

their way through a hostile mob gathered outside the gates. Once inside the prison Hutchings took charge of the staff of 30 warders and although the situation was such that he would have been justified in ordering the use of firearms, he tried peaceful methods of persuasion.

Later, when the gates of the prison were forced by the mob outside and 200 prisoners were released, the three men fought their way to the gates and succeeded in closing them. In addition they were successful in recovering 50 prisoners.

Without any thought of his personal safety Superintendent Hutchings returned to the yard and although he was struck on several occasions he continued his efforts to pacify the prisoners. After a total period of eight hours he was finally successful.

Throughout the disturbance Superintendent Hutchings showed complete fearlessness and devotion to duty in the face of great personal danger and with the courageous assistance of Warders Arrim and Oku eventually brought the situation under control.

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

Robert Rae CAMERON, Police Constable, British Transport Commission, London Midland Region, Burton-on-Trent, Staffs.

On the evening of Tuesday, 4th November, 1947, Constable Cameron was on duty in the Railway Sidings at Burton-on-Trent. He noticed the reflection of a light in the windscreen of a motor vehicle which was backed up to a loading dock of a warehouse.

Cameron approached the vehicle and saw that it was loaded high with cases of whisky. He realised that something was wrong and that several men were probably concerned. Despite this he went forward, lifted the bonnet of the motor and pulled out the ignition lead, thus putting the vehicle out of action.

Two men then appeared and attacked him, striking at his head and shoulders. He defended himself but was attacked by other men from the rear. Cameron received several blows on the head and was then struck on the leg and brought to the ground. By this time he was badly injured and almost unconscious. He was dragged to a warehouse and was bound with ropes but managed to free himself and give the alarm.

Cameron displayed courage and outstanding devotion to duty.

Charles Alfred FAIRBROTHER, Machine Operator, Blidworth Colliery, Nottinghamshire.

Horace Reginald LEIVERS, Deputy, Blidworth Colliery, Nottinghamshire.

A large fall of roof occurred at Blidworth Colliery which buried three men. One of them was near the edge of the fall and was speedily rescued.

Leivers and Fairbrother first attempted to reach the two trapped men by way of the roof cavity but this was found to be too hazardous as the roof continued to fall. Leivers decided to drive a tunnel in the coal, a distance of 13 feet, in order to reach the men. This work was undertaken by Leivers, ably supported by Fairbrother, and

after five and a half hours one man was rescued and, later, the body of the other man was recovered.

By their determination and courage Fairbrother and Leivers saved the life of one of their fellow workers.

Martin HALPIN, Civilian Stoker, R.N. Air Station; Ford, Sussex (Arundel).

On 31st December, 1947, at Arundel, three boys, aged between 10 and 13 years, crawled into an old Army ammunition store the entrance to which was only 2½ feet square.

One boy struck a match which he dropped on the floor where there was some liquid. The whole place immediately caught alight. Two of the boys rushed to get out but in so doing upset one of three drums which were inside the store. This caused a very fierce concentrated fire and one of the boys was trapped.

The fire was seen by Halpin who immediately made a determined effort to reach the boy inside the burning store but he was driven back by the intense heat. He made a further attempt but was again driven back with his coat alight. He then obtained some strips of carpet from an adjoining building and protecting his body he forced his way through the flames and was able to drag the boy out. In doing so he received burns to his head and hands which necessitated treatment in hospital.

Halpin acted promptly and courageously and showed great determination.

William Robson POLLOCK, Storehouseman, R.N. Torpedo Depot; Haifa, Palestine.

On 28th February, 1947, Pollock was at Barclays Bank, Haifa, when the alarm was given that burning cordite could be smelt.

As soon as the source of danger was known Pollock and two other men went at once with a stirrup pump to the back of the building where they found two bombs which were smoking.

The three men extinguished one bomb but while they were doing this the second one exploded and detonated the first bomb. One man was killed and Pollock and the other man were injured.

Although fully aware of the dangers involved Pollock did not hesitate to face the risks in an effort to save life and property.

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

Donald Hutcheson BLAIR (deceased), Charge-man of Fitters, R.N. Torpedo Depot, Haifa, Palestine (Gourock, Renfrew).

For brave conduct when disposing of bombs placed in a building at Haifa.

George CRISTIE, Skilled Workman, Class II (B), General Post Office, Taunton, Somerset.

For services in arduous and dangerous conditions.

Robert Hume McCALL, Constable, Glasgow City Police Force.

For services when a fire occurred in a tenement house.

Joseph Stanley WAPPETT, Constable, Liverpool City Police Force.

For rescuing a man from drowning.