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**TUESDAY, 18 DECEMBER, 1956**

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

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
 18th December, 1956.*

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned 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 Members of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—*

Arthur Townsend GREENE, Installation Manager, Shell-Mex and B.P., Ltd., Portslade.

A vessel was discharging a full cargo of motor spirit at the Portslade Depot in Shoreham Harbour when a slight leakage of spirit occurred on board. It was seen by Mr. Greene who drew the attention of the Master. Pumping was stopped immediately and the Master and three members of the crew descended into the ship's pump-room. Shortly afterwards Mr. Greene saw a man, obviously affected by petrol fumes. He immediately carried out an investigation and discovered that the four men in the pump-room had been rendered unconscious by the concentration of fumes. He grabbed a line which was handy and went below, instructing one of his men to call the fire brigade. Whilst endeavouring to place the line around a man at the foot of the ladder Mr. Greene became affected by the fumes. Almost unconscious he managed to reach the deck and summoned the Fire, Police and Ambulance services. Eventually all the men were rescued by firemen equipped with breathing apparatus. Mr. Greene displayed

courage in entering the pump-room and by his prompt actions averted a serious explosion and possible loss of life.

Charalambos MIDDLETON, Assistant Forest Officer, Cyprus.

Mr. Middleton was directing operations in fighting a forest fire near Peravassa, Paphos district. During the course of the fire the wind changed and the fatal outburst was seen to move quickly up the gully towards the position where troops were stationed. Mr. Middleton, who was further up the hill, moved down into the area to exhort the troops and civilian workers to move out at once and directed as many of them as he could to positions of safety. He remained until the last possible second, doing all he could to evacuate the area. Later he played a leading role in bringing out the dead and injured. He helped to move a burning vehicle off the road in spite of the danger of exploding ammunition and the possibility that the petrol tank of the vehicle might explode. The fire near Peravassa came at the end of four weeks in which there had been 29 forest fires, in most of which Mr. Middleton had directed the fire fighting operations. During these fires he gave himself unstintingly to his work and set an outstanding example by his selfless devotion to duty during long periods of gruelling exertion and lack of sleep.

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

Bernard HOWARD, Chief Engineer, John Halstead, Ltd., Whitefield, Manchester.

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

Jack Wilson HUGHES, Transport Manager, John Halstead, Ltd., Whitefield, Manchester.

Maintenance work on a range of Lancashire boilers was being undertaken when a

large quantity of scalding water from one boiler, which was being emptied, escaped into the flame bed of an adjacent empty boiler where a bricklayer and a labourer were working. The water was about 12 inches deep in the flame bed and one of the men was fatally scalded while escaping through an opening in the front end. The other saved himself by getting on a ledge on the side of the flame bed. Mr. Howard and Mr. Hughes, hearing shouts, came on the scene almost immediately. Mr. Howard crawled along one of the fire tubes in the boiler and lowered himself down into the scalding water at the back end of the flame bed. He could not see the workman but ascertained by shouting that he was safe. The effects of the scalding water on his feet then compelled him to return by the route he had entered. Meanwhile Mr. Hughes who had clothed himself with rubber thigh boots, unhesitatingly entered the fire tube into the flame bed, waded through the scalding water and reached the workman. Mr. Howard, despite the injuries to his feet, climbed on to the top of the side flue of the boiler with the intention of breaking through the brickwork in order to reach the workman, but the level of the water subsided and the workman was then able to crawl out through a manhole.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Maurice EDEN, Sergeant, United Kingdom Police Unit, Cyprus Police Force.

Sergeant Eden, with another member of the United Kingdom Police Unit and two Cypriot Prison Warders, was taking a political detainee to the Nicosia General Hospital for X-Ray examination. Sergeant Eden was armed with a .38 revolver and the other officer with a sub-machine gun. After the X-Ray examination the party was passing through the crowded main hall of the Hospital when they were attacked and fired upon by three or more terrorists. The Sergeant's companion was seriously wounded and fell to the ground. Sergeant Eden with great determination and absolute disregard of his own safety engaged the terrorists, shot one dead and, after expending his ammunition, knocked on the head with the butt of his revolver another who was trying to escape. He then returned to his mortally wounded companion and was fired at by another terrorist. Sergeant Eden chased this attacker but unfortunately he managed to escape. Sergeant Eden showed great determination and courage and was responsible for the killing of two of the assailants.

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

Francis George AXTELL, Meteorological Observer, Falkland Islands Dependencies Survey.

Mr. Axtell was on board R.R.S. "John Biscoe" in Admiralty Bay, South Shetlands, when six members of the Admiralty Bay Base, climbing down a rope ladder to get into their dinghy to go ashore, fell into the water. Mr. Axtell was near, saw what happened and jumped into the water, which was at freezing point, to help them. He spent about ten minutes in the water during which time he was helping the others with

life lines and life buoys. Largely owing to his efforts five of the six were rescued. Mr. Axtell was himself pulled out suffering from cold. His action in jumping into an Antarctic sea was very courageous and resulted in life being saved which otherwise might have been lost.

Graeme Barry MITCHELL, Grazier, Hay, New South Wales.

Rex Keith WHITE, Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

The works foreman for a sewerage construction scheme had occasion to enter the sewerage main, which is twenty feet underground, by a man-hole. Within a short time, he was overcome by an unknown gas and collapsed. A rescue attempt was made by a male nurse who, after tying a handkerchief over his mouth, descended to the bottom of the hole, taking a rope with him. However, he was overcome by gas and rendered unconscious. Constable White was advised that two men had been gassed in the sewer and immediately went to the scene after unsuccessfully attempting to obtain a gas mask. He had himself lowered on a rope with a wet towel over his mouth. This towel provided no protection against the effects of the gas and in a few minutes White was affected to such an extent that he was barely able to give the signal to be hauled to the surface. Before fully recovering he was again lowered into the man-hole, with a garden hose held in his mouth as an air supply but found on reaching the bottom that he was not able to get any reasonable quantity of air by this means. Although deprived of most of his physical and mental powers by the effect of the gas, he managed to fasten a rope around the male nurse and, upon the point of becoming unconscious, gave a signal to be hauled up to the street. Mitchell who had witnessed the efforts of the Constable, and was fully aware of the dangers, then donned a gas mask which had been brought to the scene by a bystander and entered the man-hole in an attempt to rescue the foreman. The mask was comparatively ineffective but Mitchell was able to tie a rope around the man and both were then hauled to the surface. The four men were taken to hospital where the foreman and the male nurse were found to be dead. Constable White and Mitchell were both affected by the gas, but subsequently recovered.

Kemal Ozy, Fireman, Episkopi, Limassol, Cyprus.

Information was received by the local Fire Brigade that a bomb had been placed in No. 2 Officers' Mess, Episkopi. The building was searched by Fireman Kemal Ozy and another member of the Fire Service, and the bomb was found in a drain pipe. The firemen ran out a hose from the fire tender and Kemal Ozy took it into the building and placed the nozzle down the drain. The building was then evacuated and the hose turned on for 15 minutes. Kemal Ozy then re-entered the building, removed the hose and checked that the bomb was liberally soaked with water. Without regard for his personal safety, Kemal Ozy then removed the bomb which he found consisted of fifteen

sticks of dynamite and two time pencils. He detached the time pencils to defuse the bomb and carried them out of the building. By his coolness and courageous actions Fireman Kemal Ozy saved the building and prevented loss of life.

Desmond Allan ROSS, Welder, Central Electricity Authority. (Leeds.)

Charles WARKE, Chimney Hand, Oulton, near Leeds.

Harold Edmund YATES, Welder, Central Electricity Authority. (Leeds.)

Some 40 tons of steel and wood scaffolding inside a 350 ft. reinforced-concrete chimney in course of erection at Kirkstall Power Station, Leeds, collapsed. Three men were concreting at a height of 325 ft. and three were bricklaying at 142 ft. at the time. One of the men at the top of the chimney was carried down by the collapsing scaffolding but Warke and the other man hung on to the top of the chimney and eventually climbed down the external ladder. The three men working at the 142 ft. level were trapped under the debris of scaffolding which accumulated 79 ft. above ground level. Access to the 79 ft. level was made by fire escape and from thence to the chimney proper through the flue opening. Two of the injured men were extricated fairly easily, but considerable difficulty was experienced in reaching the other two. On reaching the bottom of the chimney Warke at once began rescue work and eventually managed to climb up through the wreckage and reach one of the injured men who was released and brought out. Yates and Ross volunteered to cut through the debris trapping the other man and they worked for more than two hours in a confined space on a platform 79 ft. from the ground, constructed of scaffold poles in danger of collapse. There was, moreover, about 80 ft. of distorted scaffolding above their heads, which was also liable to collapse at any moment. They carried out the rescue operation without any regard for their own safety and were successful in extricating the man alive.

Anthony Gaius WALL, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Constable Wall and another Constable, both in plain clothes, examined the back of a large unoccupied house which appeared to have been unlawfully entered. Constable Wall went to the side of the house where he found a door shut, but unlocked. On entering, he saw two boys run from the kitchen to the inner part of the house. He followed them, calling out that he was a police officer, but one boy made for the staircase, and the other ran into the lounge. Wall went into the room and saw the boy

with a revolver in his hand. As Wall approached, the boy pointed the gun at him and then fired from a distance of about three feet, the bullet entering the officer's left cheek. Despite extensive bleeding, Constable Wall closed with the boy, telling him to drop the revolver, but the boy continued to struggle and windows were broken. The Constable managed to get hold of the revolver and then took the boy into custody.

Constable Wall was subsequently taken to Hospital, where it was found that the bullet had entered his left cheek and emerged below the left ear. He acted with great courage and determination in tackling and disarming the boy after being wounded.

*Queen's Commendations for Brave Conduct :—*

Alfred CHARLTON, Police Constable, Durham County Constabulary.

For attempting to rescue a boy from drowning.

John Cyril HOWARD (deceased), Principal Teacher, No. 5 Kingswood Training School, Bristol.

For attempting to rescue a man from drowning.

Harry Thomas JUDEN, Site Foreman, Leeds.

John TODD, Carpenter, Leeds.

For services when a scaffolding collapsed inside a high chimney.

Edwin James MARKEY (deceased), Male Nurse, Hay, New South Wales.

For attempting to rescue a man overcome by gas in a sewer.

Brian Joseph O'CONNOR, Yass, New South Wales.

Thomas O'NEIL, Balmain, New South Wales.

For attempting to rescue the occupants of an automobile which had plunged into a flooded river.

Murry Stewart RILEY, Detective Constable, 1st Class, New South Wales Police Force.

Rodney BATH, Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

For arresting a man armed with a loaded rifle.

David Boyd UTLEY, Police Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For services when an accident occurred on a pedestrian crossing.

David Farnington WATT, lately Constable, Glasgow City Police Force.

For services when a man attempted to throw himself into the River Clyde from Glasgow Bridge.

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