

Captain Hugh Clarke,  
Assistant Commissary and Honorary Lieutenant Frederick Handley,  
Conductor Henry Pargiter,  
Sergeant (now Sub-Conductor) Arthur James Robinson,  
Sergeant George Smith, and  
Robert Dunn Dow.

#### HYDERABAD EXPLOSIONS.

On the 7th of April, 1906, and again on the 15th April, the Cordite Magazine at Hyderabad caught fire. On the first occasion Sub-Conductor Purkis, acting on his own initiative, entered the magazine with his Lascars while smoke was still issuing from the building, and, by pouring water on the smouldering cases of cordite, extinguished the fire. Had he not succeeded in so doing the loss of life, both in the Fort (which was fully occupied at the time) and in the City (the population, some 138,000 in number, not having received warning of the danger), must have been very serious. On the second occasion the senior Officer ordered the evacuation of the Fort, and Purkis was the last person to leave after having done everything in his power to avert the explosion. Notwithstanding that the Fort was cleared and the City warned, lives were lost when the second fire occurred. On each occasion both gunpowder and cordite were involved.

#### FEROZEPURE EXPLOSION.

On the 30th August, 1906, a fire broke out in one of the Magazines of the Ferozepore Arsenal comprising 5 cells, in which were stored cordite, small arms' ammunition and gunpowder. At an early stage the ends of one of the outer cells (No. 10) were blown out by an explosion of cordite, while from cell No. 9, where small arms' ammunition was stored, smoke was seen to be issuing.

Major-General Anderson, who directed the subsequent operations from a roof at the edge of the Magazine Compound, at a distance of some 20 yards, having ordered all persons to be cleared out of the fort, and placed a cordon round it at 1,000 yards distance, a steam fire engine was got to work, and the fire party which had been organized commenced their highly dangerous task of clearing cell No. 8, in which was stored some 19,000 lbs. of gunpowder; they eventually succeeded in so doing, thereby cutting off the fire by the intervention of an empty cell. Had the powder in this cell exploded, the explosion must have been communicated to cells in an adjoining magazine, where 300,000 lbs. of gunpowder were stored.

Captain Donovan volunteered to clear cell No. 8, and led the fire party, and all concerned acted with the greatest coolness in circumstances calling for a high degree of courage. The door of the cell was opened and the fire hose turned on. Major Campbell joined the party by the cell, and returned in a short while and reported to General Anderson that though the cell was full of smoke, and the barrels hot, there was no actual fire in the cell. As, however, the explosions in the ruined cell No. 10 were becoming more violent, General Anderson, fearing that the barrels of powder which were being removed from cell No. 8 would be ignited, ordered the discontinuance of efforts to clear the cell; the pumping engine was, however, kept at work by Mr. Dow and some native assistants.

A series of heavy explosions of cordite now took place, and on the occurrence of a lull Captain Clarke went to reconnoitre, and reported that cell No. 9 was still apparently intact. Major Campbell and Mr. Pargiter subsequently went into the enclosure to investigate, and on their report being received a party including 50 lascars was organized, and the removal of the powder barrels in cell No. 8 was recommenced under cover of the fire hose. During their removal the last important explosion of cordite took place some 12 yards away. Eventually all the barrels were removed without accident.

*Whitehall, September 25, 1911.*

The KING has been pleased to approve of the Albert Medal of the Second Class being conferred upon Mr. Algernon Edward Mann, Assistant Municipal Engineer, Rangoon, for gallantry in saving life as detailed below:—

On the afternoon of Saturday, the 25th February, 1911, when the Steamship "Leicestershire," of the Bibby Line, was being brought alongside the Sule Pagoda Wharf, Rangoon, a Cingalese servant, who was leaning against a loose railing, fell overboard between the vessel and the Wharf, striking his head against the edge of the Wharf in falling, and was in imminent danger of being drowned or crushed to death between the incoming steamer and the Wharf.

Mr. Mann was awaiting the arrival of the vessel, and at great risk to his own life, for the moving vessel was only a few feet away at the time, immediately started to clamber down the stanchions of the Wharf. He slipped and fell into the river, but was able to reach the drowning man, and swim with him to one of the stanchions, where he supported him until ropes were lowered, and both were rescued.

*Whitehall, September 25, 1911.*

The KING has been pleased to give and grant unto Mr. Thomas Wood Weller, an officer in the Police Force at Alexandria, His Majesty's Royal licence and authority to accept and wear the Insignia of the Fifth Class of the Imperial Ottoman Order of the Medjidieh, conferred upon him by His Highness the Khedive of Egypt, authorized by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan of Turkey, in recognition of valuable services rendered by him.

*Whitehall, August 24, 1911.*

The KING has been pleased to grant unto Granville Edwin Lloyd Baker, of Hardwicke Court, in the county of Gloucester, Esquire, in the Commission of the Peace, a Deputy Lieutenant, and (in 1898) High Sheriff for that county, His Royal Licence and Authority that he and his issue may take and henceforth use