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FRIDAY, 14TH AUGUST 1959

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF  
 THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

14th August 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 :*

Ronald Henry PETERS, Member of Rescue Party,  
 Peak Cavern, Castleton.

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

Leslie Bryan SALMON, Member of Rescue Party,  
 Peak Cavern, Castleton.

John Alfred THOMPSON, Member of Rescue  
 Party, Peak Cavern, Castleton.

A party of pot-holers entered the Peak Cavern, Castleton, Derbyshire, to explore a newly discovered cavern. Leading off the inner limit of the Cavern is a passage  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length, which can only be traversed with the greatest difficulty leading to a smaller cavern containing a rock chimney. A party of pot-holers had reached the inner cavern and one of them entered the rock chimney for the purpose of exploration. Owing to a twist in the chimney and the narrow confines of the aperture he became trapped 47 feet below the surface. He made his descent at about 4 p.m. and it was shortly afterwards that it was realised by his companions that he was trapped.

The chimney descends at a fairly steep angle and is about 2 feet wide with a corkscrew twist about 18 feet down. The man was trapped in a slit 47 feet below. A rope had been passed to him which he had secured around himself but due to the clefts in the walls and the twisting nature of the chimney, when attempts were made to pull him up the strain was too great and the rope broke. The attempt was repeated several times with the same result. Salmon led a rescue party to the inner cavern and reached it at 8 p.m. A pulley block was rigged over the head of the chimney and Salmon descended the chimney with an oxygen cylinder on a separate rope. Despite the use of oxygen, the air was so foul he was compelled to withdraw. He lowered the oxygen cylinder as far as he could down the chimney on the rope and left it. Another cylinder of oxygen was used in a similar manner, and Salmon was able to get within about 10 feet of the trapped man before the air condition forced him to withdraw again. The man was by this time unconscious and unable to help himself. A fresh party headed by Thompson arrived at 2 a.m. Although he knew that carbon-dioxide gas was present Thompson descended the chimney and made a determined effort to reach the unconscious man. He saw that the situation was desperate, and sent word out for more oxygen and tubing with which to feed it into the chimney. He was then pulled out. At 2 a.m. Peters was called from his bed by the police and readily volunteered to help. He arrived at the inner cavern at about 4.30 a.m. and was then warned that carbon-dioxide was in the chimney. Realising the narrowness of the chimney Peters removed his rubber exposure suit, sweater and boiler suit, tied himself to a life line and commenced his descent. He managed to negotiate the bend and looking

down between his feet he saw the head and shoulders of the unconscious man. Peters had a supply of oxygen but this was soon expended and he became light headed owing to the presence of gas and was in such a bad condition that his colleagues brought him to the surface. He rested for some time and on the arrival of more oxygen he decided to make another attempt. He went down as before, taking the tubes to provide oxygen with him on this occasion and on reaching the bend the oxygen was turned on. He reached his previous lowest point and then continued on. The chimney got considerably narrower and eventually he got so near to the trapped man that his boots were touching the man's helmet. It was so narrow that he could not get his hands down to give any assistance but he managed to secure a life line to the broken rope. The man was moved about 18 inches but then became completely jammed. By this time Peters was himself almost unconscious but with the help of the rescuers above was able to reach the top of the chimney where he collapsed. All efforts failed to release the trapped man but rescue parties continued their efforts until it was confirmed that life was extinct.

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

Richard Swift CLAY, Constable, Brighton Police Force.

Peter RUBIDGE, Constable, Brighton Police Force.

Constables Rubidge and Clay, were patrolling in the London Road area when they saw a car, reported to have been stolen. They followed it and Constable Clay, who was driving the police car, was able to pull in front of the stolen car, thus preventing it being driven further. Constable Rubidge immediately went to the driver's side of the stolen vehicle and Constable Clay to the near side. Rubidge spoke to the driver, then reached into the car, switched off the engine and removed the ignition key. The officer then saw that the driver was holding an automatic pistol. He heard a click and realised that the pistol had been "cocked" and was pointed at his stomach. Without hesitation both Constables tackled the man and after a fierce struggle

removed him from the car and arrested him. When examined the automatic pistol was found to be fully "cocked" and had a magazine containing nine cartridges and also one cartridge in the chamber ready for firing.

YUSUFU s/o Hassani, Special Constable, Dar es Salaam, Tanganyika.

In Dar es Salaam, shortly after midnight a hue and cry was raised by an African who had been injured whilst attempting to arrest a suspected thief. Special Constable Yusufu, although not on duty at the time, joined in the chase and eventually apprehended the suspect. In the struggle that followed Yusufu was stabbed in the chest and his hands were cut with a knife. The suspect broke free but Yusufu, although wounded, continued the chase and helped to arrest the fugitive.

*Queen's Commendations for Brave Conduct:*

William ALLEN, Collier, Dillwyn No. 1 Mine, Glamorgan.

Clifford LEWIS, Collier, Dillwyn No. 1 Mine, Glamorgan.

Lewis Gwyn LLOYD, Collier, Dillwyn No. 1 Mine, Glamorgan.

William John WILLIAMS, Collier, Dillwyn No. 1 Mine, Glamorgan.

For services when an accident occurred in a coal mine.

John COVILL, Constable, Blackburn Borough Police Force.

Peter HALLIWELL, Constable, Blackburn Borough Police Force.

John HARRISON, Inspector, Blackburn Borough Police Force.

Jack RILEY, Constable, Blackburn Borough Police Force.

For services when apprehending a man armed with a shot gun.

Walter Blair HAMILTON, Machine Operator, East Plean Colliery, Stirlingshire.

For services when an accident occurred in a coal mine.

Frederick John WELLS, Electrician, Battersea, London.

For services when an accident occurred on a building site.

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