

still in cloud, crashed on a hill-top known as Jeffries Point, Portslade. The crash was witnessed by three men who were working in a field a few yards from where the aircraft first touched the ground. Winter was one of these men. It caught fire on impact and travelled for a distance of 300 yards coming to rest in a gorse bush on the side of the hill. The grass and gorse caught fire from the point where it first struck the ground to the point where it finally came to rest. Winter immediately ran to the scene, and was informed by Corporal Lapwood, one of the crew who had managed to extricate himself from the wreckage, that there were still men inside. Winter immediately extricated A.C.1 Oultram. He then climbed into the gun turret in an endeavour to locate the remainder of the crew. He saw two figures at the front of the machine beyond his reach. Climbing from the turret he tried with great gallantry to approach the nose of the aircraft but was unable to do so owing to the explosion of the ammunition and the intense heat of the flames. Moreover, the gorse plantation in the middle of which the aircraft had come to rest was also on fire.

Pir Khan, Jemadar Badragga (Escort) to the Commander, Royal Engineers, Waziristan District, North-West Frontier Province.

On February 3rd, 1940, a party consisting of Officers of the Royal Engineers and of the Military Engineering Service, while motoring up the Tochi Road, some three miles from Bannu, was ambushed by thirty hostiles. After the first volley, Colonel Hasted, Major Cator and Pir Khan managed to obtain cover behind a low irrigation culvert wall on the side of the road. Pir Khan took up a firing position round the edge of the wall and immediately opened fire on the hostiles who were round the mill buildings, less than forty yards away, thereby forcing most of them to take cover in the buildings. He continued to fire and frustrate any attempt to outflank the Officers along the road in spite of a hail of bullets being poured in his direction. When the hostiles finally started to withdraw, Pir Khan had only three rounds of his original 50 left. During the hostile withdrawal he helped to give assistance under fire to the wounded and dying. His loyal, gallant and cool conduct undoubtedly saved the lives of both Colonel Hasted and Major Cator. It also prevented the hostiles from looting the cars and mutilating the bodies of the dead and wounded which were lying in the road.

*The Medal of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for Meritorious Service.*

Francis Downey, Doorkeeper, Head Post Office, Liverpool.

James Holmes Westwell, Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist, Head Post Office, Liverpool.

For presence of mind, coolness and courage in dealing with a bomb, with burning fuze, deposited in the public office on the 6th February.

Richard Powell, Seaman Cable Hand, H.M.T.S. "Monarch", General Post Office.

While on detached duty at a British Naval Base on 6th October, 1939, the party, of

which Powell was acting Leading Hand, when engaged on urgent cable repairs was exposed to considerable danger from aerial attack on the vessels at the Base. Although bombs and shell splinters fell in the vicinity of the craft on which he was working, he showed great coolness and courage and set an excellent example to the other members of the party. The repairs were satisfactorily completed.

Hugh Burns, Hillman, Royal Ordnance Factory.

Burns was in charge of No. 1 Washing-House in this Factory in the vicinity of London on the occasion of an explosion. The Washing-House in which there was a half-ton of purified nitroglycerine awaiting transfer, and an additional half-ton awaiting purification, was only 55 yards from the scene of the explosion and suffered extensive damage. The whole of the roof collapsed and Burns was injured. He extricated himself from the debris, and stood by until the Assistant Foreman arrived, when he carried out the purification of the nitroglycerine and thus rendered it safe. After his injuries were treated, he proceeded to No. 2 Washing-House, which was also damaged, and carried on with the purification of nitroglycerine in that House.

Edward Sollis, and William Thomas John West, Hillmen, Royal Ordnance Factory.

On the occasion of a recent explosion in a Factory in the vicinity of London these men were engaged in the nitration of glycerine. At the time there was a ton of nitroglycerine mixed with acid in the nitrotor. The building was damaged by the explosion, but both men remained on duty until the nitroglycerine had been disposed of safely.

Yussef Hanna, Iraqi Cook, H.M. Consulate, Mosul.

For meritorious service on the occasion of the murder of H.M. Consul at Mosul on April 4th, 1939. Yussef Hanna was the first person to raise the alarm when the rioters approached the Consulate. With considerable presence of mind he shouted to the night watchman to shut the Consulate gate. This the watchman was unfortunately unable to do in time and Yussef Hanna then ran to warn the Consul. The Consul refused to hide on the roof, saying that these were boys and that he would talk to them and persuade them to go away. He went into one of the rooms followed by Yussef Hanna who stayed with him and held the door while he was inside. When they both came out, he was dragged downstairs by the rioters, and threatened with daggers, but he managed to throw himself over the banisters and to escape by the back door.

Hilda Sarah, Mrs. Constable, Non-Official Postmistress, Meadows, State of South Australia.

For services in connection with the Bush Fires of January, 1939.

Many business houses at Meadows, South Australia, were destroyed by fire on the 13th January. Mrs. Constable remained at her post answering the numerous telephone calls until the flames were licking the walls of the Post Office building. She dis-