

succeeded in killing one and wounding the other, who subsequently died. The bandit first wounded then broke cover, still carrying his Sten gun. Lieutenant Graver and Osman attacked him in the open and managed to kill him, though he threw a hand grenade at them.

As a result of the outstanding courage, cool determination and fearless initiative shown by Police Lieutenant Graver and Corporal Osman, three bandits were killed and their arms, ammunition, some grenades and a number of valuable documents captured. Police Lieutenant Graver has on two previous occasions been in command of Police patrols which have engaged bandits in far greater strength than his own party. His leadership on this last occasion proved an inspiration to Corporal Osman during an engagement lasting about twenty minutes and both men showed high qualities of bravery and complete disregard of personal safety. The success of this police operation had a considerably heartening effect upon the whole population of the District.

Geoffrey Oliver HARTLEY, Police Lieutenant, Federation of Malaya Police Force.

Police Lieutenant Hartley was in charge of a party of police travelling towards Kuantan. With him were another Police Lieutenant and 13 rank and file and in a radio van behind were a woman and three children.

A few miles from Kuantan the leading vehicle came under heavy automatic fire from a high bank and the police at once engaged the attackers. Lieutenant Hartley, armed with a Bren gun, ran back towards the radio van to protect the woman, expending all his ammunition at the bandits as he did so. Under covering fire he then ran back for a further supply and advanced towards a party of five armed bandits who were moving down on the party. He brought down one bandit armed with a Bren gun and wounded another, on which the remaining three broke off the attack and withdrew.

Lieutenant Hartley then arranged to evacuate the woman and children in the radio van and also a Special Constable who had been wounded. He and his party then withdrew, still engaging the bandits with rifle fire and grenades. Having reached a place where reinforcements became available he at once returned to the spot with a party of police and military to renew the attack but the bandits had disappeared.

Throughout the engagement Lieutenant Hartley displayed a complete disregard of his own safety. By his fine example and courageous and intelligent leadership he extricated his party from a position which might otherwise have resulted in serious losses of life and property.

Andrew HOUSTON, Oversman, Knockshinnoch Castle Colliery, Ayrshire. (New Cumnock.)

David Walker PARK, Deputy Labour Director, Scottish Division, National Coal Board. (Edinburgh.)

An accident occurred at the Knockshinnoch Castle Mine and an enormous quantity of fluid peat and moss poured into

the working places, filling up some and isolating others.

Andrew Houston was among the 115 men trapped and he immediately took charge and organised exploratory parties to search the accessible workings for stragglers and to find out exactly what the position was. He then assembled all the men in what he thought was the safest part.

The workings in which the men were trapped were, at one point, separated by only 24 feet of coal from the disused workings of a neighbouring colliery. The telephone to the surface was still working and Houston was thus able to receive instructions as to how best the men could help in their own escape. He organised teams to drive a way through the barrier and, at the same time, rescue teams began to drive from the other side.

Parts of the disused workings were heavily charged with inflammable gas, and although a connection was rapidly made it was not possible for the trapped men to leave Knockshinnoch. Efforts to clear the inflammable gas were unsuccessful and the connection between the mines had to be temporarily closed to prevent foul air entering Knockshinnoch.

The men had been imprisoned for over 24 hours when Park volunteered to go through the connection to the trapped men, using breathing apparatus, so that he could explain the efforts being made to free them.

It had meanwhile become evident that it would not be possible to clear the gas from the old mine and sets of light self-contained breathing apparatus were taken below ground so that the trapped men could be brought out in relays through the foul air. Park largely organised the progress of the men out of Knockshinnoch, remaining until last to instruct each man in the method of using the breathing apparatus and to give him confidence in its efficiency. When the last of the men had been rescued he stayed to lead a Rescue Brigade in a search to make sure that no one had been left behind.

Park voluntarily left his place of relative safety to join the trapped men and his presence among them at a time when their endurance had been severely tested, contributed much to the eventual success of the rescue. Houston sustained and encouraged the trapped men in his charge. His coolness and resource and the example of his steadfast courage contributed incalculably to the success of the rescue work.

Norman Clifford WEBB, Police Inspector, Eritrea Police Force.

Inspector Webb, when in command of a force of 17 armed Eritreans, engaged a much superior force of about 170 bandits at 400 yards range. The bandits started an encircling movement necessitating the withdrawal of Inspector Webb's force to the town of Fecel, which he carried out with skill under continuous concentrated fire and over very difficult terrain. The action continued until the bandits came within hand grenade throwing distance, whereupon Inspector Webb advanced alone and engaged the nearest body of the force single-handed with his machine gun, killing three.