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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
 OF KNIGHTHOOD.**

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

20th June, 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:—

Aris Victor ZACHARIADES, Divisional Officer, Serae Division, Eritrean Police Force.

Divisional Officer Zachariades accompanied a mixed force of police and armed tribesmen detailed to capture the supplies of a notorious bandit leader. The force captured part of the supplies together with one of the bandit's principal assistants. Information then revealed that a small party of bandits was encamped about three hours' march away. When the position was reached the force divided, Divisional Officer Zachariades taking charge of the party detailed to engage the attention of the bandits and draw their fire, while the remainder made a detour and attacked them in the rear. This ruse succeeded, nearly all the bandits being either killed or captured.

Divisional Officer Zachariades was outstandingly cool and determined under fire and the success of the operation was due largely to the example which he set.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Robert GIBSON, Van Driver, Glasgow.

A man entered the Alexandra Parade Branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland at Glasgow, presented an air pistol at the Bank Teller and demanded money. As his demands were not met he jumped on the counter and struck the Teller on the head with the pistol, jumped back to the public side of the counter and ran off. Gibson, who was driving a newspaper van, took up the chase and soon overtook the fugitive. Gibson left the van but the man drew a knife from one pocket and an air pistol from the other and ordered him back into the van, jumped in beside him and told him to drive on, all the time presenting the pistol at him. Gibson made the excuse that there was a block in the road straight ahead and drove to a police box at which two men were working.

The fugitive at once left the van whereupon Gibson caught him from the rear and threw him to the ground on his back. The man was still holding the pistol in his right hand but Gibson spreadeagled himself across the man and held on to each wrist. One of the workmen took the firearm from the man and called the police. The suspect continued struggling and bit Gibson on the right cheek and on the right thumb. The man eventually gained the upper position, drew a knife from his coat pocket and stabbed Gibson four times in the back. He

then ran off but Police Officers in a car, summoned by the telephone call from the workman, arrived at this stage and the suspect was arrested.

Gibson acted with courage and promptness and gave valuable assistance to the police in securing the arrest of an armed and dangerous criminal.

John JOHNSTON, Shift Foreman, British Oxygen Company, Ltd. (Glasgow).

John Scott McINDOE, Rack Attendant, British Oxygen Company, Ltd. (Glasgow).

At the factory of British Oxygen Company, Ltd., one of several hundred steel cylinders which had been filled with acetylene gas slipped out of a man's hands and fell on to a concrete platform. Black smoke poured from the damaged cylinder in considerable volume and the man who had let it slip, and other workers, immediately ran from the room. Johnston and McIndoe, however, realised the very dangerous possibilities of fire or explosion if the damaged cylinder was left beside such a large number of filled cylinders. Without regard to the consequences to themselves they rolled the cylinder, still emitting black smoke and becoming hot, out of the end door of the filling room into the yard. Having got it into a position where, should it explode, it was not likely to affect the other cylinders, Johnston ran for a fire hose. The cylinder, however, was getting hotter and McIndoe shouted a warning and himself moved away from it. The cylinder then exploded. Some damage was done to the structure of nearby buildings, but no one suffered any physical injury. Both Johnston and McIndoe were well aware of the danger of fire and explosion, but with great courage and coolness they instantly took steps to remove the damaged cylinder in order to minimise the effect of any explosion that might occur. During the time it took to roll the cylinder a distance of about 40 yards they were in imminent danger of losing their lives or of being severely injured.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

George DAVIES, Fireman, Nook Colliery, North Western Division, National Coal Board (Astley).

Three men went into an area of Nook Colliery which was filled with firedamp and were overcome by it. One of the men was subsequently found unconscious outside. He was revived and told Davies that the other two men were still in the gas-filled district. Davies immediately went into the area and saw the lights of the unconscious men. It was clear that if he went further in he might be overcome, but nevertheless he determined to make the attempt. A conveyer belt ran up to where the unconscious men lay and Davies told another man to remain at the conveyer controls and to start the motor when he waved his lamp. Davies then ran about 60 yards into the affected area and managed to drag one of the unconscious men

on to the conveyer belt. He got on the belt himself, waved his lamp and was brought out. Davies went in again and tried to get the second man on to the belt, but was unable to lift him and had to come out. An air hose was found and Davies made yet another attempt to go in while compressed air was blown down the face. He was, however, unsuccessful. Eventually a party of men using compressed air lines managed to get the second man out. Davies took a considerable risk when he went into the affected area. The air was contaminated and he might have been overcome too quickly to allow him to escape. He showed courage and determination in persisting in successive attempts to rescue the second man.

William Henry MATTHEWS, Foreman, Davy, Paxman and Company Ltd. (Colchester).

A large high speed diesel engine was on test when the governor operating mechanism jammed. The engine started to accelerate very rapidly to something like double its normal operating speed and was in imminent danger of blowing up with consequent serious damage and possible loss of life. The two men who were carrying out the test ran to safety but Matthews, who was in his office at the time, heard the mounting revolutions and hurried to the scene. Although the flexible connections of the water pipes had already commenced to give way, he climbed on the side of the engine and in the full knowledge that the high speed of the engine was causing the pipes to burst and he might be covered with water nearly at boiling point, he reached over to the fuel pump operating mechanism to shut down the engine. As he took hold of the mechanism the pipes burst but he continued to hold on until he brought the engine to rest, by which time his right arm was scalded from the elbow to the fingers. His left hand was also injured.

By his presence of mind and complete disregard of self Matthews prevented a serious accident.

Ronville Warlus SLEET, French Polisher, Bethnal Green.

Two men were seen to climb through the front ground floor window of a house in Bethnal Green, and police were informed by telephone.

In the meantime Sleet was told of the occurrence and he at once went towards the house from which he saw two men leave and walk in his direction. He challenged them and as they separated to pass him, one threatened him and at the same time put his hand into his pocket as if to grasp some instrument. Both men then ran away. Sleet gave chase and about sixty yards further along the road, overtook and caught one of the men who struggled desperately to avoid being detained. Sleet grimly held on to him despite the fact that the man was much taller and heavier than himself. Police arrived and the prisoner was taken into custody.

Sleet showed great courage, determination and tenacity and it was largely due to his efforts that the criminal was arrested.

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

Reginald William CARTER, Milk Salesman,
Kenton, Middlesex.

For services when rescuing a child from
a burning flat.

William Murdoch GEMMELL, Bank Teller,
Royal Bank of Scotland, Glasgow.
(Airdrie).

For services, when an armed man
attempted to hold-up a bank.

Douglas HUDSON, Shift Charge Engineer, Kirk-
stall Power Station, British Electricity
Authority. (Leeds).

For services when an explosion occurred in
the Kirkstall Power Station.

Mary Jane, Mrs. JONES, Aberclwyd Farm,
Resolven, Glamorganshire.

For services when a farmer was attacked
and gored by a bull.

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