do.
Thornton Hall	4	-	do.
St. Paul Street	30	34	do.
Osborne Street/Myton Street	-	-	do.
Clifton Street	2	2	do. Military assistance.
Newland Avenue	10	1	do. do.
210 George Street	-	4	do.
Alexandra Theatre	-	2	Still working. Military assistance.
Bourne Street	-	3	Incident closed. do.
English Street	-	-	do.
Waterhouse Lane	-	-	do.
Carr Lane	-	-	do.
Cave Street	1	10	do.
Cumberland Street	-	-	do.
Cambridge Street	1	3	do.
Trinity Almshouses	1	6	do.
	<hr/>	<hr/>	
Totals	100	132	



Summary of Incidents - North West Division.

<u>Incident.</u>	<u>Rescued.</u>	<u>Recovered.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
37th Avenue	4	-	Incident closed.
Bricknell Avenue	-	-	do.
Totals	4	-	

Summary of Incidents - South West Division.

<u>Incident.</u>	<u>Rescued.</u>	<u>Recovered.</u>	<u>Remarks.</u>
Selby Street	6	2	Incident closed.
Walcott Street	1	2	do.
Stirling Street	6	11	do.
Regent Street	7	20	do.
120 Anlaby Road	16	13	do.
Linnaeus Street	6	7	do.
Airlie Street	3	8	do.
Goulton Street	8	-	do.
South Parade	8	20	do.
Waverley Street	-	3	do.
St. Andrews Dock	-	2	do.
Day Street	5	-	do.
281 Anlaby Road	2	1	do.
Danube Road	-	1	do.
Totals	68	90	

Summary of Persons Rescued and Bodies Recovered.

	<u>Rescued.</u>	<u>Recovered.</u>
Eastern Division	195	57
Central Division	100	132
North West Division	4	-
South West Division	68	90
Totals	367	279

At the date of this report, persons were unaccounted for as follows:-

<u>Incident.</u>	<u>Persons Missing.</u>
Day Street	2
South Parade	1
Alexandra Theatre	1
Prudential Buildings	6

Casualties in Shelters.

Central Division.

Oxford Terrace, Cambridge Street - terrace shelter, brick, concrete roof. Totally demolished - 12 rescued, 6 recovered.

Goddard, Walker & Brown - private shelter - brick - totally demolished 3 rescued, 5 recovered.

Trinity House, Carr Lane - basement used as shelter.
Presumably private shelter, full of debris. Cannot tell
if shored at all. One rescued, 6 recovered.

Newland Avenue - 2 shelters, 1 brick, 1 Anderson, damaged.
7 rescued, 1 recovered.

Osborne Street - brick shelter - demolished. 2 recovered.

Prudential Buildings - basement shelter collapsed. 8 bodies
recovered - 6 missing.

Waverley Street - brick communal shelter wrecked.
3 bodies recovered.

Cambridge Street - brick communal shelter wrecked.
One rescued, 3 recovered.

South West Division.

Regent Street and Linnaeus Street - brick and concrete
shelters demolished. 13 rescued, 27 recovered.

South Parade - brick shelter wrecked. 8 rescued,
20 recovered.

Goulton Street - brick and concrete shelters damaged.
8 rescued.

Airlie Street - domestic shelter demolished. One
rescued,

Mutual Assistance.

The number of Mutual Assistance Parties operating in the City was
22 on the first day. This number was gradually reduced to 14 on the
14th May, the same number was retained until noon on Sunday the 25th May.
The following are the day to day arrivals of the various Assisting
Parties.

8th May, 1941.

4 Leeds Parties
1 York Party
1 Bridlington Party
2 Haltemprice Parties
2 Harrogate Parties
4 Pontefract Parties
4 Doncaster Parties
2 Pocklington Parties
2 Military Parties

9th May, 1941.

4 Staincross Parties
4 Harrogate Parties
4 Don Valley Parties

10th May, 1941.

4 Leeds Parties.

11th May, 1941.

4 Pontefract Parties
4 Skyrack Parties
4 Morley Parties
4 Spen Valley Parties
4 Leeds Parties

12th May, 1941.

4 Leeds Parties
4 Spen Valley Parties

14th May, 1941.

4 Keighley Parties
4 Calder Valley Parties
2 Leeds Parties

16th May, 1941.

4 Rother Valley Parties
4 Upper Agbrigg Parties
4 Morley Parties
2 Goole Parties

19th May, 1941.

4 Staincross Parties
4 Claro Parties
4 Don Valley Parties

22nd May, 1941.

4 Skyrak Parties
6 Don Valley Parties
4 Pontefract Parties
All 14 Parties returning home
on Sunday, 25th May, 1941.

The Mutual Assistance Parties worked with enthusiasm and did excellent work. They were apparently highly satisfied with the accommodation provided for them and expressed their appreciation of the comforts and feeding arrangements at the depots.

Salvage.

Accommodation for the storage of furniture was the most urgent matter to be dealt with and this received prior attention. Sufficient accommodation was requisitioned by Saturday evening, the 10th May, to cover the week-end despite difficulties of communication (telephone, transport). Accommodation for storage was placed at the disposal of the Transport Department to meet all demands and 908 homes were stored. A further 1901 homes were removed, making a total of 2809 homes dealt with by the Department. Exceptional difficulties were experienced in East Hull owing to all suitable premises being either in use by other Civil Defence Services or being damaged by bombs and it was necessary to make arrangements for storing in East Park. The site selected in the Park for this purpose was the asphalt surface surrounding the bandstand. Wooden shelter sides were used to form decking and tarpaulins, released by the Ministry, formed the covering. This proved to be an excellent form of temporary storage.

The following furniture stores were damaged by bombs:-

1. Maw, Till, Kirk's premises, George Street.
2. St. James Hall, Porter Street.
3. Trinity House Almshouses, Carr Lane.

Owing to the shortage of labour, however, it was not possible to salvage these premises immediately but the owners of the furniture concerned were covered against loss by arrangements which were made between the Department and the District Valuer.

The salvage of lead proceeded satisfactorily and approximately 140 tons have been taken into store.

700 tons of scrap steel were collected during rescue and demolition operations and the clearance of highways. This, together with the lead, has been advertised and a price accepted for the purchase. The Ministry of Supply and Ministry of Works and Buildings were notified of the amounts of the salvaged metals and the procedure of disposal has been approved by them.

Unsorted timber which had accumulated from demolition work and stored on sites within the City caused some concern to the occupants of nearby property and had to be removed to Bilton Grange Estate. The amount of timber involved was about 1,750 loads.

Numerous enquiries have been received regarding the salvage of furniture from dwelling houses which have been damaged beyond repair, and it is anticipated that the Department will be inundated with further enquiries when people drift back from temporary evacuation. This is a job which the Military might be approached for assistance, as the labour available by the Department will be quite unable to cope with it.

Haulage.

The following transport was engaged on rescue, demolition and repairs:-

	<u>Corporation Vehicles.</u>	<u>Hired Vehicles</u>
8th May	31	84
9th May	31	105

These figures steadily increased to approximately 150 hired vehicles engaged on rescue, demolition and repair work, together with 180 military vehicles on demolition and clearance work.

The following transport was engaged upon removals:-

8th May	20 horse drawn vehicles
9th May	25 do.

This figure steadily increased to 60 vehicles, together with approximately 130 men in addition to the men on hired vehicles dealing with up to 200 removals per day.

The above figures do not include whole-time Corporation owned, volunteer and hired vehicles operating with Rescue Parties.

Roads and Sewers.

Immediately after the air raids, inspections were made by the four District Foremen of the number of incidents and from reports received, it was found that roads were affected at approximately 162 number points.

Roads were blocked in some degree at 49 number incidents due to either debris, unexploded bombs or fire brigade, the road surface was damaged at approximately 79 number incidents, sewers appeared to be

damaged at approximately 39 number incidents, while further inspection was in progress to ascertain if the sewer was damaged at a further approximately 31 points.

During the inspection, men were transferred to the removal of debris from highways as necessary, and immediately the inspections were completed, a provisional order of priority of repair work was agreed, and reinstatement of road and sewer damage was put into operation at 7 number incidents, utilizing the whole resources of the Highways and Drainage Section, numbering approximately 360 men.

The repair works put into hand included sewer reconstruction, filling in of craters and temporary reinstatement of road surfaces at the following incidents :-

- 1) West District outfall sewer on railway sidings where main outfall sewer for north of control areas of the City was blocked.
- 2) Goulton Street - road crater and sewer blockage.
- 3) Spring Bank - do.
- 4) Beverley Road - at Melwood Grove - road crater and sewer blockage.
- 5) Selby Street - road crater and sewer blockage.
- 6) Bricknell Avenue - do.
- 7) Little Park Street - road crater and main sewer blockage.

It has subsequently been found necessary to proceed with similar work on Beverley Road opposite Fulford Hall, where an incident occurred during the raid on the 11th May, 1941.

Backing up of Sewers for Fire Fighting Purposes.

It was a practice agreed with the Fire Brigade to hold up the water in sewers at the two main pumping stations from early evening until dawn at the highest possible level, whenever possible, which with all reasonable precautions would not result in flooding low lying land, basements and the four road subways (16 feet).

It was not possible to comply with several requests for additional water "all over the City" and we could only serve certain areas, often at the expense of others.

On a request for water in Cleveland Street area, the Superintendent was contacted with extreme difficulty and delay, and he eventually restricted his request to King Edward Street.

A general inspection was made on the 8th May, but no further action was necessary as the sewer fractures on the town outfall and Park Street, were holding up water in the town area.

On the instruction of the Region, the water was held up the following night from 6 p.m. to a maximum height, regardless of flooding.

Bomb Census.

Following each raid, members of the staff were actively engaged on the collating of information and particulars in connection with bomb census reports. The closest co-operation and collaboration was maintained with the Ministry of Home Security officials and reports in the form of B.C.4 submitted to Princes Risborough within the required period of 48 hours. Having regard to the magnitude of the raids, the first reports were of a preliminary nature only, but these were followed each subsequent day with supplementary reports.

The work has included the visiting of the various incidents, a brief description of the extent of damage, estimated description of bomb, etc. and any other relevant information. These reports cover 130 incidents on the 7th/8th May raid and 220 on the 9th May raid.

Difficulty was experienced in determining the precise number of bombs which fell, since in many cases incidents overlap and effects of fires obliterated much of the evidence.

Military Assistance - Inspection and Demolition of Dangerous Buildings.

In co-operation with Lt.Col. Aldous the C.R.E. and his officers commanding the 5th and 509th Field Companies, R.E., namely Majors Tobin and Gardner respectively, periodic tours of inspection of damaged buildings were made. These inspections covered buildings in the main streets of the City in order that traffic could be resumed as early as possible.

The C.R.E. and the City Engineer have visited and inspected personally all buildings to which attention was called and which it was desired that the Military deal, and accompanying them were the City Engineer's technical assistants and the C.R.E.'s Company Commanders.

Complete agreement was arrived at as to the necessity of demolition and whenever necessary, the C.R.E. agreed to carry out such demolition at the request of the City Engineer. The method of demolition, whether by the use of explosives or otherwise, was decided in consultation at the various sites.

In the case of 65 buildings, the C.R.E. agreed to demolish to make safe buildings on the streets, in order to remove danger to pedestrians and traffic.

A tour was made of the warehouses on the River Hull and a list of 14 dangerous buildings was submitted to the C.R.E. to be dealt with.

The majority of these warehouses consists of very tall buildings and since they constituted a danger to the essential traffic using the river, it was a matter of great urgency that they be demolished as quickly as possible.

The total number of military personnel engaged was about 2,000 and in addition about 1,000 departmental employees were engaged on this work.

After the withdrawal of the Military, the further work of demolition and making safe is being undertaken by the department and work in this connection is still proceeding.

Inspection of Dangerous Buildings.

Many requests were received for advice on the condition and stability of shaken properties. This applied principally to shop and business premises, where a desire was expressed to re-open to the public as early as possible. All such requests were dealt with and inspections were made and advice freely given.

Protection of Foodstuffs.

Numerous requests were made to the Department for assistance in the protection of foodstuffs and whenever such requests were received, either the boarding up of windows or the obtaining of tarpaulins was undertaken.

Workshops Section.

The wardens' reports were obtained from the Control. Inspectors allocated to A.R.P. Services. Rescue Parties augmented by men from the Workshops to assist in the recovery of bodies etc. Assistance given on clearing sites, salvage of foodstuffs, furniture, safes and valuables etc. A large number of dangerous buildings demolished and others made safe. Arrangements were made for blasting work in conjunction with the Military Authorities. Provided the police with a quantity of new type barriers for use at incidents. Fencing carried out to demolished premises where basement abuts the back edge of pavement, to prevent the public falling. Quantities of timber shoring, wire ropes, tools etc. supplied, also military supplied with materials and plant for the squads removing unexploded bombs. Additional men put on making up coffins at the Institutions. Key men allocated to main incidents and necessary casual labour set on after inspections carried out. Sites obtained for dumping the debris and recovered materials. Classifications received from the City Architect and parties arranged to carry out first aid repairs. All painting staff also put on clearing sites etc. Inspected approximately 380 domestic incidents and 230 commercial incidents. The majority of these have now been made temporarily safe and a large number demolished to a point of safety so far as the public were concerned. It was necessary to shore and prop several properties to enable contents to be removed.

Various materials have been supplied to other parties carrying out first aid repairs. Damaged buildings containing foodstuffs were covered with tarpaulins, also assistance given in boarding up foodstuff shops.

The following are the sites of the major incidents to domestic properties :-

Waterloo Street	Kimberly Street	Newtown Buildings
St. Paul Street	Day Street	Delhi Street
Cave Street	Lister Street	Foston Grove
Newland Avenue	Albany Street	Pembroke Grove
Buckingham Street	Durham Street	Ellerby Grove
New Bridge Road	Middleton Street	Camerton Grove
Naylors Row	Stirling Street	Bedale Grove
Church Street	Central Street	Danube Road
Regent Street	Airlie Street	Lodge Street
Linnaeus Street	Clifton Street	Greenwood Avenue
South Parade	Lincoln Street	Sykes Street area
Waverley Street	Merrick Street	Nornabell Street
Little Park Street	Woodhouse Street	Cambridge Street
Watt Street	Barnsley Street	Telford Street
Kelvin Street	Barmston Terrace	Day Street
Trinity Almshouses	Goulton Street	

The Military also assisted on the clearance of some of the above sites.

Part of the casual labour set on was composed of dock labourers, and about 160 of these had to be released on the 15th May for urgent work on the docks. Several of these returned later.

The following figures are as near as can be ascertained and are given to provide some idea of the position generally.

First Aid Repairs to Houses.

The total number at which first aid repairs have been executed by all parties is approximately 26,000 houses. The number of men employed on this work was 2200. The workshops have completed on Corporation properties and other sites allocated by the City Architect 2,498 first stage first aid repairs and 250 second stage first aid repairs, making a total of 2,748 houses. The number of men employed has averaged 300

and of this number 18 men have been dealing with urgent essential repairs and 12 men on making habitable houses damaged in previous raids, to enable some of the homeless to be accommodated. Also 28 men have been employed in connection with this work at the Ringrose Street Workshops on cutting laths, etc. for contractors and the Military in addition to our own requirements, and salvaging from sites for this work. Up to date, approximately 332,186 feet lineal of lath and 23,924 feet lineal various timber, have been cut and supplied out of salvaged material.

First aid repairs to houses are also being carried out at properties other than those belonging to the Corporation at the following sites :-

Coltman Street, Egton Street, Hodgson Street and Mulgrave Street.

26 men have been sent to the Admiralty for special work, as agreed with the Reconstruction Panel.

The average number of men employed since the raids has been approximately 1,020 and these are allocated as below. These figures vary weekly.

First aid repairs to houses	281
First aid posts, hospitals, clinics, etc.	70
Welfare centres, care of homeless etc.	40
Communal feeding centres	7
First aid to essential services	63
Emergency repairs to schools, homes etc. (for safety)	23
A.F.S. protection	11
Inspectors, Clerk of Works to other sections	13
Salvage and protection of foodstuffs	23
Repair and completion of shelters	38
Assisting A.R.P. parties, clearance of sites and salvage	280
Demolition of dangerous buildings and making safe the "Cb" properties	108
Foreman and supervisors	37
Men with Admiralty and Military	26

It will be observed that work has been carried out for the following essential services viz:-

Communal feeding centres, homes for the homeless, W.V.S. centres, reception centres, A.F.S. depots, police stations, hospitals, report centres, first aid posts, clinics, A.R.P. depots, casualty bureaux, repair and completion of shelters, etc. Repairs have also been carried out by the fitters and electricians to damage sustained at the bridges over the River.

Amongst the several items supplied by the Workshops was a quantity of sewer centres also sockets and covers for military road block barriers. Ladders have also been made at the workshops owing to the extreme difficulty in obtaining the large quantity required.

The total number of classifications received from the City Architect to date for attention is as below:-

476	classification A
928	do. B
2002	do. Cb.

The majority of these have been dealt with, also belongings recovered, and are now temporarily safe.

Labour.

There were three meetings of the Emergency Works Committee and several conferences with various Ministry officials with reference to the allocation of labour and materials for urgent work.

Depot Staffs.

Attention is drawn to the very efficient way in which the Depot Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents and Office Staffs at all the A.R.P. Depots officiated during and after the raids. All did excellent work, particularly Mr. Whincop (Superintendent of the Preston Road Depot) who, owing to the breakdown of communications, had to work under very difficult conditions, and Mr. Williams (Deputy Superintendent of the Boulevard Depot) who, in the absence of the Superintendent, had carried on without relief and did excellent work. The City Engineer would, however, particularly mention the work of the Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent at Fenchurch Street Depot, Messrs. Sumpton and Hufton, who had carried out their duties admirably. Their handling of their own parties and the large number of Mutual Assistance Parties based on this Depot, was excellent and they had always been in a position to supply information as soon as required, which was extremely helpful to Control. They had also to make all arrangements for the working, housing and feeding of the large number of Mutual Assistance Parties and these parties had been full of praise for the way in which they were looked after.

27th June, 1941.
HH/AMD.

SECRET

HULL CORPORATION.

AIR RAID PRECAUTIONS.

SCHEDULE OF MATERIALS REMOVED BY MILITARY TO CITY DUMPS UP TO THE 17th MAY, 1941.

Date	Number employed on clearing	Transport employed	Materials					
			Bricks 1000's	Iron & Steel Tons	Timber Tons	Lead Tons	Hardcore Tons	Rubbish Tons
10th May, 1941.			21 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	-	-	860	50
11th do.	350	20 tippers 80 - 3 ton	5	27	21	-	412	224
12th do.	550	20 tippers 80 - 3 ton	2 $\frac{1}{4}$	72	120	8	115	653
13th do.	720	20 tippers 130 - 3 ton	34	93	206	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	1018	708
14th do.	780	20 tippers 130 - 3 ton	41	119	195	-	817	471
15th do.	705	20 tippers 160 - 3 ton	200	155	110	-	808	924
16th do.	745	20 tippers 160 - 3 ton	91	108	32	12 $\frac{1}{4}$	1219	971
17th do.	925	20 tippers 160 - 3 ton	145	106	39	-	1177	1558
	Totals		539 $\frac{3}{4}$	685	723	33 $\frac{3}{4}$	6460	5569

Prudential Buildings Incident.

This block of buildings on the junction of King Edward Street and Waterworks Street, was hit by a high explosive bomb or a mine and certainly within 15 minutes was a white hot inferno caused, no doubt, by the demolition of the boilerhouse in the basement and the fracture of gas mains, etc. The fire was so troublesome that it was impossible for rescue parties to operate for approximately 48 hours, and even when they did commence, the debris proved to be uncomfortably hot. There is no doubt that all the persons within the basement of this building would be killed instantly and there was no chance for rescue work to be effective. From the time that rescue parties were in operation, it proved exceedingly hard to obtain any precise information regarding the occupants of the shelter. There were many rumours of great numbers of Admiralty staff, W.R.N.S. etc., being within the building, quite apart from the firewatchers of the various offices within the block of buildings. Rescue parties commenced to remove a considerable weight of debris from the basement and were ably assisted by the Military, who supplied all transport for the removal of debris to tips. The existence of steel girders proved troublesome, and after using military vehicles to assist in the removal, the services of a steam roller were obtained and the results proved to be more satisfactory. When sufficient debris had been removed from the site and the bottom of the basement exposed to a reasonable extent and the metal work pulled clear, it was determined to turn over remaining debris and to fill in the cleared area in the rear.

[REDACTED]

When the Rescue Service Leader commenced investigation into this incident, he found that the Wardens Service had no idea of the number of occupants, that no real effort was being made to obtain same and that no warden was in attendance. He made several visits to the headquarters in Park Street and it was finally agreed that a warden should be posted to stand by at this incident so that any enquiries could be made through him. From the early days of this incident, a Corporal in the R.A.M.C. named Tennyson, who said that his wife (the manageress of Quarton's Stores) was missing and definitely within the debris, stood by and assisted the rescue parties, and gave valuable information regarding the layout of the shelter, the building generally, and the habits of the regular attenders in the shelter. My Rescue Service Leader was able to ascertain through this man that a Mr. Boase, manager of Quarton's, Mrs. Boase and child, and Mrs. Tennyson, were definitely in the shelter. In order to obtain precise information regarding the Admiralty staff on duty at the time of the damage, the Rescue Service Leader located and visited the temporary headquarters in Sunnybank and was informed that they "thought there would be at least eight of their staff in the building". Some days afterwards the Rescue Service Leader made another visit and was informed by another senior officer that there were five persons on duty that night. The following week, he made a further call and was informed by another official that there was definitely only one member of the Admiralty staff on duty that night and that there were no civilian staff or W.R.N.S. in the building. The Rescue Service Leader heard from time to time that a certain person had managed to scramble out of the wreckage at the time of the incident and after many enquiries, found that he was an employee of Messrs. Smiles, Holtby and Gray, Accountants, and late of Prudential Buildings, and now at their temporary offices in Marlborough Avenue. The Rescue Service Leader visited Marlborough Avenue and had a conversation with this Mr. Maslin who gave him a very full account of the incident and his knowledge of the persons who were inside the shelter. Mr. Maslin further informed the Rescue Service Leader that he had been fire-watching along with another employee of his firm but that there was no third person from their staff, as had been suggested by the Wardens Service. The Rescue Service Leader twice visited the Punch Hotel to obtain information from the new manager regarding the persons missing from that hotel and known to be regular visitors to the Prudential shelter. He was informed that there were six persons in all.

Thus, the Rescue Service Leader was able to determine that there were 16 persons within the shelter, and since by the time that the whole of the area had been thoroughly turned over and searched, the

bodies of ten persons had been recovered, [REDACTED] it was assumed that six persons were still missing and unaccounted for. It was quite impossible to say which of the 16 persons were still missing, because only six of the ten bodies recovered had been identifiable. Because of this difficulty in identification on the site, the Rescue Service Leader found it necessary to make many visits to the mortuaries in order to maintain up-to-date records of this incident.