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**TUESDAY, 4 FEBRUARY, 1958**

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

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

*4th February, 1958.*

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.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

**Allan Thomas MACKAY**, Constable, Queensland Police Force, Jandowae, Queensland.

While some workmen were engaged in ringbarking trees a dispute broke out. One of the men picked up a rifle and shot another through the body, fatally wounding him. He then reloaded the rifle and threatened to shoot the others. The Police were called and an attempt was made to arrest the gunman but it was unsuccessful and the man made off to a nearby camp. Constable MacKay then arrived and when some distance from the camp saw a man come out of a tent carrying a rifle. The Constable and the gunman walked towards each other, the man carrying his rifle in both hands with the barrel pointed towards the Constable. MacKay engaged the man in conversation, at the same time drawing nearer to him. When about two paces away the Constable made a sudden rush and managed to grasp the barrel of the rifle. A violent struggle then ensued but others came to the Constable's assistance and the man was overcome and arrested.

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

**Desmond Maurice CLARKE**, Detective Constable, Essex County Constabulary.

**Eric Theo HITCHCOCK**, Detective Constable, Essex County Constabulary.

Detective Constables Hitchcock and Clarke were keeping observation on certain shops in Laindon when they saw three youths emerge from a yard and climb over a wall. The two officers shone their torches on to the three youths and told them they were police officers, whereupon one youth pointed an air pistol at the Constables and told them to stand back. Clarke and Hitchcock ignored this demand and rushed him. The youth fired the pistol, the pellet striking Hitchcock on the shoulder. The three youths ran away but the two officers chased the one with the gun and caught him after a distance of about 60 yards. He struggled violently, striking out with the gun, which he was still carrying, but was eventually subdued and handcuffed. In his possession, as well as housebreaking implements, was a twelve-inch flick knife. The remaining two youths were subsequently arrested. The two Detective Constables displayed great bravery and devotion to duty in effecting the arrest of an armed criminal.

**Thomas Edward DAVIS**, Overman, Harry Stoke Mine, Gloucestershire.

**Reginald HAYCOCK**, Collier, Harry Stoke Mine, Gloucestershire.

A fall of roof occurred at the Harry Stoke Mine, which completely buried a collier. The roof supports were bending and breaking and it was clear that further falls were likely. In spite of this, Overman Davis and Collier Haycock immediately crawled to the place of the fall and began to move the debris under which the man was buried. To do this they had to lie full length on the floor in a confined space 22 inches high and 3 feet wide. There was no room to use tools so Davis and Haycock began to remove the debris by hand. After working for about

half-an-hour Davis found the buried man who was then still alive, and was able to scrape away the dirt from around him and uncover his face and head. When Davis tried to lift a stone from the man's shoulders, however, another fall occurred which buried him again and partly buried Davis also. Davis was released by Haycock and though both were badly shaken, they resumed digging with their hands. With complete disregard of their own safety they continued working until they had again uncovered the buried man. By this time both men had worked themselves to the point of collapse and they were ordered to withdraw. The man was eventually extricated but was found to be dead.

**Kenneth Frederick GILMOUR**, Detective Sergeant, Third Class, New South Wales Police Force.

A telephone message was received at the Darlinghurst Police Station that a man, armed with a shotgun, had killed another and seriously wounded a woman and then attempted to set fire to some premises. Detective Sergeant Gilmour, accompanied by two other policemen, arrived at the premises shortly afterwards and went to the basement at the rear. A steep and narrow stairway led to the ground floor where a person could be heard moving about. Gilmour, who was armed with his Service weapon, ascended to near the top stair and leaned forward to look around a partition. He saw the man standing in a doorway across the hall pointing a shotgun at him. Gilmour called out that he was a Policeman and directed him to drop the gun. The man stepped towards him and in a position above and slightly to the left of the Detective Sergeant aimed his weapon directly at him. Both discharged their weapons at the same time and the Detective Sergeant was seriously wounded in the right arm. The gunman was fatally wounded. Detective Sergeant Gilmour displayed outstanding courage in ascending the narrow and steep stairway, being fully aware that an armed and desperate man was awaiting his approach and that he would be fired upon when he would be at a considerable disadvantage.

**George Oscar SNALUNE**, Assistant Security Officer, Cyprus Broadcasting Service, Nicosia.

One night a bomb exploded in the transmitter room at the Cyprus Broadcasting Station. Mr. Snalune dashed to the room and threw the main switch. He then entered the transmitter hall, which was full of smoke and fumes and in total darkness, and endeavoured with the aid of a fire extinguisher to put out the fire. Shortly afterwards he was joined by two other members of the staff and with their assistance succeeded in bringing the fire under control. As soon as this had been accomplished, he led his companions in a torch-light search for bombs in the other transmitters. Mr. Snalune, who was first on the scene of the explosion, acted calmly and courageously. He rightly suspected that other bombs were concealed on the premises but carried out his duties without any thought of personal safety.

**Alex THOMPSON**, Fireman, Northumberland Fire Brigade (Pegswood).

A fire appliance was sent from the Morpeth Fire Station to a railway siding near Chevington railway station where a wagon containing heavy ammunition was on fire. The appliance was manned by four firemen of whom Fireman Thompson was designated officer in charge. The men knew that the fire involved explosives. On arrival they found the wagon in an exposed position near to a signal box and two dwelling houses. For thirty minutes, until reinforcements arrived, Thompson directed operations from a raised embankment less than fifty feet away from the burning wagon. There was no intervening cover and while the firemen fought the fire a series of explosions occurred.

**Frank Louis WILKINSON**, General Dealer, Bamber Bridge, Preston.

A motor car was over the pit in a service garage in order that repairs to the petrol pumps could be carried out. The work was being done by an experienced motor mechanic. During the course of the repairs, petrol escaped from a disconnected supply pipe, the mechanic was saturated with petrol and his clothes became ignited. One petrol tank of the car had been drained, 8 or 9 gallons of petrol were in an old oil drum in the pit and petrol was still escaping from the second supply tank in the car. Shouts brought Mr. Wilkinson to the scene by which time the man had struggled to the front of the car and collapsed in the pit where a workman had sprayed him with fluid from a carbon tetrachloride fire extinguisher. Wilkinson descended into the pit although the rear of the car was still blazing and the pit was so full of fumes that he could not see the mechanic's head and shoulders. There was the danger of the petrol tanks exploding and the risk of being gassed from the fumes given off by the carbon tetrachloride, but Wilkinson managed to place a rope around the man's shoulders and he was hauled out. He died from his injuries the following day.

*Queen's Commendations for Brave Conduct* :—  
**Sidney William BACHE** (deceased), Storekeeper, Birmingham.

For services when a Policeman was attacked by a number of men.

**Edward BATES**, Ambulance Station Supervisor, Warlingham Sub-Station, Surrey County Council Ambulance Service. (Croydon.)

For services when an airman was trapped in a crashed aircraft.

**Christopher Valentine BESFORD**, Fireman, Northumberland Fire Brigade. (Bedlington.)

**James Thomas BREEZE**, Fireman, Northumberland Fire Brigade. (Morpeth.)

**Raymond ROCHESTER**, Fireman, Northumberland Fire Brigade. (Morpeth.)

For services when a railway wagon containing ammunition caught fire.

**Charlie BLAKE**, Newsagent, Jandowae, Queensland.

**John Patrick SCARA**, Dairy Officer, Jandowae, Queensland.

For helping the Police to arrest an armed murderer.

Elsie, Mrs. BUCK, Stationwoman, Liverpool Street L.T.E. Station, London Transport Executive. (Romford, Essex.)

George Christopher MANSFIELD, Wood Machinist, Chigwell, Essex.

Benjamin Sidney PIPER, Engineering Craftsman, Loughton, Essex.

For rescuing a woman from the electrified track in the path of a tube train.

Frederick William DOBBS, Depot Foreman, Petrofina (Great Britain) Ltd. (Scunthorpe.)  
Robert Samuel REYNOLDS, Divisional Officer, Lincolnshire - Lindsey Fire Brigade. (Scunthorpe.)

For services when a petrol storage tank caught fire.

Harold Edward JENNER, Civil Servant, Lowestoft, Suffolk.

For rescuing a child from drowning.

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