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

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
 7th May, 1957.*

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to make the undermentioned award:—

**GEORGE CROSS.**

**John AXON** (deceased), Locomotive Driver, London Midland Region, British Railways. (Stockport.)

Mr. Axon was in charge of a train of over 500 tons of freight which was running at 15 m.p.h. on the London Midland Region line from Buxton towards Chapel-en-le-Frith. He was preparing to stop the train before descending a steep gradient when, with a deafening noise, the steam pipe feeding the brake suddenly fractured. This not only destroyed the braking system but filled the driving cab with blinding, scalding steam which was discharged at a very high pressure directly at the feet of Axon, who was badly burned. He could have abandoned his engine and saved his life but, realising the danger of a runaway, he remained at his post and, with great bravery and determination, endeavoured to get the train under control. With the aid of his fireman the regulator was closed and the hand brake applied but the train, which was by now descending the gradient, could not be stopped. Driver Axon then ordered his fireman to jump clear and to apply as many wagon brakes as possible. In spite of this prompt action the train gathered speed. Nevertheless Axon stayed on the engine, although steam and boiling water were still pouring into the cab making conditions almost unbearable. He waved a warning to a signman that the train was running away and remained at his post in the hope of regaining control when a more favourable gradient should be reached. Before this occurred the runaway train overtook another

freight train travelling in the same direction and in the resulting smash Axon was killed. Driver Axon displayed devotion to duty, fortitude and outstanding courage in highly dangerous and alarming conditions. He gave his life in an attempt to prevent a collision.

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

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.  
 7th May, 1957.*

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned 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.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

**George Johnstone MOFFAT**, Constable, Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary. (Dumfries.)

One morning about 2 a.m., Constable Moffat and another Constable were on patrol when they heard the sound of breaking glass coming from a gunsmith's shop. Moffat's companion, who was wheeling a bicycle, immediately mounted and made for the shop. Moffat followed on foot and as he was running towards the shop, shots were fired and the other Constable was hit on the arm and the back and knocked to the ground. Moffat heard the shots and saw the Constable collapse. He continued to make his way to the shop, however, keeping close to the line of the buildings. As he approached the shop he caught sight of the head and shoulders of the gunman as he climbed the gate. Constable Moffat rushed forward and, catching the man off balance as he dropped to the ground, stunned him with his baton. He dragged the man across the street where he summoned police

assistance. Although he had seen his fellow officer shot down Constable Moffat did not hesitate to risk his own life to effect the arrest of a dangerous criminal.

Denis OLIVER, Staff Pilot, No. 5 Civilian Anti-Aircraft Co-operation Unit, Llanbedr.

Mr. Oliver was the pilot of a Firefly aircraft which crashed, due to engine failure, and immediately caught fire. Oliver succeeded in escaping from the aircraft without injury but saw that his observer was badly injured and unable to extricate himself from the wreckage. Oliver returned to the blazing aircraft and found that the rear hood of the observer's cockpit was jammed. He managed to open the centre hood and, by leaning over the fuselage fuel tank, he was able to reach into the flames and release the observer's safety harness. By this time the observer had lost consciousness, but Oliver dragged him forward to safety. Mr. Oliver was aware that the fuselage fuel tank would explode at any time but, nevertheless, with great courage and complete disregard of his own safety, he continued with the rescue operation. By returning to the aircraft, he sustained severe burns which necessitated lengthy hospital treatment, but his courage and calmness undoubtedly saved the life of the observer.

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

Bernard BRIDDON, Police Constable, Nottinghamshire Constabulary. (Newark.)

Two men who had escaped from Rampton State Institution, and who were known to be armed with a loaded shotgun, were reported to be approaching Newark on a stolen motor-cycle. Constable Briddon, who was on duty at a check point, saw the motor-cycle coming towards him and signalled to the driver to stop. The machine failed to stop and the driver attempted to elude the Constable by swerving the machine around him. Briddon grabbed the pillion passenger, which caused the motor-cycle to skid and the two men fell off the machine to the ground. Briddon recognised them as the escaped prisoners and closed with the one who had been driving the machine. At this point the pillion passenger undid his coat and pulled out from beneath it a sawn-off shotgun, at the same time stepping back a few paces. The Constable retained hold of the driver and went towards the man who was pointing the gun at him, telling him to drop the gun. He refused to do this but the Constable continued forward, took hold of the barrel of the gun and managed to get it away. Other Police Officers then arrived at the scene and the two men were taken into custody.

John Harwood CARR, Sergeant 3rd Class, New South Wales Police Force.

Alexander Robert EGOROFF, Constable 1st Class, New South Wales Police Force.

Sergeant Carr and Constable Egoroff were informed by a man that his wife had fired several shots at him with a .22 calibre rifle. They immediately left for the house and while approaching it a shot was fired at them by

the woman in the house from a distance of 100 yards. A further two shots were fired at them when they were about 80 yards from the house. The woman was informed of their identity and requested to put the firearm away. A further shot was fired and struck the ground in front of them. Sergeant Carr instructed Constable Egoroff to attempt to approach the house from the rear. Whilst the Constable was approaching the rear of the premises, the woman fired three shots in his direction. The woman then left the house and walked into the back yard of the premises carrying the rifle. She fired a further shot at the Sergeant which struck the ground in front of him. He again requested the woman to put the rifle down and commenced to walk towards her. When he was about 50 yards from her, she fired another shot at him but by this time Constable Egoroff had reached the rear of the premises and immediately the last shot was fired at the Sergeant, ran towards the woman. She swung around and fired a shot at the Constable when he was only about three yards from her. The Constable grappled with the woman and with the help of the Sergeant disarmed her. The last shot fired by the woman inflicted a minor wound to the Constable's right ear, as well as inflicting powder burns to his face.

Kenneth CORDNER, Sergeant, Royal Ulster Constabulary. (Brookeborough, Co. Fermanagh.)

An armed attack was made on Brookeborough Royal Ulster Constabulary Station by members of the Irish Republican Army. Sergeant Cordner was in charge of the Station and at 7 p.m. as he was in the act of opening the front door he was met by a burst of machine gun fire. He immediately closed the door, raised the alarm and directed his men to take up previously arranged positions. The Sergeant seized his sporting shot gun, rushed up the stairs, discharged both barrels at the raiders and then engaged them with rifle fire. Fire was then directed by the raiders at this window. The Sergeant moved into the next room in which a Bren gun was mounted and loaded. He fired this gun in the direction of the attackers. Heavy automatic fire was then directed against the window from which the Sergeant was firing, but notwithstanding this he held on to his position until the raiders withdrew in a lorry. During the attack, which lasted ten minutes, several grenades were thrown at the Station. Windows were smashed by the raiders' gun fire and the outside of the building covered with bullet marks. The lorry was found later with the bodies of two of the raiders. Sergeant Cordner acquitted himself with great distinction during the attack and proved a daring and gallant leader.

John Linton de GREFF, Farmer, Sminhay Farm, Marshwood, Dorset.

A man who had been digging a well in his garden was missing. A search was made and groans were heard coming from the well. The shaft of the well was 30 feet deep, but only 2 feet 6 inches wide. A neighbour descended the well by means of a ladder but when half-way down was obliged to

return to the top, the air being very foul. de Greeff, secured by a rope, then made the descent and found a man at the bottom. He tied his rope around the man who was pulled up. de Greeff climbed the ladder and guided the body to the top. Despite artificial respiration the man died soon after he was brought to the surface.

Cecil FERGUSON, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary. (Derrylin, Co. Fermanagh.)

Derrylin Police Station was subjected to a heavy and sustained attack by armed raiders who, with heavy explosives, breached the front door of the Station. The Station party consisted of a Sergeant and four Constables and one of the Constables was fatally injured in the attack. After the first burst of machine gun fire Constable Ferguson rushed upstairs so that he could better his position, firing at such targets as he could see. He had just entered one bedroom which overlooks the rear of the Station when a hand grenade was thrown in through the window. A heavy explosion occurred at the front door which caused widespread damage to the Station premises. The ceiling fell on the Constable and the stairway was demolished, but this did not in any way deter him from continuing to engage the raiders. The whole place was in complete darkness as the electricity supply was damaged in the explosion. The attack continued for twenty minutes during which time Constable Ferguson kept up a devastating fire on the attackers. When the raiders retreated he continued to display the same coolness, untiring effort and courageous sense of duty in pursuing the attackers to the Eire Border, to which they had fled.

Jack Warran LANE, Foreman, Conrad Mine, New South Wales.

Lane and two other miners were working at the ore face of the Conrad Mine and had bored nineteen holes which were then loaded with explosives and fused. Lane went down the drive to warn workers that firing was about to take place. In the meantime the other men commenced lighting the fuses. Lane returned to the face and after seeing both men pick up their lamps, turned to walk away. When about 30 feet from the face an explosion occurred which blew out his lamp leaving the area in complete darkness. By the time Lane relit his lamp one of the men staggered out, bleeding, and told him that the other was lying on the ground. At that moment, a second explosion occurred but Lane continued to the face, found the injured man and started to carry him down the drive. He had gone only a short distance when two other explosions occurred, knocking him to his knees, but he regained his feet and managed to carry the man to safety.

Alexander Victor NANGIBO, Postal Officer and Telegraphist, Federation of Nigeria.

Nangibo displayed exceptional courage and initiative at Maiduguri, Northern Region, when a masked robber entered the Post Office and demanded at pistol point the cash which the Postmaster was checking.

Nangibo, single-handed and unarmed, tackled the thief, tore off his mask and prevented the robbery. The thief escaped but Nangibo, who was hurt in the struggle, immediately telephoned the Police to whom he gave information which led to an arrest and conviction for armed robbery.

Desmond James SHEEHAN, Constable, Queensland Police Force, St. George.

A man, who was known to be of unsound mind, became out of control, attacked his brother with an iron bar, entered a café, smashed the fittings and threatened the proprietor. He then attacked another man and commenced to smash doors and windows of public buildings. Constable Sheehan arrived on the scene and was advised not to take action by himself but to get some further Police assistance. Sheehan indicated that there was no time to seek assistance and approached the madman who raised the iron bar in a threatening manner and walked towards the Constable telling him at the same time to go away. Sheehan, however, immediately tackled the man and a fierce struggle ensued. The two men eventually fell down on the footpath. Others then came to the Constable's assistance and the deranged man was subdued.

Leslie Woodroe SINGER, Head Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary. (Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh.)

An armed attack was launched on Brookeborough Royal Ulster Constabulary Station by members of the Irish Republican Army. At the time of the attack Head Constable Singer was seven miles away at another Police Station. He left immediately with a mobile party and on arrival learned that the attackers had fled in the direction of the Eire frontier, and that they had left behind them at the front door of the Station two unexploded hand-made high explosive bombs and a large hand-grenade. He sent his mobile party to pursue the raiders while he remained behind to deal with the explosives. Brookeborough Police Station is situated in the centre of a populated village and the Head Constable quickly realised that the explosive missiles should be rendered harmless with the greatest possible speed. One bomb consisted of 10 one pound sticks of gelignite packed in a seven pound toffee tin. The second bomb consisted of 24 one pound sticks of gelignite packed in a biscuit tin. The pin had been removed from the grenade and the lever detached. The Head Constable, with no regard for his own safety, undertook the work of rendering the missiles harmless. This he did with speed and skill.

*Queen's Commendations for Brave Conduct :—*

William George BASTIN, Station Officer, Dorset Fire Brigade. (Charmouth.)

Laurence HAYES, Constable, Dorset Constabulary. (Bridport.)

For services when two men were overcome at the bottom of a well.

Alfred BRIGGS, Sub-District Commandant, Ulster Special Constabulary. (Armagh, County Armagh.)

Joseph James McGAUGHEY, B.E.M., Sergeant Instructor, Ulster Special Constabulary. (Armagh, County Armagh.)

Malcomson McKEOWN, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary. (Armagh, County Armagh.)

Charles Alexander Stanley MORROW, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary. (Armagh, County Armagh.)

For services when armed raiders attacked Gough Military Barracks.

JAWATAN bin Biking, Village Headman, Kampong Kuala, Papar District, North Borneo.

For services when a murderous assault was made on a District Officer.

Frederick MORRISON, Constable, Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary. (Dumfries.)

For services when helping to arrest an armed criminal.

James Winton NORMAN, Constable, Metropolitan Police Force. (Hackney, London.)

For pursuing and trying to arrest a man driving a car containing stolen property.

Ozir Hassan RAIF, Special Constable, Cyprus Police Force.

For seizing a grenade which was liable to explode and throwing it out of lethal range of his comrades.

Mehmet RESHAT, Police Sergeant, Cyprus Police Force.

For services when attempting to arrest an armed man.

Anthony Andrew TAYLOR, Agricultural Apprentice, Kenilworth, Warwickshire.

For services when a farmer was attacked by a bull.

Marjorie Emmeline Mrs. WAGNER, Lady Wood, Weston, Nottinghamshire.

For services when two dangerous criminals escaped from Rampton State Institution.

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