

of life and less general damage. Accordingly the Port Services tug accompanied by the Police launch with the fire crew, towed the schooner towards some waste land about three-quarters of a mile away. It was two hours after sunset and there was no moon. The operation was carried out with great skill and complete disregard of personal danger, but after towing the schooner for over half an hour the Port Services tug had to retire, due to shallow water, when the schooner was about a hundred yards from land. Mr. Bloom, however, used his launch and crew to push the schooner further in-shore, as near as possible to the selected point. At this stage the intensity of the fire was increasing very rapidly. The schooner finally went aground about twenty-five yards from the shore. As the tide turned there was a danger that she might move out of the range of the fire equipment which had by this time been set up as close as possible to the beached vessel, but Mr. Bloom managed to pass a rope from her stern to a post some thirty yards away in order to hold her. The Chief Fire Officer and Mr. Bloom boarded the schooner where the former set a foaming branch pipe into the forward hatch. About two hours later the Chief Fire Officer returned again to the burning ship which he still found to be in a highly dangerous state. He re-arranged the branch pipe and went back to the shore. He made a further inspection of the schooner a few hours later and decided that the risk of an explosion and a major fire had passed. Fire operations continued until 2.30 a.m. when the fire was extinguished. During the whole of the operation Mr. Cox and Mr. Bloom were in the gravest danger of being killed immediately had the schooner with its highly dangerous cargo blown up. Their calm and cool leadership was quite outstanding and their actions throughout were the biggest factor in preventing what might well have been a major disaster.

Captain Davies, without hesitation, took his tug alongside the burning schooner and commenced fire fighting operations. He knew of the imminent danger of an explosion and that, had such an explosion taken place, his tug and his crew would almost certainly have been obliterated in the subsequent blaze. Notwithstanding this knowledge he not only persevered in towing the schooner away from the harbour, but remained with it until his tug grounded.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

**ATHUMANI** s/o Ramadhani, Constable, Tanganyika Police Force.

A Government Veterinary Officer, accompanied by Constable Athumani and a party of 22 Masai and Waarush tribesmen, went in search of a lion which had killed a cow and mauled a Masai. The lion had been wounded with a spear and the party followed the blood spoor which led them to the undergrowth in which the lion was concealed. Three shots were fired to force the lion to break cover. The party moved forward cautiously, but quite suddenly the lion sprang and started to maul the Veterinary Officer. All the Masai and Waarush tribesmen ran away. Constable Athumani could not fire at the lion, which was on top of the

Officer and was chewing his leg. Using the butt of his rifle as a club Athumani dealt three blows on the head of the lion with all his strength. The lion released the Veterinary Officer and seized Constable Athumani by the right arm, but he struggled violently and the lion released him and ran off.

There is no doubt that by attacking the fully grown lion, which had been maddened by injuries, Constable Athumani saved the life of the Veterinary Officer.

**John Christopher STRICKFUSS**, Constable 1st Class, Queensland Police Force, Cannon Hill, Brisbane.

Early one morning, Constable Strickfuss was at home when he heard the sound of rifle shots coming from a house nearby. He went into the roadway and saw smoke coming from the house. He ran back to his own home, obtained a garden hose and returned to the burning building. He was familiar with the layout of the building and ran towards the water tap at the front, intending to connect his garden hose to the tap. When he was six or seven yards from the house about five rifle shots were fired at him in quick succession. The shots passed slightly behind him. Although himself unarmed the Constable did not hesitate but continued towards the front of the building, ran up the steps and took up a position on the small landing giving access to the front door. He tried to open the door, but it was locked. He then looked through the window and saw a man, holding a rifle, coming towards him. The Constable crouched down below the level of the window sill. There were more rifle shots, a pause, and a single shot. The Constable then ran to the rear of the house. The kitchen door was closed but regardless of the danger Strickfuss quickly opened it and entered the kitchen. There he saw the dead bodies of a woman and three children heaped together on the kitchen floor. The body of a man was lying on the floor near the doorway with a rifle underneath his body. The Constable beat out the fire about the bodies and saw a baby lying face downwards on the floor and alive. The hair on the child's head was smouldering and there was a bullet wound in its foot. Strickfuss smothered the fire and carried the child from the building.

Constable Strickfuss showed great devotion to duty and courage in the face of extreme danger and his prompt action saved the life of the baby.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

**Alexander FORSYTHE**, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary, Londonderry.

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

**Maud MUSSELWHITE**, Woman Sergeant, Royal Ulster Constabulary, Londonderry.

Constable Forsythe and Woman Sergeant Musselwhite, in plain clothes, were on night duty in the dock area of Londonderry. They were paying special attention to electric transformers, cranes, goods sheds and buildings which were all likely targets for attack by terrorists. At about 11 p.m. the two