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

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

13th March, 1951.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned 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:—

Awarded the George Medal:—

- Owen Percival ASHWIN, Police Constable, "P" Division, Metropolitan Police. (Orpington, Kent.)
- Ivan Stanley KING, Police Constable, "P" Division, Metropolitan Police. (Bromley, Kent.)
- John Kerr McCALLUM, Police Constable, "P" Division, Metropolitan Police. (Bromley, Kent.)
- Thomas TEMPLE, Company Director, Biggin Hill, Kent.

Police Constables Ashwin, King and McCallum were in a patrol car when shortly before 1 a.m. they received a message to go to Temple's Stores, Biggin Hill, as it was suspected that persons were unlawfully on the premises.

Thomas Temple, principal director of the Stores, met the officers on their arrival, and he and P.C. Ashwin entered the premises by the back door. The lights were switched on and Temple locked the door on the inside. The other two officers, with two relatives of Temple, covered the outside of the Stores.

Ashwin and Temple went upstairs by different staircases and met at the shop office in which, through the glass panelling, they could see two men. One of the men stepped

out of the office, raised an automatic pistol and fired a shot in their direction. The shot struck the framework of a show case. Both men then ran out of the office to the other side of the building followed by Ashwin and Temple. As he reached that side of the premises the Constable saw the second man, who was unarmed, coming towards him, and the Constable closed with him. The first man, who was at the top of a staircase about three yards away, thereupon turned and fired at the officer, wounding him in the throat. After firing one or two more shots, this man then ran downstairs into another department of the Stores, pursued by Temple, and he eventually plunged through a plate glass window into the street. Temple at once returned to help P.C. Ashwin, whom he found lying unconscious on the floor with the second man on top of him, striking him in the face. Temple struck the man with a batten he was carrying, forced him into a corner of the room, and held him at bay until help arrived.

Meanwhile, the first man, who still held the pistol as he came through the window, was tackled by P.C. McCallum but broke free and ran off down the road. P.C. King, who had been on the roof to prevent any escape through a skylight, joined McCallum, and with Temple's two relatives they went in pursuit. After a chase of some 400 yards the two police officers had almost caught up with the man when he turned round, and pointing the pistol at McCallum, who was slightly in front pulled the trigger. Both officers heard a click but the magazine of the weapon was apparently empty. McCallum jumped for the man's right hand and got hold of the pistol while King grasped his left hand. After a violent struggle they succeeded in overpowering the man.

Thomas Temple displayed exceptional courage in chasing the armed gunman and returning to help the police constable who had been shot and was being attacked by the second criminal.

Ashwin, King and McCallum acted with great bravery without any regard for the consequences to themselves.

Hugh DOUGLAS, Police Constable, Nottingham City Police Force.

A paraffin stove was accidentally overturned in a first floor bedroom of a small dwelling-house occupied by a man and wife with their granddaughter aged 18 months. A fire broke out and the flames spread very quickly. The child crawled under the bed into a corner of the room and the grandparents were unable to reach her. The heat was intense and, being unable to reach the door, they escaped by jumping from the window.

The child's father and two other men attempted to enter the room from the landing of the house, but were beaten back by the flames and smoke. P.C. Douglas, protecting himself with his cape, dashed into the room. The clothes and mattress on the bed were on fire and since he could not crawl under the bed to reach the corner where the child was crouching, Douglas pulled the burning mass away and up-ended the bed. He wrapped the child in his cape and brought her out of the room to safety. She had been seriously burned. Douglas was burned on the right wrist but he immediately returned to the house to satisfy himself that there was no one left behind in any of the other rooms.

Constable Douglas carried out the rescue with complete disregard of his own safety and in face of conditions which had already prevented three other men from entering the room.

Stanley EUSTACE, Radiographer, Paddington Hospital, West Metropolitan Hospital Board. (Highgate, N.6.)

A wages clerk was carrying a parcel of money, made up into wage packets for payment to employees who were working on a building site, when he was attacked by two men, one of whom struck him and knocked him down. The men then snatched the parcel and ran off. Eustace, who had seen the assault, immediately chased the men and after running about 100 yards succeeded in seizing one of the thieves and, following a fierce struggle, brought him to the ground. The second assailant then attacked Eustace with a hard instrument and stunned him with a severe blow on the head. The two men then ran away.

Eustace was suffering from the effects of the blow and bleeding freely from the wound but he again took up the chase and followed the two men a distance of about a quarter of a mile. He eventually caught up with them, and, with help, was able to secure one of them and keep him in custody until the arrival of the police.

Eustace acted without fear of the consequences to himself and his courageous and public-spirited action resulted in the arrest of one of the criminals.

Douglas Gordon HARRIS, House Decorator, Streatham, London.

A woman was on her way to business one morning when she was attacked by a man who struck her on the head and face with a hatchet until she became unconscious. The man, who seemed intent on killing the woman, was about to strike her again when Harris, who was cycling to work, saw the attack, threw himself at the man and pinioned his arms. The attacker, however, threw Harris over his head, picked up the hatchet and made to strike him. Although unarmed, Harris courageously faced him and prepared to continue the struggle to defend the woman. When the man realised that Harris was determined to prevent any further attack on the woman, he dropped the hatchet and ran down the street into a garden, where he took his own life.

The woman eventually recovered and owes her life to Harris, who acted with great courage and determination in tackling alone and unarmed a very powerful man in possession of a murderous weapon which he had no hesitation in using.

Cyril MAEER, Labourer, Knottingley, Leeds.

A foreman-bricklayer, working in the Pump House at Ferrybridge Power Station, was descending by ladder from a working level of 39 feet to the platform of the screen pit 7 feet below. The access to the platform was through a manhole and upon reaching the foot of the ladder the foreman fell through another manhole into an underground chamber through which a river was flowing into a very large pump. The inlet to the pump was in the bottom of the chamber, 15 feet below the surface.

Maeer heard the splash and the cries for help. Although he was aware that the lower level was in darkness and that there was strong suction from the pump he immediately discarded his coat and descended the ladder, kicking off his shoes as he did so, lowered himself through the second manhole into the swirling water and in complete darkness searched for the foreman.

Maeer swam around in the water trying to find the man for about ten minutes. He was in danger of being sucked into the pump but only gave up when he found himself being drawn towards the circulating water pipes. He was rescued from his dangerous position by means of a rope and a ladder lowered into the pit by another workman.

Maeer showed great courage and took grave risks in order to try to save the life of a fellow workman.

Frank ROSE, Police Constable, Liverpool City Police Force.

Constable Rose was on motor patrol duty with another officer when they were told that about ten minutes earlier a child had fallen into the Leeds and Liverpool Canal at a point where it is crossed by a road bridge.

The officers drove to the bridge and Constable Rose saw the arms of the child above the surface of the water. The canal at this place is about 60 feet wide and is a mass of driftwood, oil and other refuse. Although only a moderate swimmer Constable Rose climbed onto the wall of the

bridge, jumped 18 feet to the canal bank and dived into the water fully clothed except for his cap and tunic. To locate the child, who was floating beneath the surface, the Constable had to dive and swim under the refuse. While doing this he was in danger of being rendered unconscious by a blow from one of the many blocks of wood or other heavy obstacles. He managed to reach the child and raising him above the surface brought him to the canal bank. Constable Rose, who was exhausted, could only with difficulty support the unconscious child until they were both taken from the water. Despite his own condition he at once began artificial respiration on the child but collapsed almost immediately. He recovered and, with the child, was driven to hospital in the police car. During the journey he continued the artificial respiration and as a result of his efforts the child's breathing was restored. The Constable and the child, who eventually recovered, were both admitted to hospital suffering from shock and exposure.

In carrying out this gallant rescue Constable Rose seriously endangered his own life and acted in the highest traditions of the police service.

Leslie Alan SMITH, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police. (Bedfont, Middlesex.)

P.C. Smith was on motor cycle duty at High Street, Hounslow, when he saw two men in a large saloon car driving towards London at about 40 miles an hour. His suspicions were aroused and he decided to stop and question them. He rode after the car, drew level on the offside and signalled the driver to stop. Instead of doing so the driver accelerated and steered the car towards the officer who was forced to brake sharply to avoid a collision. He then continued to pursue the car which reached a speed of about 70 miles an hour. A large lorry, coming towards the car, pulled across the road to enter a yard and the car, swerving to the offside to avoid it, crashed into a tree.

Both men got out and the driver made off. As Constable Smith went to detain the other, the man drew an automatic pistol from his pocket and, pointing it at the officer's stomach, threatened to shoot him. Without hesitation Constable Smith grabbed the man's wrist, twisted his arm and forced the pistol from his grasp, slipping it into his own pocket. A violent struggle ensued but the man was eventually overpowered. Later he escaped and hid on the roof of an outhouse in a yard about 400 yards away. The constable found him, climbed up, brought the man to the ground and took him to the Police Station.

Constable Smith acted with great bravery and devotion to duty in pursuing and arresting an armed and dangerous criminal.

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

Edward James BAXTER, Millwright, Silloth, Cumberland.

Two men who were duck-shooting on Skinburness Marsh, a network of deep creeks and ditches covering an area of approximately 4 square miles, were cut off by the fast rising tide which turned the creeks and ditches into very strong and dangerous fast running

currents. Baxter saw their plight and immediately undressed and swam 700 yards to the men in a very choppy sea through depths varying up to 20 feet. He towed one man about 15 yards but had to take him back. The tide was then still rising and he moved both men to slightly higher ground. The tide turned, however, to a strong ebb and when the water was up to their heads and shoulders Baxter was forced to leave the two men and begin his return. He had considerable difficulty in making progress against the strong ebb tide and when reached by police, who had seen his rescue attempt through field glasses, he was exhausted and on the verge of complete collapse.

Baxter was not aware anyone had seen him enter the water and took very grave risks in his lone effort to save the lives of the two men.

George Robert GLASGOW, Deputy, Littleburn Colliery, National Coal Board. (Brandon, Co. Durham.)

Thomas BURKE, Stoneman, Littleburn Colliery, National Coal Board. (Langley Moor, Co. Durham.)

The river Browney, which was in heavy spate, broke through into the main intake airway and haulage road of Littleburn Colliery. The quantity of water entering the mine was so enormous that the whole of the mine was completely flooded within two hours.

The first man to notice the flooding was Burke. He made gallant attempts, under frightening conditions and at very great risk, to warn the men inbye. He eventually succeeded in getting a telephone message through to one of the inbye districts and this message probably saved the lives of the men in the 5th Right District.

Glasgow was the deputy in charge of the 4th Left District and was at his meeting station when the water reached it. He sent a warning to the deputy in charge of 5th Left District and sent his men back via an emergency exit at the inbye end of the mine. Realising that the men in the 5th Right District on the outbye side were in extreme danger, and not knowing that they had been warned by Burke, he attempted to go back through the flood to warn them but by this time the water was 5 feet deep and he was forced back. He returned and caught up with his men and then, with one of the miners, he tried another route and met the party making their way towards the emergency exit.

Burke and Glasgow could have easily escaped when the first inrush of water occurred but instead of looking to their own safety did their best to warn the others.

Miss Mary Elizabeth JONES, Farm Worker, Deytheur, Llansantffraid, Montgomeryshire.

While at work on the farm Miss Jones heard her brother calling for help from the other side of the outbuildings. She ran to his assistance and found that he was being attacked by a three-year-old pedigree Friesian bull. He was standing on the ditch bank against the hedge which encloses the farm yard and was bleeding badly on the right side of the chest. Miss Jones caught hold of the bull's nose ring and managed

to get a stick through it. She shouted to her brother to get away to safety and he struggled to the carhouse, where the tractor was kept. In the meantime Miss Jones had taken off her apron and put it over the bull's head, holding its nostrils as tight as possible to restrict its breathing. Unfortunately the bull knocked her arm with such force she was compelled to relax her grip on its nose. The bull then threw her down and tossed her further away. Miss Jones managed to crawl into the carhouse but while she was doing so the bull caught her again, injuring her legs. She jumped on to the tractor on which her brother was already lying and drove off the bull with a stick. She then released the dog which was tied up nearby and the bull was driven sufficiently far away for Miss Jones to assist her brother into the house. The bull was later destroyed. Miss Jones disregarded the risk to her own life in her efforts to save her brother.

Hassani KIMASHI, Native Cultivator, Tanganyika.

In the Vudee area of Tanganyika a lion was causing so much trouble that after it had killed an ox the tribal call was given and about 200 men turned out. When they cornered the lion it charged and pulled down one man. All the rest then ran away except Hassani Kimashi, who had an old single-barrelled native gun. He advanced right up to the lion and shot it at point blank range, thus undoubtedly saving the life of the man over whom the lion was standing. The lion could easily have turned on Kimashi and he would then undoubtedly have been killed. Kimashi displayed high courage in going forward to tackle the lion when all about him had fled.

Ernest Stephen LANAWAY, Police Constable, British Transport Police, Hither Green Sidings, London Area. (Sidcup, Kent.)

A sheeted wagon containing explosives caught fire in a railway siding and Lanaway, who saw the smoke and flames, ran to the wagon, severed the sheet strings and endeavoured to remove the burning sheet. He was unable to pull off the whole of the sheet and climbed into the wagon to deal with the remainder. He succeeded in getting rid of some more of the burning material and, while doing so, his overcoat caught fire. He tore it off and continued with his task of removing the burning sheets which were well alight, as also were the rope protection round the live shells and the inside boards of the wagon. Help then arrived and the wagon was pulled by a locomotive to a fire hydrant at the end of the sidings and the fire extinguished.

Lanaway acted with promptitude and disregard of personal danger and showed outstanding devotion to duty.

Walter Coy REED, Technician, Class I, Cambridge Telephone Area. (Ely.)

Ernest CURTIS, Technician, Class II B, Cambridge Telephone Area. (Ely.)

James John PETERS, Technician, Class II B, Cambridge Telephone Area. (Ely.)

Five Post Office Technicians, together with a tractor-driver, were engaged in laying telephone cable in Back Lane, Witcham, when

the tractor suddenly rolled completely over, pinning the driver underneath. His skull and five ribs were fractured and one rib pierced a lung. Two of the Post Office men went off at once in their lorry to fetch help and Reed sent Peters for his lorry. Peters backed the lorry to the side of the upturned tractor and Reed slung a pole chain over it. Curtis found a length of chain of about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch section which he passed round the main chassis member of the tractor and through the large ring of the pole chain. Reed fastened the small ring of the pole chain to the towing hook of the lorry and Peters drove forward. The lorry wheels spun fiercely but it made about 2 feet forward and lifted one side of the tractor off the ground. Reed stood in the ditch with a 4 foot crowbar and as soon as the tractor was raised he poked the crowbar up into the well of the tractor and wedged the tractor up on the bar which rested on the frozen ground. Peters put the brake on the lorry and switched off the engine, leaving it in gear. With the tractor now raised precariously with one side about 18 inches off the ground all three men, Reed, Peters and Curtis, started to get the man out. Peters went under the tractor and disentangled the man's legs from the steering column. Reed, in the centre, crawled under the tractor and put his hands under the man's body. Curtis also got under and supported the man's head. Together the three men wriggled out bearing the injured man gently on their arms. They were in danger all the time as the crowbar was gradually being forced into the ground and the lorry was being pulled backwards as the tractor slipped back on its side.

As a result of the prompt and gallant action performed by Reed, Peters and Curtis, the injured driver survived.

Mohamed Tahir bin Abdul RAHMAN, Postal Agent, Simpang Pelangai, Benton, Pahang, Malaya.

Bandits twice attacked the Sub Post Office where Mohamed Tahir bin Abdul Rahman lived with his wife and five children. On the first occasion he opened fire on them and they were driven off.

About two months later, Mohamed Tahir was in his house with his family when 30 to 40 bandits approached. They called on him to come out and then tried to force the door. Mohamed Tahir fired a shot at them and they then threatened to throw hand-grenades into the house and to burn it down. At this moment a bandit tried to force his way in through a window but Mohamed Tahir fired at him with his shotgun and severely wounded him. The bandits then set fire to the house. Mohamed Tahir tried to extinguish the flames and at the same time managed to fire some twenty shots intermittently at the bandits.

He and two of his children were forced out of the house by the fire and took refuge in some undergrowth. A party of police arrived, drove off the bandits and rescued Mohamed's wife and other children from the house which was completely gutted.

Throughout the attack Mohamed Tahir showed courage, determination and devotion to duty of a high order.

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

Captain Arthur John BOOTH, D.S.C. (Retired)
(Sub-Lieutenant (Sp), R.N.V.R.), Deganwy,
Caernarvonshire.

Sydney Frank CAVE, Coast Preventive Man,
Board of Customs and Excise, Deganwy,
Caernarvonshire. (Llandudno Junction.)

For services when securing a drifting sea
mine.

**James William CHASE, Deckhand, s.t. "Edin-
boro' Castle".** (Grimsby.)

For attempting to rescue a man from
drowning.

**Stanley CHISLETT, Assistant Banksman, Park
Colliery, Glamorgan, National Coal Board.**
(Treorchy, Glamorganshire.)

For rescuing a boy from beneath moving
coal wagons.

Douglas Oswald DAVIDSON, Police Constable,
Leeds City Police.

Francis FLEMINGTON, School Welfare Officer,
Leeds.

**George Samuel GRAY, Welfare Officer, Ministry
of Labour and National Service, Leeds.**

For services when an armed man, who
had resisted arrest, was recaptured.

**Matthew DRENON, Stoneman, Littleburn Col-
liery, Co. Durham, National Coal Board.**

**Thomas DRENON, Stoneman, Littleburn Col-
liery, Co. Durham, National Coal Board.**

For services when a mine was flooded.

**Joseph Harvey GASSER, Hairdresser, Clapham
Common, London.**

For rescuing a baby from a burning house.

Norman Joseph GEE, Garage Proprietor,
Biggin Hill, Kent.

Reginald Alfred TEMPLE, Company Director,
Biggin Hill, Kent.

For assisting the police when an armed
criminal was arrested.

**Vincent NIKANG, Checker-timekeeper, Public
Works Department, Nigeria.**

For services when an attack was made on
an Inspector of Works.

John Finlayson SLIDDERS, Police Constable,
Liverpool City Police Force.

For rescuing a man from drowning.

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