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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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

27th May, 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:—

William James BISSETT, Weston, New South Wales.

Bissett and a young girl were walking along a rock formation at the foot of a perpendicular cliff-face, at the entrance to Port Stephens, when the girl slipped on the rocks and was washed into the sea which at the time was particularly rough. To save the girl from being battered against the rocks Bissett told her to swim away and he immediately dived, fully clothed, to her rescue. Although washed back on to the rocks by the waves he entered the sea a second time and was able to reach the girl. Owing to the rough seas the youth had considerable difficulty in keeping them both from being smashed on the rocks and it was only after a supreme effort that he was able to tow the girl, who was by this time sick and almost unconscious, to the open sea. The only point at which he could reach safety was a beach $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles away. At one stage a large shark swam close to the couple and currents and winds prevented Bissett reaching the shore for almost three hours. He could have abandoned the girl and saved himself but he kept her afloat until they were sighted by some men who were able to wade into the surf and

bring them on to the beach. The girl was admitted to hospital and responded to treatment. Bissett displayed endurance and courage of an extremely high order.

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

Roland Hugh HUGHES, Motor trader, Heald Green, Cheshire.

Archibald VERTH, Constable, Manchester City Police.

Mr. Hughes was driving his motor car one evening when he saw a man between the front iron gates and the door of a gunsmith's. He saw the man break the glass panel of the door and enter the shop. Hughes drove on until he met Constable Verth in an adjoining street. He told him what had happened and took him back by car to the shop. The Constable shone his torch through the broken panel and saw a man standing behind the counter at the rear of the shop. The Constable called on him to leave the shop but the man applied a light to an object which he was holding and threw it at the Constable. It struck the ground near to the gate where it exploded with a loud report. Constable Verth's clothing was damaged but he was not injured and immediately started to climb the gate. As he did so the man lit another object. The Constable shouted a warning to Hughes, pushed him out of range and at the same time jumped away. There was a further explosion within the doorway of the shop. The Constable sent Mr. Hughes to summon assistance by telephone. In the meantime two further objects had been thrown into the road. There were explosions and damage was caused to the shop premises. The intruder then came out of the shop and commenced to climb the iron gates. Verth ran forward and closed with him. Hughes