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

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

12th February, 1952.

The KING was graciously pleased on 4th February to approve the undermentioned awards of the George Medal and of the British Empire Medal and 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:—

Reginald Victor BOWDEN, Locomotive Fireman, Bricklayers Arms Depot, British Railways, Southern Region. (Bermondsey, S.E.1.)

Bowden and his driver were working a passenger train from London Bridge to Brighton when, without warning, a serious fracture occurred in a main steam pipe. As a result the cab and footplate were enveloped in steam and the greater part of the contents of the smokebox and live coals from the firebox were rapidly ejected by the escaping steam through the fire-hole door and into the cab.

The train at once began to lose speed and as Bowden was in the act of saving himself by leaving the footplate from his side of the cab, he saw that his driver, who had tried to close the regulator and apply the brake, was dazed and burnt and unable to open his cab door, which was preventing his escape from what had then become an inferno of smoke, fire and steam.

Bowden had the choice between saving himself by jumping from his side of the footplate at comparatively slight risk, or going to the aid of his driver in the certain

knowledge that in doing so he would expose himself to severe injuries. He unhesitatingly crossed the footplate, seized his driver around the legs and tipped him over the door and off the footplate. He then made one further unsuccessful attempt to apply the brake and, as the train had by then almost come to a standstill, he himself leapt from the engine and on to the permanent way.

Bowden who sustained burns of the face, hands and feet, behaved with gallantry and fortitude and saved the driver from further burns and injuries which would probably have proved fatal.

Frederick Mark STONE, B.E.M., Police Constable, Metropolitan Police (Kennington, S.E.11).

A man with a heavy iron bar smashed the window of a jeweller's shop and seized a valuable bracelet. At the same time a car with two men in it drew up by the shop and one of the men got out and threatened bystanders with a heavy instrument. The smash and grab incident was seen by Constable Stone, who was on duty in plain clothes and was walking on the opposite side of the street. He immediately ran across the road and as he did so he noticed a man threatening people with what appeared to be a stick with a large knob at the end. Constable Stone made straight for the man at the window who turned round and struck him on the arms and body with the iron bar. Stone, however, caught the man around the legs, throwing him on the ground. Stone was struggling with his opponent when he was attacked by the other man who hit him several times