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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
 THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

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

21st April 1959.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned awards of the George Medal and 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 :

Brian GIBBONS,
 Schoolboy,
 Southall,
 Middlesex.

An aircraft crashed into some houses causing severe damage and setting the houses on fire.

Brian Gibbons was sleeping with his nephew in the front bedroom of one of the wrecked houses. He was awakened by the crash to find the room full of smoke. He wrapped his nephew in a blanket and tried to carry him down the stairs but was driven back by the flames and sustained severe burns on the chest. He went back to the bedroom, which had by then caught fire, put his nephew on the bed, and opened the window. People in the front garden shouted to him to jump, but he turned back into the room for his nephew who had, in the meantime, fallen to the floor. The room was full of smoke and thinking the child had gone to the stairs, Gibbons went to the landing to look for him despite the appalling risk he ran in doing so. He was again severely burnt, this time on the face and hands, and was partly overcome by fumes. He re-entered the bedroom and stumbled over the child on the floor. He picked him up, carried him to the window and pushed him out. The child was caught by

bystanders. Gibbons managed to get on to the window sill, dropped out and was caught by a man standing below. As he did this all the skin came away from the boy's chest. Brian Gibbons' action in deliberately turning his back on safety and searching for his young nephew, showed coolness and courage and a complete lack of panic.

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

Saleh Ali AFFARA,
 Technical Assistant,
 Aden Broadcasting Service.

On arriving for work one morning, Saleh Ali Affara noticed a shiny object partly hidden in the loose sand close to the front wall of the broadcast studio building and, after scraping some of the sand away with his hand, discovered that it was a block of high explosive with a pencil-type time-fuse attached. He arranged for people to be kept away while he cleared all the sand from the bomb and then, with complete disregard for his own personal safety, he moved it to the centre of a large open space away from all buildings. Army explosives experts were summoned and disposed of the bomb.

Saleh Ali Affara was fully aware of the great danger to himself while removing the bomb to a place of comparative safety.

Cecil Wallace David ALLEN,
 Newsagent,
 Congresbury.

Eric Harold AUSTIN,
 Licensee,
 Old Inn,
 Congresbury.

Early one morning a mentally deranged man was seen on a seat at the cross roads at

Congresbury holding a shot gun in a menacing manner. His brother tried to persuade him to hand over the gun but he refused and lunged at him with a large sheath knife. He was next seen by Mr. Austin. He was still carrying the shot gun and told Austin it was loaded and that he was going to shoot a Policeman. Austin tried to persuade him to hand over the gun and go home quietly, but he refused. The Police were called and went with Austin towards the man's caravan. As they did so a shot was fired and the man appeared carrying two shot guns. He had a large sheath knife between his teeth. He fired two or three shots at the Policeman and then fired two shots into a Police patrol car, doing extensive damage. Mr. Austin was by now within 15 yards of the man trying to reason with him, and he followed him up to the village, always within a few yards of him trying to persuade him to put the guns down. The man kept in the open and after firing several more shots at Police Officers he went into the side door of Allen's shop. It was clear to Mr. Allen that the man was in a most dangerous mood, and that it would be an almost certain fatal risk for any Police Officer to try and get near him. Allen picked up a walking stick, came up behind the man and struck a blow on his head, causing him to drop both guns, but he turned and with considerable ferocity he stabbed Allen twice in the stomach with the sheath knife. Allen managed to hang on to the man until Austin and the Police Officers ran forward and overpowered him.

Gerald HEAPHY,
Fitter's Mate,
Acton,

London W.3.

An explosion occurred at a factory when a valve broke on a horizontal ammonia compressor. The highly saturated ammonia fumes poured out of the fractured valve, and a workman was overcome. Heaphy, who was about to enter the compressor room at the time of the explosion, went into the room but had to retreat because of the fumes, which formed a dense white fog about four feet high from the floor. Heaphy put on a gas mask, which was suitable only for low concentrations of ammonia, and went into the room to the rescue of the unconscious workman. He found him lying on his back on the floor close to the damaged compressor, and tried to lift him, but was unable to do so. By this time the fumes had penetrated Heaphy's clothes and gas mask. He nevertheless managed to get hold of the man's legs and dragged him across the floor and, by lifting and half dragging him over the concrete platform of another compressor and through the compressor room, got him to the door. Heaphy then took off his gas mask to get fresh air, put it on again and re-entered the room from another doorway in an attempt to close the delivery valves. The workman died in hospital the next day as a result of inhaling fumes. Heaphy, who suffered burns on the chest, neck and right hand, realised the risk of gassing or of burning from contact with liquid ammonia involved in entering the compressor room wearing an unsuitable gas mask, but did not hesitate in making the attempt to save his workmate.

Gordon William MOUATT,
Sergeant,
Queensland Police Force.

Terence Norman FERGUSON,
Detective Constable,
Queensland Police Force.

Vaughan Francis GOOLEY,
Constable,
Queensland Police Force.

Ronald Robert ROBINSON,
Ambulance Bearer,
Queensland Ambulance Brigade.

A cyclone struck the township of Bowen causing great damage to property. Sergeant Mouatt summoned all available Police, and they carried out protective measures to save life and property. Shortly after 7 p.m. the whole of the township was completely blacked out, and this condition remained throughout the night. At 8 p.m. the gale force winds increased to terrifying velocity. A large portion of the approach to a wharf was carried away and debris dislodged girders and stanchions which were strewn over the permanent way of the railway line. Heavy seas were breaking against the superstructure of the remainder of the jetty and it was raining heavily. During the progress of the cyclone Sergeant Mouatt, Constable Gooley and Detective Constable Ferguson together with Ambulance Bearer Robinson displayed exceptional bravery in assisting persons to safety and in restoring radio communication. They carried out their duties during the full period of the cyclone at considerable risk to their own lives.

Joseph Marshall NELSON,
Plumber's Mate,
Glasgow.

Two brothers aged 7 and 9 years and a companion aged 9 years were playing on the ice on the Firhill Timber Basin when the ice gave way and the two older boys fell into the water 50 feet from the north bank of the Basin. The youngest boy made good his escape and shouted for help. A number of passers-by made several unsuccessful attempts to rescue the drowning boys. Mr. Nelson had witnessed the commotion from his house and ran the distance of about half a mile over a rough and icy road to the canal side of the Basin which was nearer to the position of the boys. He then made his way on hands and knees over the ice until it gave way under him and he went into the water. By this time, only one boy could be seen and Mr. Nelson swam the remaining few feet to him, took hold of him and swam back to the edge of the ice. As the ice kept breaking Nelson was unable to lift the boy to relative safety until he was thrown a rope from the bank. As rescuer and rescued were towed ashore, Nelson broke the ice with his elbows and forearms until firm ice was reached. The rescued boy was conscious throughout but was suffering from shock, exposure and bruising to the face. Mr. Nelson sustained extensive cuts to the body, arms and hands caused by the breaking ice. The body of the other boy concerned was not recovered until later.

Fred TUPLIN,
Inspector,
North Riding of Yorkshire Constabulary,
Whitby.

Wilfred Allen HINCHLIFFE,
Coastguardsman,
Whitby.

A live German mine was washed towards the sea wall at Sandsend by a heavy sea. Inspector Tuplin and Coastguard Hinchliffe, on hearing that the mine was likely to explode against the sea wall, which is only separated from houses on the sea front by a narrow road, entered the sea with ropes and, after a struggle, were successful in securing the mine to a groyne on the beach. Owing to the nearness of the houses on the sea front, there is no doubt that there would have been great damage and possibly loss of life if the mine had exploded. The mine was later de-fused by the Bomb Disposal Squad and burnt out on the beach. The two men showed no regard for their own safety and risked their lives in dealing with the mine in a rough sea.

Queen's Commendations for Brave Conduct :

William Ernest ALLEN, Postal and Telegraph Officer, Cambridge Heath Road Post Office, Bethnal Green, London. (Canning Town.)
Robert Beavis BERRY, Constable, Metropolitan Police. (Leyton.)

For services during an attempted armed robbery.

Royce Lawrence ATHERTON, Foulden, Queensland.

Desmond John BARNES, Cane Farmer, Farleigh, Queensland.

Hugh Mervyn BRAKE, Farleigh, Queensland.

George Michael DEGUARA, Cane Farmer, Farleigh, Queensland.

Joseph SCHEMBRI, Cane Farmer, Farleigh, Queensland.

Paul SCHEMBRI, Cane Farmer, Farleigh, Queensland.

Patrick Sarsfield TALTY, Constable, Queensland Police Force, Farleigh.

John VELLA, Farleigh, Queensland.

Joseph VELLA, Farleigh Queensland.

For services during the floods in the Mackay area of Queensland during February, 1958.

Frederick Adlington BADDELEY, Sergeant, Cyprus Police Force.

For services when a police car was ambushed by terrorists.

Reginald Harold BISHOP, Driver-in-Charge, Gloucestershire County Council Ambulance Service (Tewkesbury).

Horace Henry WALKER, Driver Attendant, Gloucestershire County Council Ambulance Service (Tewkesbury).

For rescuing the Master of a motor vessel which had crashed into the piers of a bridge.

Cecil Ransome BLISS, Farmer, Carlton, Bedfordshire.

For services when a bull attacked and injured a farmer.

Peter William BOWLER, Constable, Birmingham City Police.

For services when arresting a criminal on the roof of a building.

Carol McDonald CHRISTIE, Subordinate Officer, Barbados Fire Service.

For attempting to rescue two men from a well.

John Donald Kincaid CUMMING, Constable, Ross and Cromarty Constabulary. (Alness.)

For attempting to rescue a man from a burning house.

Percy Ivor DEXTER, Sub-Postmaster, Vauxhall Sub-Office, London. (Lewisham.)

For services when four men attempted to rob a sub-post office.

Alfred Oliver DYER, Grade "A" Motor Mechanic, Public Works Department, Fiji.

For rescuing two children from a burning store.

John Charles EMSLIE, Pile-boring machine worker, Grimsby.

For attempting to rescue a work-mate who had fallen into a deep open bore-hole.

James William GREGORY (deceased), Lorry Driver, Bromley, Kent.

Frank John TAYLOR, Sales Representative, Bromley, Kent.

For attempting to rescue a child from a burning house.

Bertram Percy HART, Member, Refinery Fire Brigade, B.P. Refinery (Kent) Ltd. (Gillingham.)

For services when a fire broke out in an oil refinery.

David John HAYTON (deceased), Schoolboy, Wetherby, Yorkshire.

For rescuing a girl from drowning.

Maurice Frederick HOLLIS, Station Officer, Northamptonshire Fire Brigade (Rushden.)

For rescuing a man from a burning factory.

Frederick Claude JONES, District Engineer, Khanaqin Oil Company, Baghdad.

For services during disturbances in Baghdad in July, 1958.

Gilbert Hackford LONGMAN, Postal and Telegraph Officer, South Eastern District Office, London. (Catford.)

For services when three armed men robbed a sub-post office.

William George LORAINS, Labourer, Whitby.

For attempting to rescue a work-mate from drowning.

John OXSPRING, Fireman, Leicestershire and Rutland Fire Brigade. (Loughborough.)

For rescuing a woman from drowning.

Miss Lilian Edith SALTER, Matron, Grade 1, Queen Elizabeth Oversea Nursing Service, Mbale, Uganda.

For services when a madman ran amok in a hospital.

William Frederick TOMLINSON, Constable, Kingston upon Hull City Police.

For attempting to rescue a boy who was trapped in the culvert of a tidal drain.

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