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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF  
 THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.  
 5th July 1960.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned awards 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 British Empire Medal for Gallantry  
 (Civil Division):*

Rupert James Cairncross, Senior Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

John Brayshaw, Special Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

A man armed with a tomahawk ran amok in a theatre and, after having struck and injured a number of people, left the theatre in pursuit of a fleeing woman, striking powerful blows at persons within his reach. Brayshaw, an incapacitated ex-serviceman of small stature, saw people running from the theatre and, although not armed, he ran towards the offender, seized him and attempted to take away the tomahawk. The man, who was much stronger and more powerfully built than the Special Constable, delivered a vicious and powerful blow to his right temple. The blow cut through the Constable's cap, inflicted a wound which subsequently required five sutures, and knocked him to the ground where he was again attacked. Senior Constable Cairncross, who was directing traffic nearby when told of the occurrence, immediately ran to the laneway adjoining the theatre where he saw Brayshaw being attacked. On the approach of the Senior Constable the attacker ran at him with the tomahawk raised to strike.

Cairncross closed with the man and overpowered him. Twelve persons had been attacked and injured by the offender, one fatally. Senior Constable Cairncross and Special Constable Brayshaw displayed courage and outstanding devotion to duty.

Walter Herbert Claridge, Driver Mechanic, Bradwell-on-Sea.

Horace George Warner, Motor Mechanic, Thundersley.

An elderly man was driving a motor car when it ran off the road, knocked over several posts and a lamp standard, crashed through a brick wall and finally ended upside down in a ditch. Several men went to the assistance of the two people in the car and managed to get the driver out through the offside door which was upper-most, but it was found that the passenger, his wife, was trapped by her foot in the nearside seat. Owing to the damage by the collisions, and the position of the car, petrol was pouring from it and the danger of fire was apparent to all the helpers. Warner, ignoring the danger from the petrol, climbed inside the car and started to release the woman's foot whilst Claridge leaned into the car to support her. Just as Warner released her foot and the men started to lift her out, the whole car exploded and burst into flames. Claridge, who was badly burned on the arms and face, retained his grip on the woman, and Warner, who was still in the car and received severe burns to his hands, arms, face and ankles, supported her until she was pulled clear. Warner did not attempt to get out until he had seen that the woman was clear, and only then did he jump out himself. Claridge helped to get the woman clear of the car although the skin had been burned completely off his wrist.

Andrew Nicol Cowan, Constable, Ayrshire Constabulary. (Galston.)

Constable Cowan was on duty when he saw columns of smoke and some flames rising from the attics of a house in which a man aged 88 lived alone. The Constable knew this and immediately ran to the rear door of the house and made his way upstairs. The landing was filled with smoke and the furniture was blazing furiously in the attic but Cowan entered and began to search for the occupant and to shout his name but he received no reply and was forced to leave because of the smoke and heat. Cowan ran across the street and asked a woman to summon the fire brigade and notify the police station. He then ran back to the house and repeatedly entered the burning attic in attempts to rescue the old man. The woman had followed the Constable to the house and when he crawled into the attic she grasped hold of his trouser leg so that she could pull him out if he was overcome. The attic by this time was completely ablaze but Cowan remained inside for some minutes shining his torch and searching for the old man. He only came out when forced to do so by the intense heat and smoke. He was urged to leave the building before being trapped or overcome, but although in a very distressed state and hardly able to breathe, he once more crawled inside the attic. The flames had almost reached the landing and he was again forced to leave. At that moment there was a loud explosion and the attic became completely enveloped in flames. Constable Cowan reluctantly left the building as the attic ceiling collapsed.

James Parry, Station Officer, Caernarvonshire County Fire Brigade. (Caernarvon.)

A fire occurred in the kitchen of a first floor flat occupied by a man and his crippled mother. A petrol blow-lamp exploded and the kitchen became enveloped in flames. The man ran to a telephone kiosk and called the fire brigade. Station Officer Parry, who lives nearby, arrived at the house several minutes before the fire appliances and found that dense smoke was issuing from the first floor window and the front door. The top windows of the building were closed. Parry immediately entered the front door and saw that the kitchen and landing were well alight. He ascended the stairs to get to the front room but was prevented from doing so by the strong flames. He retreated half way down the stairs and then made a further attempt, only to be driven down again. Realising that it would be impossible to get through the flames he left the building, climbed a column supporting the entrance porch and was able to clamber over to a balcony outside the front windows of the first floor. He entered one of the windows and made a thorough search of the front sitting room but was unable to find the woman and had to withdraw again to fresh air. Parry then made another attempt and this time fought his way onto the first floor landing, where the fire was

most intense, to a closed doorway which was burning on the outside. He opened the door and crawling into the bedroom saw the woman on the bed. Half crawling and half lifting he succeeded in getting the unconscious woman to the front window balcony. A doctor and a fireman were waiting on the balcony to take her from him and the doctor applied artificial respiration until she recovered.

William Southgate, Erector, Hawthorne Colliery, Murton, Seaham, County Durham. (Houghton-le-Spring.)

A man, equipped with safety harness, was greasing mechanism 80 feet from the bottom of a shaft when a skip descended silently, knocking him from the girder on which he was standing and trapping him between the girder and the bottom of the skip. He was unconscious and sustained severe injuries. Southgate, who was working at the same point, walked along a girder across the open shaft and, realising that if the skip descended further it would crush the man, he tried to lift him clear. He only succeeded, however, in easing him across the girder. He then climbed the ladder to a platform above, from where he telephoned the winding-engineman, warning him not to move the skip, and hurried to summon assistance from three masons who were working some 300 yards away. One of the masons remained at the telephone to give signals to the winding-engineman while the other two descended the ladders with Southgate to the loading point. Southgate again went out on the girder to resume his efforts to release the trapped man but the other two men who had no experience of shaft work did not venture into the shaft. The skip was raised 3 feet and Southgate linked one arm in the skip structure and the other around the casualty, who was pulled up to a safe position in Southgate's arms. He was held in this secure position until the arrival of another skip from the surface with a shaftman and an erector. The three men lifted the unconscious man over the safety fence to the masons who carried him to the surface.

*Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct :*

Olaf DeManbey, Motor Engineer, Basildon.  
Victor Priest, Lorry Driver, Westcliff-on-Sea.  
Bernard Brian Walker, Electronic Engineer, Leigh-on-Sea.

For helping to rescue the occupants of a motor car which crashed, caught fire and exploded.

Thomas Joyce, Cutter Machine Man, St. John's Mine, Normanton, Yorkshire. (Normanton.)

For services when an explosion occurred in a coal mine.

John Walker, Inspector, Peterborough Combined Police Force. (Peterborough.)

For rescuing a child trapped inside a motor car which had plunged into a river.

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