

Samuel ELSDON, Fireman, Worcester City and County Fire Brigade. (Smethwick.)

For attempting to rescue the driver of a van driven into a water filled, disused gas-holder.

Arthur Sidney LAWRENCE (deceased), Deputy, Cadeby Main Colliery, National Coal Board.

For services when an accident occurred in a coal mine.

Earl Malcolm Olvin WOLFF, Lieutenant, Singapore Police Force.

THUM Mun Sun, Lieutenant, Singapore Police Force.

Mohamed SHAH bin Kassim, Lance Corporal, Singapore Police Force.

BAHARIN bin Tahar, Constable, Singapore Police Force.

Ho Boon Yam, Detective Constable, Singapore Police Force.

LOO Kay Huat, Detective Constable, Singapore Police Force.

WONG Wing Wah, Volunteer Special Constable, Singapore Police Force.

For services during disturbances in Singapore in April and May, 1955.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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

26th July, 1955.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's Australian Ministers, to give orders for the under-mentioned appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, and for the publication of the name of the person shown below as having receiving an expression of Commendation for brave conduct.

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

Cosmo James PETRICH, Assistant Operations Officer, Qantas Empire Airways, Singapore.

An aircraft crashed at Kallang Airport and caught fire. The air hostess was trapped in the crew compartment and attempts were made to reach her by cutting a hole with axes. The nose of the machine under which the rescue party was working started to collapse and most of the party withdrew. Despite the risk of exploding petrol tanks and the possibility of being himself trapped as the aircraft fuselage overturned, Mr. Petrich continued his task until the air hostess was extricated from the wreckage.

QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT.

Leslie Newton PRITCHARD, Qantas Empire Airways, Singapore.

For services when an aircraft crashed and caught fire at Kallang Airport.

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND CIVIL AVIATION.

Berkeley Square House, W.1.

26th July, 1955.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the recommendation of the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, to make the following awards:—

The Bronze Medal for gallantry in Saving Life at Sea.

John EVANS, Deckhand, m.v. "Privateer", St. Lucia.

During rescue operations at night in connection with the wreck of an inter island vessel, the "Cacique del Caribe", off the coast of St. Lucia, Evans volunteered to try and reach the stranded ship with a light line by use of a very small dinghy. After considerable effort in the heavy swells and cross seas the dinghy was launched. Evans succeeded in passing the line but while attempting to return to his ship, the line was let slip from the "Cacique del Caribe". With considerable effort he made his way back to her and another line was passed to him. His dinghy was damaged and half swamped in this attempt but he managed to row and keep hold of the line until he reached his own ship where the line was made fast.

Douglas GRAINGER, River Humber Pilot.

Two pilot apprentices were in charge of a motor boat engaged in transferring pilots to the pilot cutter "J. H. Fisher", which was cruising at the mouth of the River Humber, about one mile from Spurn Point. An easterly wind was blowing at gale force and a strong ebb tide was causing high, confused seas.

The motor boat was being hauled up in the davits of the cutter when the stern fell back into the sea and both apprentices were thrown into the water. One apprentice was able to pull himself to safety but the other, not being a very good swimmer and weighed down by his heavy clothing, was soon in difficulties and was unable to reach the cutter.

Pilot Grainger, who was on board the cutter, realised that it was impossible to throw a line to the apprentice against the strong wind and, quickly discarding his heavy clothing, took a line and dived over the side into the water. The line proved to be too short but Grainger grasped a lifebuoy which had been thrown from the cutter and swam with it for about 100 yards through heavy seas to the drowning man whom he supported in the lifebuoy until they were both picked up by a motor boat.

Had it not been for the prompt and courageous action of Mr. Grainger the apprentice would undoubtedly have been drowned.

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