

every reason to assume that a booby trap had been inserted in the manhole. The removal of the whole explosive charge at once, in spite of the risk, became a matter of urgent necessity. On looking into the manhole the police could see an object in a large sack partly submerged in the water. There was no way of reaching this object except by someone climbing down into the reservoir and Sergeant Shaw immediately descended a steel ladder and examined the sack. He found in it a 5 gallon steel oil drum to which the length of cordtex was attached, a familiar type of bomb. He secured a length of rope to the sack and it was brought to the surface. The oil drum was found to contain 199 sticks of gelignite, some slabs of plaster gelatine and a second detonator. While the operation of removing the bomb from the manhole was in progress it was discovered that a booby trap had been set-up in the engine house attached to the reservoir. A length of flex was secured to a knob on the inside of the door and the other end disappeared behind oil drums. Head Constable Harrison and another Officer went in through a window. Following the electric flex behind the oil drums they discovered that it was attached to the ring in the firing pin of a hand grenade in such a way that if the door had been opened outwards it would have withdrawn the pin and exploded the grenade. The firing pin of the grenade had been withdrawn almost to its full extent and it would have taken only very slight movement of the flex to cause an explosion. Head Constable Harrison with great presence of mind grasped the grenade and held down the spring to enable the firing pin to be re-set in its proper safety position.

Yu KWONG, Assistant Revenue Officer, Preventive Service, Hong Kong.

Revenue officers were carrying out a search for narcotics in a ship in Hong Kong harbour. A Sub-Inspector in charge entered an enclosed space leading to a water-ballast tank, was overcome by noxious fumes and collapsed, suffering superficial injuries in the resulting fall. Entry to the space was obtained through a manhole from which there was a drop of several feet to the deck below. Yu Kwong, who was searching a storeroom nearby, heard a call for help from other members of the party. He immediately went down into the enclosed space and tried to drag out the unconscious officer. He was himself overcome by the fumes and had to make his way back to the manhole opening in order to recover. He re-entered the compartment almost immediately to drag the stricken officer nearer to the opening. This he did with considerable difficulty in view of the contaminated air and the presence of large beams and stanchions in a very confined space. Both officers had to be lifted out through the manhole by other members of the party on duty at the entrance.

Fibion MUCHAZAWONEY, Petrol Pump Attendant, Hatfield, near Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia.

Muchazawoney and another attendant were on night duty at a Service Station. They had retired to their beds in the service bay of the Station. At about 10.45 p.m. Muchazawoney was awakened by someone calling for petrol, and he saw three Africans standing outside the

folding doors of the service bay, one of whom was holding a small can and indicating that he required petrol. Muchazawoney got out of bed and unbolted the folding doors. As soon as he stepped outside he was confronted by one of the Africans who was holding an automatic pistol, which he pointed at Muchazawoney, at the same time demanding money. Muchazawoney immediately seized the gunman's weapon hand, pushing it downwards and a struggle then took place which led from the entrance of the service bay on to the bed. Whilst the two men were still struggling on the bed one of the gunman's accomplices seized the pistol. In the meantime the other attendant had left his bed and seized a pint bottle of oil to throw at the African who now had the pistol. A shot was fired which struck him in the chest and lodged in the spine, severing his spinal cord. At the same time the man who was struggling with Muchazawoney broke away and ran off. The money remained untouched.

Hilton Cyril STRICKLAND, Prison Officer, H.M. Prison, Parkhurst.

Prison Officer Strickland, who was on duty on the farm behind Parkhurst Prison, saw three prisoners scramble through the roof of one of the workshops and drop to the ground on the farm land. The officer blew his whistle and went in pursuit of the escapers, overtaking one of them and grasping hold of him securely. The prisoner called on his two companions to attack the officer, which they promptly did, one of them striking him from in front with a lump of wood and the other from the rear with an iron bar. Officer Strickland, still maintaining his hold on his prisoner with his left arm, used his stave to ward off the blows aimed from in front but he suddenly received a violent blow on the head from the prisoner armed with the iron bar. This caused Mr. Strickland to release his hold on his captive and all three prisoners then made off towards the nearby forest. Meanwhile, another prison officer came on the scene and found Strickland bleeding and dazed and apparently badly hurt. Strickland, in spite of his condition, insisted on following the prisoners into the forest where he continued to search for them. Officer Strickland displayed courage, endurance and devotion to duty in maintaining his grip on his captive in spite of the brutal assault from his two companions, thereby effectively delaying their get-away.

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct :

Eric BALL, Assistant Superintendent, Cyprus Police Force.

Phedias DEMOU, Constable, Cyprus Police Force.

For rescuing six persons trapped by flood water.

Robert Edgar BENN (deceased), Corporal, British Guiana Police.

Henry Ebenezer CHESTER (deceased), Constable, British Guiana Police.

Bhagwandatt SINGH, Detective Constable, British Guiana Police.

For services in effecting the arrest of an armed and dangerous criminal.