252
A Hamstead Colliery Disaster Medal in Gold Pair
to Mr. A.M. Henshaw, General Manager, Talk-o’-th’-Hill Colliery, For His Gallantry, at Great
Personal Risk, in Directing Underground
Operations During the Attempts to Rescue 24
Entombed Miners Following a Terrible Fire at the
Colliery, 4.3.1908
Hamstead Colliery Disaster Medal 1908, gold (15
carat, Hallmarks for Birmingham 1907), the reverse
embossed and engraved ‘Presented to A.M. Henshaw
for Conspicuous Bravery in Attempting to Rescue the
Entombed Miners March 1908’, with integral top
suspension bar, in case of issue; North Staffs Colliery
Owners Rescue Team Medal, silver (Hallmarks for
Birmingham) and enamel, with top ‘Jamage 1911’
ribbon Bar, and additional ‘Norton 1912’ Bar, reverse
engraved ‘A.M. Henshaw’, extremely fine (2)
£1,400-1,800

O.B.E. London Gazette 3.6.1932 Albert Mayon Henshaw,
Esq., M.Inst.C.E., M.I.M.E., J.P.
‘For many years a Central Examiner to the Board for Mining
Examinations, Mines Department, and a member of the
Safety in Mines Research Board.’

Albert Mayon Henshaw, Esq., O.B.E., General Manager
and Director, Talk-o’-th’-Hill Colliery, Stoke-on-Trent,
Staffordshire; awarded the Hamstead Colliery Disaster Medal
following the devastating fire at the Hamstead Colliery,
4.3.1908, in which 24 miners were entombed and perished;
subsequently a member of the North Staffs Colliery Owners
Rescue Team, and involved in the rescue at Jamage Pit,
Bignal Hill Colliery, 28.11.1911, when an explosion killed
six miners; and at Norton Colliery, 24.2.1912, following a
huge explosion that resulted in the death of one miner and
the injury of another (fortunately the explosion occurred on
a Saturday afternoon, when there were only three men, as
opposed to the usual work force of 500, underground- as it
was 50 pit ponies were killed in the explosion). Appointed an
Officer of the Order of the British Empire, 1932.
24 Hamstead Colliery Disaster Medals were awarded in gold
to those miners who took part in the rescue operations, as
well as to the Government Inspectors and officials who
directed underground operations at great personal risk; and a
further 16 in silver to the local miners who assisted in the
later exploration work. In addition, 5 Silver and 2 Bronze
Edward Medals (Mines) were awarded.
The North Staffs Colliery Owners Rescue Team Medal was
instituted in 1911, following the Team’s founding that year
in consequence of the Whitehaven Pit Disaster the previous
year, and was awarded to those men of the rescue team who
took part in rescue efforts and recovery work. Awarded in
silver, it was suspended from a top ribbon bar bearing the
details of the incident for which the medal was first awarded;
further rescues were commemorated by additional bars. It
was awarded for nine separate rescues, ‘Birchenwood 1911’,
Hem Heath 1915’, and ‘Minnie 1918’. Mr. Walter Clifford
received the medal with all nine Bars.

253
A C.B.E. Group of Four to J.E. Henshaw, Esq.,
H.M. Inspector of Mines, Late Lieutenant, Royal
Engineers
a) The Most Excellent Order of the British Empire,
2nd type, Civil Division, Commander’s (C.B.E.) neck
Badge, silver-gilt and enamel, with neck ribbon
b) British War and Victory Medals (Lieut. J.E.
Henshaw.); Coronation 1953, extremely fine, with the
recipient’s Great Britain Empire Mining and
Metallurgical Congress 1949 lapel badge (4)
£240-280

C.B.E. London Gazette 1.1.1959 John Edward Henshaw,
Esq.
‘Lately Divisional Inspector of Mines and Quarries, West
Midlands and Southern Division, Ministry of Power.’

John Edward Henshaw, Esq., C.B.E., born Talk-o’-th’-
Hill, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, 1896, the son of Mr.
Albert Mayon Henshaw; served during the Great War in the
103rd Field Company, Royal Engineers on the Western
Front from 21.6.1917; and captured at Maissemy, near
Vermaino, 21.3.1918; served as H.M. Inspector of Mines
from 1939.