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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.

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*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