

burst into flames. The wharf and the sea around also became engulfed in flames and it soon became apparent that very little more could be done. The Captain ordered the others to the stern of the vessel where they cut the after mooring ropes. The "Dromus" and the surrounding sea were a mass of flames but the four men remained on board doing all they could to check the fire.

It was after the second explosion that Sergeant Baharun, on board the fire-fighter "Naga" reached the scene of the fire. It seemed that nothing could save the "Dromus", but Sergeant Baharun, regardless of his own safety, boarded the vessel with a party of his men and directed the hazardous operation of getting the fire under control. Largely owing to his high qualities of leadership, outstanding courage and devotion to duty, the work of Sergeant Baharun's party saved the ship from total loss.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Lister ADDY, Deputy, Fryston Colliery, National Coal Board. (Townville, Yorkshire.)

A cage was raised unexpectedly from the bottom of a Colliery shaft, 555 yards in depth, and a man was trapped under a tub which was fast halfway inside the cage. As the cage went up the protruding tub fouled and damaged a shaft cable, causing all lights to be extinguished. The cage was stopped by signal after travelling about 75 yards. It was established by shouting that the man was pinned beneath the tub on the cage floor and unable to move and the tub was wedged inside the cage and against the shaft side. An attempt was made to climb up to him but this had to be abandoned as impossible and it was decided to attempt a rescue by lowering somebody into the shaft from an inset, 255 yards from the shaft bottom. Addy volunteered immediately. In complete darkness he was slowly lowered on the end of a rope to the top of the cage. He took off the rope, climbed down from the top deck into the third deck between the side of the shaft and the cage and, by a very great effort, lifted the tub off the injured man and pulled him out. He then wedged himself on the shaft side and helped the man to drop to the lower deck. Addy then crawled back on to the third deck and liberated the tub from the shaft side to enable the cage to be lowered. The cage jammed 15 feet from the bottom and Addy lowered the man with a rope to the pit bottom and slid down the cage guide rope himself.

Addy showed great courage and determination in effecting the rescue.

Oliver George COOPER, Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

Constable Cooper went to a block of flats to investigate a reported disturbance. He heard two shots inside the building and on reaching the top of the stairs saw a woman outside one of the flats. She was armed with a pistol and, after calling in a threatening manner to an occupant of the flat, fired two shots in the direction of the door.

Constable Cooper endeavoured to reach the woman unheard but she turned as he approached. He immediately rushed her and took possession of the pistol. At that moment

a shot was fired inside the flat, the bullet striking the wall near where the Constable and woman were standing. After moving the woman out of the line of fire Constable Cooper drew his pistol, knocked on the door and, announcing his identity, called upon the occupants of the flat to come out. The door was opened by a man and the Constable also saw a woman in the room. The man admitted firing the shot.

The three persons were arrested by the Constable and detained until the arrival of other Police.

Constable Cooper acted without thought of the danger to himself and there is little doubt that one or more of the arrested persons or some other person in the locality would have been killed or seriously wounded by the indiscriminate shooting had it not been for his intervention.

John Bryan GILES, Detective, Criminal Investigation Bureau, South Australia.

During a cricket match on the Railway Oval Cricket Ground, Adelaide, a man, who was evidently mentally defective, suddenly produced a rifle and fired several shots amongst the spectators and cricketers, killing one of the players outright and wounding another severely in the right arm. He also fired a number of other shots, one of which narrowly missed a passer-by.

Detective Giles, although unarmed, walked on to the Oval alone. He approached to within a short distance of the man, who pointed his rifle at Giles and threatened to shoot him. The Detective, however, held him in conversation for ten minutes until reinforcements arrived from the Police Barracks.

Detective Giles showed a very high standard of personal courage and by his total disregard of the consequences to himself prevented further loss of life.

Frederick Cecil Valentine HARRADINE, Assistant Rubber Estate Manager, Johore, Federation of Malaya.

A military armoured scout car was ambushed by bandits in the Tangkak area of Johore. Heavy fire was opened from the front and flank and the car was ditched. Harradine, who was seated next to the driver, helped him to close the front flaps and then crawled to the back of the car. The gunner had been killed and Harradine pulled him out of the seat and attempted to get the Bren gun into action but it would not fire. Heavy close-range rifle and automatic fire was directed at the car and the driver was wounded in the head. Hand grenades were also thrown and in the intervals of the firing the bandits were heard to be shouting close by. Two bandits then emerged on to the road to the rear and Harradine engaged them with his pistol.

After a struggle the driver managed to drive the car out of the ditch and Harradine again got to work on the Bren, this time with success, and covered their withdrawal by fire. He was hampered throughout by the fearful conditions both outside the scout car and inside, with the gunner killed and the driver and passenger wounded.

Harradine's coolness and presence of mind and his brave and vigorous action were major factors in saving the lives of the three survivors.