

around him were in a very dangerous and precarious condition. Leader Franks, however, continued to work fearlessly, with great courage and without any regard whatsoever to the danger to his own life.

A further collapse of the building did, in fact, occur which resulted in the abandonment of the rescue operations; Leader Franks having to be pulled out of the tunnel by his feet.

Both men set a fine example of courage and devotion to duty which I have no hesitation in recommending for recognition.

(Sgd.) T.P. TINSLAY.

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Copy of Statement by R. Skipp

I have to draw attention to the wonderful courage and devotion to duty displayed by John Franks, a Heavy Rescue Party Leader, at the incident at Shardeloes Road, at 6.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 1st November, 1944.

The L.R.R. made a crater 20 ft. deep and 45 feet across, which stretched the whole width of the road and caused 26 houses to collapse, burying a large number of people under debris.

At No. 77, Shardeloes Road, where several persons were buried, a fire broke out and debris became a blazing mass. The buried persons here had been spoken to and had replied, and all efforts were made to burrow a tunnel to where they were. This was done, and Leader Franks began to force his way through the blazing debris, but his clothing immediately caught alight and at the same time a further collapse of the building occurred, which made it impossible to rescue alive the trapped persons.

The courage and devotion to duty displayed by Franks in this abortive attempt to rescue these persons was of the highest order, and it is indeed to be regretted that it was unsuccessful, but it was, however, nonetheless an example of fearlessness and tenacity of purpose, and is in every respect worthy of the highest recognition.

(Signed) R. Skipp

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Copy of Statement by S. Burslem - Deputy Chief Warden

At the incident at Shardeloes Road at 6.30 p.m. on 1st November, 1944 some 26 houses were demolished and a large number of persons were buried or trapped under debris.

At No. 77, Shardeloes Road several persons were trapped and had been spoken to, but as the debris was now on fire, their position was precarious.

Heavy Rescue Party Leader John Franks immediately got a squad to work and tunnelled through to them. Whilst endeavouring to force his way through his clothing caught fire and at the same time a further collapse of the building took place, so that it was impossible to rescue alive those persons underneath.

It was a great pity indeed that the heroism displayed by Franks did not meet with successful results, but his courage, determination and devotion to duty was a splendid example to all Civil Defence personnel, and strongly merits recognition.

(Sgd.) S. Burslem

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Copy of Statement by E.W. Hurden

At this incident, a L.R.R. had completely destroyed No. 77, Shardeloes Road, amongst other property, filling the basement and forming a mound of debris about eight feet high above the pavement level. The occupants were trapped and were