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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
 OF KNIGHTHOOD**

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

21st October 1958.

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

GEORGE CROSS

Henry William STEVENS, Constable, Metropolitan Police (Kent).

Constable Stevens was on duty in plain clothes in a police car at Bromley, Kent, with two other police officers, when they received a police radio message to go to a dwelling house, where a burglar alarm system had given an alarm. They went to the house, and two of the officers entered the front garden to search while Constable Stevens went to the rear, which was separated from the road by a high fence. As the Officer reached the rear of the house, a man jumped from the fence, about 5 yards from him; the Constable immediately shouted that he was a police officer and called upon him to stop. The man, however, ran off and the Constable pursued him. After covering about 75 yards, the man turned and pointing a revolver at the Officer threatened to shoot him. Stevens continued running towards the gunman, who, when the Constable was close to him, fired the revolver, the bullet striking Stevens in the mouth, shattering his teeth and part of his jaw bone. In spite of these painful injuries, the Officer threw himself on the man and, wrenching the weapon from him, pinioned him against some railings. The man stopped struggling and intimated that he would yield, but suddenly broke away and ran back along the road. Although bleeding extensively from the mouth and in great pain Constable Stevens pursued the man, who after about 40 yards doubled back and tried to pass him. The Officer again

tackled the gunman, but was unable to prevent him from struggling free, leaving his jacket and coat in the Officer's hands. Stevens, almost on the point of collapse, continued the chase but after a short distance fell to the ground, exhausted. Mainly owing to the jacket and coat which Stevens had succeeded in retaining, the man was traced and later arrested.

Constable Stevens displayed courage of the highest order in disregarding a threat with a firearm, closing with a gunman after being shot in the mouth and, although seriously injured, continuing in his efforts to arrest the criminal.

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

Reginald Herbert BLANCHFORD, M.B.E., Area Commissioner, St. John Ambulance Brigade, Guernsey.

A fifteen year old boy was trapped in a most precarious position on a ledge some sixty feet from the bottom of the cliff at Bon Port, St. Martin's, which is about 200 feet high at this point. The cliff was in a highly dangerous condition with cracks in the crumbling granite face and huge masses of rock loosely poised and likely to fall at the slightest touch. Blanchford knew that any attempt at rescue might result in death or injury from an avalanche of rock and insisted on undertaking the descent alone. He was lowered from the top of the cliff, the configuration of which was

such that he was immediately out of sight of the lowering party and could only make contact with them by signals relayed by watchers posted on projecting points. Blanchford was lowered inch by inch to one side of the boy and then had to make his way laterally along the cliff towards him. As he was lowered, rocks were dislodged and a large boulder hit his crash helmet then struck him a disabling blow on the right arm and thigh. Other stones showered on him and the dust made it difficult to breathe. Suffering from shock and in great pain Blanchford came in sight of the boy who was on a small ledge. Immediately above the boy was a mass of loose rocks and boulders. Blanchford signalled to be lowered to a spot where he might hope to reach the boy without the debris being dislodged by the rope. During this descent an enormous boulder missed him by inches and he was repeatedly struck by smaller rocks. He reached a point where the final descent could safely be begun and the boy was then lowered to the beach. Blanchford's clothing was torn beyond repair and he was severely bruised and lacerated. But for his experience, skill and daring and the outstanding team work of the lowering party, the rescue could not have succeeded.

Dennis Ernest SMITH, Divisional Fire Officer, Mombasa Municipal Fire Brigade.

A newly constructed pit, twenty feet in diameter, which had been excavated to a depth of thirty feet, collapsed, taking with it most of the coral block lining and a considerable quantity of surrounding earth. An African labourer working at the bottom of the pit was trapped by the mass of stone and rubble. The section of the wall still standing was leaning inwards and partly cracked, minor earth falls continued and it appeared that at any moment there would be another major cave-in. Divisional Fire Officer Smith entered the pit and shoring was begun. Two hours later excavation had progressed for a depth of five feet, with a shaft of about three feet in diameter leading down to the trapped man. Smith worked head downwards for half an hour, with two men holding his feet, until it became clear that further excavation had become extremely dangerous. A temporary scaffold was built over the pit and a platform let down inside it in order to remove part of the remaining wall. The work of excavation continued and four hours after first entering, Smith left the pit for the first time for a brief rest. He returned immediately and an hour later warning was given that a heavy fall was imminent. Smith remained below however and ten minutes later one side of the pit top collapsed and nearly three tons of debris fell on to the platform, buckling the steel scaffolding and causing a sag of about twelve inches. By this time the African at the bottom of the shaft was free except for one foot which was pinned by coral blocks. Smith, still working face downwards, was at last able to release the trapped man and he was hauled to safety by ropes. Half an hour later the pit top collapsed, burying all shoring and excavations. Throughout the whole period of eight hours Smith left the pit but once, and most of the time he worked head downwards, held by the feet. He would have had no hope of survival had a further collapse occurred.

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

Wahabi AKANDE, Motor Driver, Ministry of Health, Northern Region, Nigeria.

Akande was helping to refuel motor vehicles attached to an anti-malarial spray team when a drum of petrol ignited and blew up. A moment later two other drums exploded. Two persons standing near Akande were killed. Akande was severely injured by flash burns on his face and limbs, his clothes were partly on fire and his hands badly burned but he immediately ran to his vehicle which was standing nearby and succeeded in driving it away from the scene of the fire. This action undoubtedly reduced the extent of the fire and thus the danger to the town and people of Dogondaji.

Henry James ASHTON, Patrolman, s.s. "Empress of France," Canadian Pacific Steamships, Ltd. (Liverpool.)

John Alphonse WHITTAKER, Patrolman, s.s. "Empress of France," Canadian Pacific Steamships, Ltd. (Liverpool.)

While at sea, a passenger was awakened at about 1.15 a.m. by a fellow passenger who, after making certain allegations against him, fired a revolver which he had concealed beneath a pillow folded over his hand. The bullet missed the passenger, who managed to escape from the cabin and report the incident. Ship's Patrolmen Ashton and Whittaker started to search the ship and at 2.45 a.m. it was reported that the man was hiding on the Promenade Deck. Ashton approached from one direction while Whittaker took another route. Ashton saw the man and went towards him whereupon he pulled a revolver from his pocket and aimed it at Ashton. At that moment Whittaker came through adjacent swing doors and Ashton seizing the opportunity leaped at the gunman. The man fired at Ashton, but the shot missed him narrowly. Whittaker also seized the man and after a struggle he was disarmed. The revolver still contained six rounds of ammunition. The man was later found to be insane.

Albert Edwin JONES, Fireman, London Fire Brigade. (Enfield.)

A fire broke out in a three storied terraced house at Stamford Hill. When the fire brigade arrived the ground floor was ablaze and four people were trapped on the first floor. Owing to the sloping nature of the ground the wheeled escape on the first appliance to arrive could not be used and a ladder was brought to the window of the room in which the people were trapped. One man escaped down the ladder which began to sink into the ground and a woman who started to climb down it fell into the basement area. Another fire appliance then arrived and a 30 foot extension ladder was used to reach the first floor window. Fireman Jones then ascended the ladder. Smoke and flames pouring from the broken ground floor window caused his lips to swell and crack and although a water screen was ordered to cover his ascent, it did not come into operation in time. As Jones reached the open window he saw a woman about to faint. He caught her and despite the intense heat from below, carried her down the ladder, through the flames from the ground floor window, to safety.

Without hesitation in appalling conditions and despite extensive burns, Jones successfully carried out his rescue. There is little doubt that his courage and devotion to duty were directly instrumental in saving the life of the woman.

Henry Montgomery McCULLOUGH, Sergeant Royal Ulster Constabulary, Armagh, County Armagh.

Early one morning, Sergeant McCullough saw a suitcase at the front door of a Police Station. A brown paper parcel was tied to the suitcase with heavy string and flex wires led from the case to the street for a distance of about eight feet. As it had all the appearance of a booby trap or time bomb the Sergeant immediately ordered the men of his Station into the yard at the rear of the building and placed some of them on duty in the streets leading towards the Station to prevent anyone from approaching. After taking these precautions the Sergeant began a closer examination of the bomb. Although the presence of wires seemed to indicate that the bomb was designed for electrical detonation the Sergeant knew that these could have been placed there for the purpose of camouflage with the intention of inducing the police to move it and thus cause it to explode. The situation of the bomb constituted a grave danger to the inhabitants of the area, and the Sergeant, therefore, decided to remove the bomb at once and not wait the arrival of military experts. Although fully aware that his life was in very real danger he picked up the suitcase and carried it away from the Station to a blank gable wall on some waste ground at a safe distance away where, if it exploded, infinitely less danger to life and property would result. Subsequent examination of the suitcase and the parcel by experts revealed that it was a very heavy and dangerous type of bomb containing some 62-lbs. of explosives of the gelnite and gun cotton type, as well as five detonators.

Sergeant McCullough displayed great gallantry with an utter disregard for his own personal safety.

John James SMYTH, Sergeant, Royal Ulster Constabulary, Armagh, County Armagh.

While on his way to duty, Sergeant Smyth saw three men run across a road and through the gates into the grounds of St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral where they disappeared from his view. A driver of a taxi informed Sergeant Smyth that the three men were armed and had forced him to drive them there from the Police Station. The Sergeant collected a party of Police, returned to the Cathedral grounds, disposed his men to watch the various exits and then entered the building accompanied by a Constable. With the Constable covering him from the main door, Smyth went into the body of the Cathedral alone. On reaching a Confession Box he saw the left-hand door open slightly and at the same time the barrel of a revolver was pointed at him from a curtain in the centre compartment. He called on whoever was inside to put up his hands and come out. One of the compartment doors then opened and a man came out with his hands up. The Sergeant went to the centre compartment of the Confessional and saw a second man with a revolver hanging

from a cord around his neck. In the third compartment a man was found in a crouched position on the floor of the Confessional. He was brought out with his hands up and a revolver was taken from under a pullover he was wearing. The weapons with which the three men were armed were fully-loaded heavy calibre revolvers. The Sergeant brought the three men to his Station in Armagh where they admitted being responsible for leaving a large bomb outside the Royal Ulster Constabulary Station only a few minutes before they were first seen by Sergeant Smyth.

Sergeant Smyth acted with courage, coolness and initiative.

Stewart John WINTER, Constable, Metropolitan Police. (London W.4.)

Shortly after midnight, Police Constable Winter saw a man get out of a jeep and go into a shop entrance. As Winter crossed the road there was a sound of glass being smashed and the man ran back to the jeep. Winter flashed his torch and called on the man to stop but the jeep was driven straight at him. As it went by, he managed to jump on to the bonnet. The man drove about 150 yards down the road, zigzagging from side to side in order to throw the officer off, but Winter managed to retain his hold until the vehicle collided with some pedestrian guard rails. The force of the impact was such that the rails were uprooted and the vehicle extensively damaged. Winter was thrown over the rails and, apart from being badly shaken, received abrasions to his shins and left knee and injury to his right foot and elbow. The man abandoned the vehicle and ran off, but, despite his injuries, Winter immediately gave chase and, after some 80 yards, overtook the fugitive and closed with him. The man struggled violently, but another constable arrived and the criminal was overcome and arrested.

Queen's Commendations for Brave Conduct

Satill BANDA, Labourer, Public Works Department, Broken Hill, Northern Rhodesia.

For services when an accident occurred on a borehole site.

Edward CLAYTON, Ganger, Spring Head, Near Oldham, Lancashire.

For rescuing a man from drowning.

Charles John CLEMENTS, Chief Prison Officer, H.M. Prison, Parkhurst.

For services when a prisoner attempted to escape from H.M. Prison, Parkhurst.

Arthur Graham Ferguson COLLINS, Superintendent, Liverpool City Police.

For services when an aircraft crashed into the River Mersey.

Phillip HOGGARD, Constable, Metropolitan Police. (London E.13.)

For services when a basement Club was set on fire.

Raymond LARWOOD, Sub-Officer, Nottinghamshire Fire Brigade. (Hucknall.)

For rescuing a girl from a disused well shaft.

Andrew Norman McMAHON, Constable, Ulster Special Constabulary, Armagh, Co. Armagh.

For services when three armed criminals were arrested following a bomb outrage.

Ian MacTAGGART, Constable, Glasgow City Police Force.

Fred RILEY, Constable, Glasgow City Police Force.

For services when a fire broke out in a tenement property.

Ivor PRICE, Senior Overman, Elliot Mine, Monmouthshire. (New Tredegar.)

For services when an accident occurred in a coal mine.

Jasper Peter VIBART, Sergeant, Metropolitan Police. (London S.W.18.)

John Joseph PERKINS, Constable, Metropolitan Police. (London E.17.)

For effecting the arrest of an armed criminal.

Dennis Robert WHITTALL, Constable, Wolverhampton Borough Police.

For services when five men attempted to rob a Sports Club.

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