

middle of it. French, who was working nearby, immediately walked along the plank, which was 9 inches wide, until he reached the man. He then went on to his knees and with one hand he held on to the rigger's arm and crawled across the plank pulling or lifting the man and then hoisted him to the safety of the platform.

French acted promptly and bravely as there was not only the danger of slipping but the possibility of the plank tilting over and plunging both men to the floor nearly 40 feet below.

**Robert Leo LAMONT**, Constable, Birmingham City Police.

**Cameron MURRAY**, Constable, Birmingham City Police.

A Police Constable was shot and seriously injured by an armed man who escaped.

Police Constables Murray and Lamont joined the search for the suspect.

Later in the morning they saw a man whose figure resembled that of the assailant and, keeping him under observation, followed him down an entry at the side of some bomb damaged property. Although they knew the criminal was armed and desperate the two Constables stopped and questioned the man. After a few questions he pulled out an automatic pistol and pointed it at the Constables who immediately closed with him and, after a struggle, disarmed and handcuffed him.

The two officers showed courage and determination in dealing with a criminal whom they knew to be armed and who had already shot and injured another constable.

**John Edward TANNER**, Lorry Driver, Bethnal Green, London.

A fire broke out in a house and a woman was trapped on the second floor. Tanner went through the ground floor passage and up the staircase, the lower part of which was alight, through fire and thick smoke, and reached the second floor landing. He found the woman and helped and encouraged her down the smoke-filled staircase on to the first floor landing. They managed to get into the front room and Tanner pulled the frame bodily out of the window to give relief from the heat and smoke. He assisted the woman out of the window on to a ledge and then to safety.

Tanner displayed bravery and determination in dangerous circumstances.

**George Rees THOMAS**, Dumper Driver, Cwmann, Cardigan.

Thomas was working on the top of the screens at Alltgoch Quarries when a diesel oil tank exploded. The surrounding plant started burning furiously and one of his fellow workers was suddenly enveloped in flames and fell from the oil tank platform to a hollow pit 10 feet beneath him. The pit was ablaze and flames shot upwards to a height of 10 feet. Flames were also pouring downwards from the exploded oil tank and from rubber conveyor belts nearby.

Thomas immediately climbed down from the top of the screens and joined two other persons near the pit. Several buckets of

water were thrown on the flames and as soon as conditions permitted Thomas entered the pit. Owing to the roaring fire which engulfed other exits the only means of egress from the pit was around a girder and by a steep earth bank and he carried the injured man by this difficult route to the side where he was lifted out.

Thomas showed coolness and promptitude and acted with no thought of self in trying to save the life of his fellow worker.

**Sidney Charles TILLMAN**, Boiler Operator, Ford Motor Company, Ltd., Dagenham, Essex.

An extra high pressure boiler in a power house failed, owing to the rupture of the first steam return tube. Within a few seconds the boiler room became an inferno of fuel-ash, steam, hot mud and boiling water, reducing visibility to almost nil.

The atmosphere was further charged with blast furnace gas blown into the boiler room from the burners, producing a terrifying and dangerous situation as a result of which a major disaster might have followed.

Tillman, who was operating an extra high-pressure boiler on full load at the time of the explosion, was isolated between the Boiler Control panel and the boiler front. Flames, blast furnace gas and steam surrounded him and mud and scalding water were falling around him from a height of 70 feet. It was essential that the boiler should be safely and quickly shut down and the feed water diverted to another boiler in order to prevent a further explosion.

Tillman covered up his head and operated his boiler until he had brought it safely to rest, continually removing mud and dust from the dials and instruments in order to maintain control.

The courage and devotion to duty he displayed were an inspiration to the boiler house staff.

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

**Alfredo BANDA**, Ambulance Driver, H.M. Dockyard, Gibraltar.

**David Stewart HUTCHEON**, 1st Class Master of Yard Craft, H.M. Dockyard, Gibraltar.

**Cecil Neville KNOWLES**, Chageman of Skilled Labourers, H.M. Dockyard, Gibraltar.

**Alfred McGRAIL**, Fireman Driver, City Fire Brigade, Gibraltar.

**Francis Joseph PARODY**, Surgery Attendant, H.M. Dockyard, Gibraltar.

For services when an explosion occurred in an ammunition lighter.

**Peter BATTERSBY**, Sergeant, Liverpool City Police.

For rescuing a boy from drowning.

**Thomas Reginald BUCKINGHAM**, Senior Second Officer, s.s. "Queen Elizabeth". (Newport, Monmouthshire.)

For rescuing a man who had fallen overboard.