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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
 OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.*

*1st August, 1950.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to award the GEORGE CROSS to:—

Robert George TAYLOR (deceased), Newspaper Advertising Representative, Bristol.

Two men entered a sub-branch bank and by threatening the cashier and bank guard with a revolver stole a sum of money and escaped. The alarm was raised and the two men ran off over open land. Taylor took up the chase, caught up the man who was carrying the gun and attempted to close with him. The criminal turned and fired point blank into Taylor's face, inflicting fatal injuries.

Without any regard for the hazards, Taylor intervened out of a desire to help in the preservation of law and order and gave his life in a gallant attempt to apprehend an armed and desperate criminal.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
 OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.*

*1st August, 1950.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for the following awards of the George Medal and of the British Empire Medal, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of those specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct.

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

John Charles COOPER, Superintendent of Police, Eritrea Police Force.

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

Albert William PAYNE, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Eritrea Police Force.

Serious riots occurred between Copts and Mohammedans in Asmara, Eritrea, in the course of which more than 40 lives were lost and much damage to property occasioned. Superintendent Cooper was in charge of the police force in Asmara and at once went to the affected area and put in hand measures necessary to suppress the disorders. He displayed personal courage of a high order leading a succession of police detachments against mobs armed with hand grenades and firearms. Assistant Superintendent Payne personally led parties of police to the scenes of the worst disorders, quelling them as they arose, and dealing effectively with the rioters. Remaining on duty throughout the four days during which the riots lasted, he set a splendid example of courage, determination and devotion to duty which played a large part in the eventual pacification of the area.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Leslie Robert COLQUHOUN, D.F.C., D.F.M., Civil Test Pilot, Vickers Armstrongs Ltd., Supermarine Works. (Chilbolton, Hampshire.)

Colquhoun was carrying out high speed tests on the first production of an aircraft and in the course of one of these tests, at a very high speed, the outer portion of the starboard wing folded up and remained vertical. The ailerons were virtually locked and control was almost lost, but the pilot found that by the use of full left rudder and by maintaining a speed in excess of 200 knots he could retain some measure of control.

He would have been fully justified in abandoning the aircraft, but he realised the importance of investigating the cause of the

failure quickly and the delay which would be involved if the aircraft was damaged so extensively as to conceal the original cause. He therefore decided to attempt to retain control and land. By skill and judgment of a very high order he made a successful landing at the airfield, thereby enabling the cause of the wing failure to be quickly ascertained and rectified.

Colquhoun showed exceptional courage and coolness in circumstances of great danger and deliberately risked his life to bring the aircraft down intact.

Ronald MASON, Charge Hand Steel Erector, Francis Morton and Company Ltd., Liverpool.

James TOUGH, Foreman Steel Erector, Francis Morton and Company Ltd., Liverpool.

During constructional steelwork operations one of a gang of men who had been engaged in riveting work about 45 feet above the ground, turned quickly, struck his head on adjacent steelwork, lost his balance and fell off the platform towards a window. The metal frames of the window panes prevented him going through, but one of his ears was very deeply lacerated. After striking the window he fell on to a lattice girder 10 feet in length, down which he slid bodily to a point at which various girders intersected. In this position he was 30 feet above a stone floor. He was unconscious and bleeding profusely.

Tough was called and immediately went down to the injured worker, placed him in a more comfortable position and when the dressings were passed along by the first aid attendant, he helped to apply them. A canvas stretcher arrived and Tough and Mason placed the injured man on it. This was a matter of great difficulty as the job had to be done in a cramped position on the 17-inch wide flange of the horizontal beam. There were four rope handles on the sides of the stretcher but these could not be used owing to the narrow width of the beam. Tough and Mason then carried the stretcher along the horizontal beam and at the right-angled intersection manoeuvred it round the stanchion and passed it to three other workers. Tough and Mason both had to walk in a cramped stooping position, carrying a man weighing nearly 12 stone.

When the stretcher was being carried along the beam, Mason had necessarily to walk backwards, a task which added to the hazards of an already dangerous enterprise.

Tough and Mason showed leadership and courage and acted with decision and resource.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Peter Dennis SCARMAN, lately Surveyor (Field) Class IV, Bristol Divisional Office, Ordnance Survey (Keynsham, Somerset).

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

Ronald Edward George CUTLER, Omnibus Driver, Bristol.

Following an armed raid on a bank two criminals rushed out and ran off. The alarm was given and Scarman ran after them. Another man who also joined in the chase was fatally shot by one of the desperadoes just as he was about to tackle him.

Although Scarman witnessed this he continued the chase, caught up with the criminal and got hold of him. There was a struggle, during which Scarman was struck from behind by the second man. Both men ran on and Scarman went after them. He was now joined by Cutler. The chase continued for some way until the two criminals were lost to sight. Cutler and Scarman then separated to search in different directions and later guided a police car to a spot where the men were found and arrested.

The manner in which Scarman persisted in his efforts to capture a dangerous criminal was an outstanding example of courage and determination. Cutler did all that he could to bring about the arrest of the two men and showed little regard for personal danger.

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

Howell James Ryan DAVIES, Student, University of Swansea. (Llandrindod Wells.)

Davies was walking along the footpath near Caswell Bay, Swansea, when he heard a cry and saw a girl floating in the sea and drifting slowly down channel about 40 yards from the rocks. He scrambled down over the rocks, took off his coat, trousers and shoes, and although there was a heavy swell running at the time, he plunged into the sea to her rescue. He was thrown against the sharp rocks and received cuts and abrasions on the arms and legs, but he succeeded in reaching the girl and towed her to the nearest rocks.

Davies displayed courage and resource and was the means of saving the girl's life.

Miss Martha ELWELL, Cook, Pedmore, Stourbridge, Worcestershire.

One night, shortly after 11 p.m., a man of powerful physique feloniously entered a house, produced a revolver and demanded money from the occupants. Not being satisfied with the amount thus obtained he attacked the male owner of the house causing very severe injuries. He also attacked the wife and mother of the owner.

Miss Elwell heard screams, went into the sitting room and saw the man who appeared to be strangling the householder. She pulled the criminal's hands away but he knocked her down. She got up, ran to the telephone and dialled 999. She also telephoned to a neighbouring doctor, and he on arrival, was seriously assaulted. In the interval of making these calls she attacked the intruder with an umbrella and while doing so was yet again knocked down by him. He also threatened to shoot her and the others if they did not bring him money.

After a further struggle she managed to get outside the house and admit the Police.

Miss Elwell, who is 67 years old, showed very great courage and did her utmost to save her employer's life and property.

AWUNI FRAFRA, Blast Boy, Bibiani (1927) Ltd. Mine, Gold Coast.

A heavy fall of ground occurred in the South Stope in Bibiani Mine. At the time of the fall there were eighteen boys in the stope, four of whom were killed. Awuni Frafra was standing close to the filling raise,

and the fallen ground, which consisted mainly of a large slab of ore, dropped quite close to his feet. After the fall, Awuni Frafra collected all the uninjured boys and organised a means of lifting them up to the higher level. Pieces of rock were still falling from the hanging wall when, hearing a trapped boy cry out, Awuni went back into the danger zone and found a Timber Boy partially buried by a large rock. Although a further fall might have occurred at any moment Awuni stayed and by moving some large stones was able to free the injured boy and take him to safety.

Awuni showed courage and determination and was the means of saving the life of the Timber Boy.

**Thomas STEPHENS**, Chargeman of Skilled Labourers, Royal Naval Establishment, Sydenham, Belfast.

An aircraft crashed at Sydenham Airport, Belfast, when taking-off for a test flight. There were two passengers in the machine which on impact with the ground immediately caught fire.

Stephens, then leading fireman in charge of the duty firecrew at the Royal Naval Establishment, Sydenham, saw that the aircraft was about to crash nearby and ran towards it, instructing his crew to follow. Before he reached the machine, however, it had burst into flames. Without a moment's hesitation and with complete disregard of self, he continued in his efforts, succeeded in reaching the burning aircraft and, in spite of the intense heat, extricated one passenger from the wreckage. Stephens knowingly risked his life and was severely burned in effecting the rescue of the passenger.

**Miss Maria WATI**, Fijian servant, Vatukoula, Fiji.

A party of three Europeans and a Fijian girl, Maria Wati, were fishing in the Nadrauni passage, north of Sali Sali Reef, approximately five miles off shore from Tavua, when a wind of gale force and a swift current forced the 14 ft. launch on to the north-east side of the reef where it grounded and sank.

The top structure of the launch was carried away by the gale, taking with it one of the Europeans.

With the help of pieces of wreckage the other three scrambled on to the reef. The two men could not swim but with the light of day the girl persuaded them to leave the launch and try to make for Manava Islet and the three of them made their way slowly along the reef towards Vatia.

The tide was rising and the going was difficult and Maria Wati took the lead. The feet of both men were badly cut as they progressed slowly along the reef but after travelling in this fashion for about two miles they eventually reached a beacon. Manava Islet was about two miles away and the

party had to change direction and move against the wind and the current. Here Maria Wati showed great courage and determination in helping both men on. Every few yards the party had to stop and rest but she remained cheerful all the time and when one of the men collapsed with cramp she took off the "salu" which she was wearing round her waist and told him to hang on to the other end while she pulled him along. In this way he was dragged to safety.

Eventually the party reached the islet and all were rescued the following day.

It was due to the courage and determination of Maria Wati that the two men were not drowned.

#### KING'S COMMENDATIONS FOR BRAVE CONDUCT.

**Arthur Eric BECKETT**, Abrasive Wheelmaker. (Burton-on-Trent.)

For rescuing a child from a burning house.

**John Francis BULLOCK**, Bank Guard, Bristol.

For services when an armed raid was made on a bank.

**Richard Herbert COPPLESTON**, Accounts Clerk, Royal Arsenal Co-operative Societies. (Bexley, Kent.)

For services when thieves raided a branch office.

**Cecil John FOXALL**, Police Sergeant, Worcester County Constabulary. (Stourbridge.)

For services when a household was attacked by an armed burglar.

**Henry HARRIS**, Fireman, Durham Fire Brigade. (Felling, Co. Durham.)

For attempting to rescue a boy from a quarry pond.

**Joseph HOBSON**, Miner. (Leamside, Co. Durham.)

For services when rescuing a man from a burning house.

**James McKENNA**, Compressor Driver, Francis Morton and Company Ltd., Liverpool.

**Bruce MORTON**, Riveter, Francis Morton and Company Ltd., Liverpool. (Birkenhead.)

**John MORTON**, Riveter, Francis Morton and Company Ltd., Liverpool. (Birkenhead.)

For services when an accident occurred during building construction.

**Miss Mildred Ellen ROGERS**, Sub Office Assistant, Barking Road Sub-Post Office. (Plaistow, E.13.)

For services when an armed robbery took place at a Sub-Post Office.

**Thomas ROUND**, Excavator Driver. (Rossington, Yorkshire.)

For services when rescuing a man from drowning.

**Thomas TAYLOR**, Police Constable, "A" Division, Metropolitan Police. (Westminster, S.W.1.)

For services when attempting to rescue a man from drowning.

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