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**TUESDAY, 31 MARCH, 1953**

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
 OF KNIGHTHOOD**

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1  
 31st March, 1953.*

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned promotion in, and appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for the following awards of the George Medal and of the British Empire Medal, and for 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.

*To be Additional Officers of the Civil Division  
 of the Most Excellent Order of the British  
 Empire :—*

John William Winfield HALLAM, M.B.E.,  
 Labour Relations Officer, Public Works  
 Department, Nigeria.

Edgar Harold SHERBURN, Mechanical Engineer,  
 Public Works Department, Nigeria.

*To be Additional Members of the Civil  
 Division of the Most Excellent Order of the  
 British Empire :—*

James Edwin PENROSE, Inspector of Works,  
 Public Works Department, Nigeria.

Douglas Charles PITCHER, Inspector of Works,  
 Public Works Department, Nigeria.

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

George Nelson GROUT, Foreman Diver, Marine  
 Department, Nigeria.

A serious breach occurred in the Ibadan reservoir, Western Region of Nigeria. The reservoir was breached owing to the rupture of a 24 inch Scour Pipe which passes through a 330 foot tunnel below the dam. There was, at the time, a head of water of some 40 feet above the scour, under tremendous pressure to escape, and causing

a loss of water estimated at 70 million gallons a day. Coming as it did at the beginning of the dry season, the accident made it vitally necessary to plug the leak at the earliest possible moment, if the water supply to the town of Ibadan was to be saved.

Mr. Sherburn was put in charge of operations and for two weeks he worked for between 15 and 20 hours a day, most of the time at the foot of the valve chamber or in the scour tunnel some 40 feet below water level. On a number of occasions he entered the swirling water in an attempt to place struts at the foot of the valve. The whole operation was extremely hazardous, and more than once Mr. Sherburn knowingly risked his life. He was admitted to hospital owing to exhaustion and injuries which he had received while at work and Mr. Hallam then took charge of operations. It had proved possible to block temporarily the up-stream end of the tunnel but, owing to the pressure of water, it was impossible to inspect this temporary blockage, or to make sure that the blockage would hold. For 24 hours a team, led by Mr. Hallam and consisting of Mr. Penrose, Mr. Pitcher and Mr. Grout, who had also shared in previous operations with Mr. Sherburn, worked in the tunnel and the valve chamber, fitting a new flange and valve in the full knowledge that, if the temporary blockage should be carried away, they must inevitably be drowned.

*To be an Additional Member of the Civil  
 Division of the Most Excellent Order of the  
 British Empire :—*

Dorothy Maude Campbell, Mrs. MEIKLEJOHN,  
 M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Medical Practitioner,  
 Leshau Ward, Aberdare District Council  
 Area, Kenya.

On an isolated farm Mrs. Meiklejohn and her husband were in their sitting-room when,

suddenly, four Africans burst into the room and immediately launched a savage attack on them. At least one of the Africans was armed with a pistol while the others were in possession of native knives. Mrs. Meiklejohn shouted to her husband and tried to reach for a firearm which was in her handbag but was slashed on the wrist. Both Mrs. Meiklejohn and her husband were attacked again and again until the Africans thought they were dead; they then left. Mrs. Meiklejohn's husband climbed the stairs to his bedroom and collapsed there. Mrs. Meiklejohn was suffering from multiple and very serious wounds. Her face and arms were slashed and she was fast losing blood but, determined to obtain help for her injured husband and raise the alarm, she staggered to her car and drove to the Police Station, at Thomson's Falls, a distance of 9 miles, over a rough and lonely road. On arrival she was only able to identify herself before she collapsed. She was taken to hospital and recovered but her husband succumbed to his injuries.

Mrs. Meiklejohn showed outstanding fortitude in the face of grave danger.

*To be an Additional Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire :—*

Cyril CONNOR, Manager, Greenside Lead Mine, Patterdale, Westmorland. (Glenridding, Westmorland.)

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

Walter Russell BURNETT, Electrician, Greenside Lead Mine, Patterdale, Westmorland. (Glenridding, Westmorland.)

Three miners were overcome by fumes at the bottom of a narrow shaft, 150 feet in depth, at the lower level workings of the Greenside Lead Mine. The accident was reported and Connor, calling for volunteers, immediately went to the head of the shaft. He was accompanied by Burnett. One of the helpers collapsed and Burnett helped to carry him to safety.

It was obvious to Connor from the density of the fumes that it would be hopeless for anyone to descend the shaft without some form of protection and he sent for respirators. Connor remained at the top of the shaft, trying to work the winder, until he was almost on the point of collapsing. He realised that if he did not get out at once he would be overcome and unable to render any further help. He therefore brought all the men in the mine, other than those in the shaft, back to the upper levels. He then collapsed.

In all there were 19 persons, all more or less in a collapsed condition, 2,000 yards in from the entrance of the mine and they could do little or nothing to help themselves. The rescue team outside made contact with the workmen by telephone. Their plight was realised and two men with breathing apparatus volunteered to go in with a train of empty mine cars, provided a driver who knew the road could be found. Although as driver he would be unable to

wear breathing apparatus Burnett immediately volunteered.

The operation was successful and the rest of the men were brought out alive.

*Awarded the George Medal.*

David George ENSOR, D.S.M., Civil Servant, Ministry of Labour and National Insurance, Northern Ireland. (Dungannon, County Tyrone.)

Three officials of the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance at Dungannon were returning by car from the Bank to the Employment Exchange with unemployment benefit money.

On reaching the Exchange two officials got out of the car together. A raider struck one man, who was carrying the bag containing the money, on the arm with a revolver, causing him to drop the bag. The other official ran to telephone the police. Mr. Ensor who was still in the car jumped out and pursued the robber.

The raiders were using a car parked about 20 yards away. During the pursuit the man carrying the bag turned and fired a revolver shot in the direction of Ensor, who jumped for cover in a doorway. He immediately took up the pursuit again and succeeded in catching the man at the door of the waiting car. Mr. Ensor got hold of the bag, but was struck a blow on the head with a revolver. He sank to his knees, momentarily stunned, and as he was in this position the car moved off.

The raiders broke the back window to make a firing space, but Ensor started to run after the car. At the same time the driver of the Ministry car started in pursuit of the raiders. Ensor joined him and they chased the escaping car on the road through Donaghmore, travelling at 60 m.p.h.

In Donaghmore the raiders fired a number of shots at the pursuing car. One bullet pierced the radiator. The raiders' car turned at speed into a cul-de-sac leading to Donaghmore Station.

The pursuers stopped their car at the entrance to the cul-de-sac and Ensor continued the pursuit on foot another 400 yards but the raiders made their escape across the fields.

MENGGONG anak Panggit, Iban Tracker, Johore, Federation of Malaya.

Menggong anak Panggit was acting as second in command of an Iban platoon which was carrying out patrol duties in the Labis area of Segamat, Johore. The leading scout sighted an occupied bandit camp and during the attack which followed the Lieutenant in command of the platoon was killed. From the accurate and sustained light automatic and rifle fire which was directed at the platoon it was obvious that the bandits were disposed in great strength and depth. Menggong immediately assumed command of the platoon and despite the hail of bullets he seized a Bren Gun and under heavy fire rushed into the enemy camp some 18 yards ahead. He called out to his men and, inspired by his example, the rest of the platoon, which hitherto had been pinned down, charged the camp. Under

his continuous encouragement and determined leadership his men, outnumbered by more than two to one, fought their way forward until the bandits were finally defeated and forced to withdraw, leaving the Ibans in sole possession of the camp and in command of the battlefield. Determined to come to grips with the enemy again as soon as possible Menggong organised a thorough search of the area and only when this proved fruitless did he order the withdrawal of his platoon.

*Awarded the George Medal.*

Thomas Vivian CHISNALL, Farmer, Gwelo, Southern Rhodesia.

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

Richard Walton Fores COX, Garage Manager, Gwelo, Southern Rhodesia.

An aircraft crashed into some trees after over-shooting the runway at Thornhill, Southern Rhodesia. Mr. Chisnall, who was in bed, heard the crash and went to the scene of the accident as quickly as possible. The aircraft was burning fiercely and the pilot was trapped by his harness in the cockpit of the fuselage which was lying on its side. Despite the heat, Chisnall struggled to release the badly injured and unconscious pilot but had to move back from the flames. A neighbour, Mr. Cox, arrived and attempted to sever the straps of the harness with his pen-knife but, after cutting one strap, was driven back by the heat. Chisnall then borrowed a coat and using it and his hat for a shield, managed to make three or four approaches, and despite the intense heat, he succeeded in cutting through the remaining straps. The coat which he used to protect himself was badly burned. The pilot fell forward, entangled in the wreckage but Chisnall and Cox together managed to pull him away from the burning aircraft. They then administered first aid while awaiting the arrival of the ambulance.

Chisnall, who was burned on the face and arms, displayed great gallantry and determination in his efforts to rescue the injured pilot from the burning aircraft, knowing well that the petrol tanks might explode at any time. With the brave assistance of Cox the pilot was saved from being burnt alive.

*Awarded the George Medal.*

Samuel TURKINGTON, Postman, Shettleston, Glasgow.

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

Alfred McNIVEN, Constable, City of Glasgow Police Force.

Bernard Colingridge WATSON, Constable, City of Glasgow Police Force.

James PLENDERLEITH, Sub-Postmaster, Tollcross Road Post Office, Glasgow.

Mr. Plenderleith was alone in his sub-Post Office in Tollcross Road, Glasgow, when two men entered. One confronted Plenderleith with an automatic pistol and demanded money and the other man also menaced him. The two men then went

behind the counter and jostled the Sub-Postmaster towards the back shop. Plenderleith attempted to prevent the second man from grabbing some money from the safe, which was open, but the first man caught hold of his collar and thrust him into the back shop. There he switched on the Post Office alarm bell and immediately made his way back into the front shop where one of the men fired a shot at him at point blank range but fortunately missed. The other man at this point left the premises. Mr. Turkington, who had heard the shot, entered the Post Office and as the remaining intruder made for the door, Turkington, who was carrying two saws wrapped in brown paper, hit him on the head with these, knocking him to the floor. Plenderleith ran outside, held the door shut and shouted for help. The gunman got to his feet, pressed his revolver to Turkington's body and threatened to shoot him. Turkington knocked him down again and tried to take his gun away, but the man regained his feet. Turkington grappled with him and a struggle ensued during which shots were fired. Eventually Turkington was thrown to the floor: while he was struggling to rise, the intruder fired more shots at the door lock and Plenderleith, who was outside, jumped back, slightly wounded below the knee. The criminal ran out waving his pistol followed by Turkington and Plenderleith who both gave chase for some distance but had to give up.

While a number of people continued the pursuit, a Post Office van picked up Constables McNiven and Watson and took them to where the man was holding an old lady in front of him and pointing his gun at his pursuers who were standing a few yards from him. The Constables left the van and went forward. Constable McNiven told the man to hand over his gun, while Constable Watson got the old lady away from the man, who began to back away, pointing the gun at the Constables.

Although they knew that they were dealing with a desperate armed criminal, McNiven and Watson pursued the man, despite his threats to shoot them and eventually succeeded in overpowering and arresting him.

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

James FOGGO, Member of crew, Government Pilot Boat, Bermuda.

Grover LAMB, Member of crew, Government Pilot Boat, Bermuda.

Mr. Foggo and Mr. Lamb were members of a volunteer crew of a Pilot Boat which put to sea in an attempt to save survivors of an aircraft which crashed in Bermuda waters. The two men subsequently manned a six foot dinghy taking on board two survivors and two others who subsequently proved to be dead. The dinghy was small and leaking and conditions were extremely hazardous with a strong wind and rough sea. When picked up the dinghy was awash and on the point of sinking. There is no doubt that Foggo and Lamb risked their own lives to save the lives of the survivors.

Muhoya KAGUMBA, Chief, Kenya.

Eliud MUGO, Chief, Kenya.

For outstanding service and courage during attacks by Mau Mau terrorists.

Michael John RYAN, Syphon Pumper, South Eastern Gas Board, East Greenwich.

Mr. Ryan was expecting another employee to join him to carry out maintenance work on a purifier box. The man did not arrive, but after some time Ryan was informed that gas was escaping from underneath another set of purifiers. The purifiers are constructed at ground level with a basement below them and on going down the steps leading to the basement below this particular set Ryan found quantities of gas present. He turned off one drain-cock nearby, from which gas was escaping and then saw a light at the far end of the basement 20 yards further on. Ryan immediately thought of the missing man and although he realised the danger of being overcome by gas, he went forward into the basement, into which gas was escaping from three other drain-cocks, and found his workmate lying on the floor with his lighted handlamp beside him. Ryan tried to drag the man along by his belt to safety, but the weight of the body was too much and the belt broke. By this time Ryan was almost overcome by gas and went back towards the steps. Before he reached them he collapsed. Rescuers, wearing respirators, then brought out both men. Ryan recovered but the other man died. Ryan knew that every moment's delay diminished the chance of saving his colleague's life and in these circumstances incurred the grave risk of attempting a rescue without first obtaining a respirator.

Sironge ole SAOLI, Third Grade Tribal Police Constable, Masai Native Land Unit, Kenya.

Sironge ole Saoli was accompanying a moran supervisor at Uaso Kedong in Masai when their party was attacked by over a hundred moran. The supervisor fell when a thrown sword pierced right through his chest. Despite considerable danger to himself the Constable stood by the supervisor and prevented him from being killed. After seeing to the needs of the wounded man he entered the hostile manyatta and arrested the moran who had thrown the sword.

During and after the affair Constable Sironge ole Saoli disregarding the danger, displayed devotion to duty of a high order.

David John TAYLOR, Constable, City of Glasgow Police Force. (Motherwell.)

Archibald WHYTE, Constable, City of Glasgow Police Force.

Constables Whyte and Taylor were on duty in Duke Street, Glasgow, when two

men who were running in their direction saw them and crossed to the other side of the road. The Constables crossed over to question the men and saw that one of them was concealing something in his righthand jacket pocket. Constable Whyte moved forward and asked what he was hiding. The man jumped back, pulled out a revolver, aimed it at the Constable and threatened to shoot. The other man pulled a poker from under his jacket. Constable Whyte seized this man and held him as a shield against the other man who continued to wave his revolver at both Constables.

Constable Taylor went into a nearby passage and came out of another further along the street in order to get behind the man with the revolver. The latter, however, became aware of the Constable behind him, turned and pointed the gun at him. Constable Whyte, still maintaining his hold on his prisoner, threw his lamp at the gunman to distract his attention from Constable Taylor. The gunman turned and ran off, pursued by Constable Taylor and eventually he was arrested.

Constables Whyte and Taylor acted with courage, coolness and promptitude.

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

John Rhodes COBB (deceased), Racing Motorist.

For services in attempting to break the world's water speed record, and in research into high speed on water, in the course of which he lost his life.

Richard Henry GLAISTER, Brigadesman, Winscales Rescue Station, Cumberland.

Wilfred KIRK, Station Officer, Winscales Rescue Station, Cumberland.

For services when an accident occurred in a mine.

Walter GREEN, Plumber, Shaw Petrie, Ltd. (Glasgow.)

John MCCOMISKEY, Plumber, Shaw Petrie, Ltd. (Glasgow.)

For services when two men were overcome by fumes at the bottom of a tank in H.M.S. Mull of Galloway.

Frederick JOHNSTONE, Machine Man, Glasgow Corporation.

For services when an armed man was arrested.

George Anthony JONES, Detective Sergeant, Cardiff City Police.

For arresting an armed criminal.

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