

a Section which had been cut off and surrounded. He skilfully withdrew this Section in the face of effective fire from numerically superior forces.

His leadership of his men throughout was exceptionally fine. He personally rendered first-aid to the wounded under heavy fire showing complete indifference to his own danger. His cool and excellent judgment and example of steadiness and courage undoubtedly enabled his Force to extricate itself from a position of extreme danger.

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

Frederick George Harold HAWKINS, Salesman, Woking.

Two men were on an enclosed mortar range at Chobham, gathering metal from exploded mortar bombs. There was an explosion and one of the men received serious injuries. His companion made his way out of the range to the road where he stopped a car driven by Hawkins and told him what had happened. Without hesitation Hawkins left his car, made his way through the barbed wire entanglement and went to the aid of the injured man across a dangerous piece of ground which is known to be littered with unexploded mortar bombs. He had to travel some three to four hundred yards before he reached the man. Hawkins at once rendered first-aid and then carried the casualty out of the range.

Hawkins acted courageously and promptly and took no account of the risk to himself.

Frederick William HIBBERT, Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

Constable Hibbert and another Police Officer were taking a criminal to the Police Station when the man suddenly produced an automatic pistol from his clothing and pointing it at the two Constables threatened to shoot them. He then backed away along a footpath and ran into the yard of some nearby premises. Constable Hibbert pursued him into the grounds of a house where the criminal stopped, faced Hibbert and again threatened to shoot him. He then ran to the rear of the grounds, turned and fired a shot at the Constable, climbed on to a wall and reached the street below. As the Policemen looked over the wall the criminal raised his pistol and pointed it at them but Hibbert fired at him and he fell to the footpath fatally wounded.

Constable Hibbert displayed outstanding courage and devotion to duty by his actions when threatened and under fire, and there is little doubt members of the public would have been killed or injured during the desperate efforts of the criminal to escape had he not been shot by Constable Hibbert.

Robert George LEE, Manager, Western Fyne Cleaners, Ltd., Exeter.

A dry cleaning plant, containing 400 gallons of trichlorethylene, was working normally when a violent explosion suddenly occurred. The steam inlet to the plant was fractured and steam and trichlorethylene vapour filled the works. The blast blew out the outside galvanised sheeting walls of the building into a passage adjoining the works and two women who

were working on steam presses ten feet away were thrown to the ground and rendered unconscious. Lee was blown off his feet towards the door of the single storied building. He recovered himself and immediately went back into the fumes and steam to attempt to rescue the women. He managed to get one out and then went back for the other, who was still lying unconscious on the ground beside her press. He dragged her to within 3 feet of the open double door and then collapsed himself.

Lee was exposed to strong trichlorethylene fumes during the whole of his rescue work and acted with promptness and courage.

Anthony Lowndes, Police Sergeant, Metropolitan Police. (Surbiton, Surrey.)

Police Sergeant Lowndes was on duty in plain clothes in a police car when a call was received for assistance at Wandsworth where two police officers had seen a man in the grounds of a private house. The Sergeant went in the car in the direction in which the man had made off and then left the car, ordering the driver to continue to patrol the area while he carried out a search on foot.

After searching for a short time he saw a man move from behind a tree. He walked towards him and the man started to walk away. He was quite near the man and he called to him to stop, saying he was a Police Officer, whereupon the man turned round, pulled a pistol from his pocket and pointing it at the Sergeant threatened to shoot him. Without hesitation the Sergeant jumped on the man and in the ensuing struggle the pistol fell to the ground. The man then ceased struggling and the Sergeant arrested him. The pistol was found to be an automatic weapon loaded with six rounds in the magazine and one in the chamber, with the safety catch off.

Police Sergeant Lowndes acted promptly and with great courage in face of a threat to shoot at close quarters.

Charles Frederick Noble, Sergeant, Second Class, New South Wales Police Force.

Sergeant Noble and a Constable were travelling in a Police motor cycle and side-car, when they overtook a man for whom they had been searching in connection with a vicious assault upon a woman. When the motor cycle was about three or four feet from the man he turned and faced the Police and as he did so he drew an automatic pistol from his overcoat and pointed it at them. Notwithstanding the fact that he could see that the pistol was in the firing position, Sergeant Noble immediately jumped from the side-car and, rushing the man, he placed his thumb between the hammer and firing pin of the pistol which was still pointed at his body. The Sergeant forced the man face downwards across the side-car of the motor cycle, keeping pressure on the man's hand, so that the pistol was pointed to the ground, until he disarmed him. The offender was then handcuffed and taken into custody.

Sergeant Noble displayed great courage and his quick thinking prevented murder or wounding at the hands of the armed offender who had previously endeavoured to shoot the woman whom he had assaulted.