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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
 THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

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

31st January 1961.

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.

Awarded the George Medal:

Richard Charles George RICHINGS, Inspector, Glamorgan Constabulary. (Llantrisant.)

A man, known to be of considerable physical strength, with a bad record of convictions for violence, was driving his car around the Tonyrefail district in a drunken condition. He had been admitted to a mental hospital for treatment some time ago and his actions, particularly when in drink, have resulted in numerous complaints from residents who have been terrorised by him. A Police car was diverted to the area, and Inspector Richings with three other Officers commenced a search. At 5.30 a.m. the man was seen driving his car. The Police Officers shouted to him to stop but he drove on. The Police car followed him and he was seen to stop, get out, reach for a shotgun inside the car and load it. The Police car pulled up ten yards away and the man ran towards the Officers and ordered them to line up, shouting at the same time that he would shoot the Inspector if they did not do so. The Officers lined up, slowly fanned out and moved towards him as they did so. The gunman retreated, levelling the gun towards each Officer in turn. Inspector Richings tried to reason with him and calm him, although it was obvious to all

of the Officers that the man was mentally deranged. The Inspector, although the gun was pointed directly at him, moved slowly towards the man despite repeated warnings that if he came closer he would be shot. Eventually he got within two yards of the gunman with the other Officers ranged on each side. One of the Officers made a sudden movement which caused a momentary distraction. Inspector Richings seized the opportunity to dive forward, grasped the gun and wrested it away. The other Officers at once moved in and overpowered the offender.

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

Thomas Arthur CHESHIRE, Telephone Mechanic, Saltley, Birmingham.

A Bank Manager and his assistant were on duty, attending to four women customers, when two men came into the bank. One took out a shotgun with a sawn-off barrel and pointed it first towards the bank staff and then towards the women and threatened to shoot if they moved. The second man vaulted over the counter and started to stuff pound notes into his pocket. At this stage one of the women dashed towards the front door. She was seized by the gunman but after a struggle broke away and ran across the road to a shop where she telephoned the police. As the woman ran out of the bank, Mr. Cheshire came in. The man with the gun threatened to shoot if he entered but Cheshire pushed the door open a little further. The man then repeated his threat. Despite the fact that the gun was pointing in his direction, Mr. Cheshire attacked the man and there was a fierce struggle. The man struck him with the gun causing an injury to his head which bled freely. The criminal

was obviously frightened by the turn of events and dropping the gun dashed out of the bank followed by his confederate. They made their escape in a car waiting in a side street. Mr. Cheshire showed courage of a high order in attacking the gunman and attempting to seize the gun.

John DADE, Constable, Birkenhead Police Force. (Birkenhead.)

Constable Dade was on his way to duty by motor cycle when he was told that a man in possession of a revolver had attempted to break into a house and had threatened to shoot the occupant. The Constable took a youth from the house on the pillion of his machine and went in search of the gunman. The youth pointed out a man in a lane as being the one with the firearm. Dade called to the man who immediately pulled a pistol from his pocket, aimed it at the officer, and threatened to shoot him. The Constable got off his machine and went towards the man, telling him to drop the gun but the man continued to point it at the officer's head and said he would kill him. The man backed across the road towards a field, still threatening to shoot the officer, who edged towards him and drew his baton with the intention of throwing it at him. When Dade was only a few feet away the man threw a mackintosh over the Constable's head. Dade threw his baton in the direction of the man, tore the coat from his head and gave chase after his assailant over two fields, through two barbed wire fences, across a river and over the railway line but then lost sight of him in the failing light in the wooded countryside. The man was later arrested by two other Constables.

Brian FARTHING, Constable, Plymouth City Police Force. (Plymouth.)

A fire occurred on the second floor of a small three storey boarding house. Constable Farthing saw smoke billowing through windows and the open front door. He was told that the seat of the fire was in an upstairs room and that there was an elderly man in this room. The Constable immediately went to the top of the house and began a search of each room. On the second floor, he came to a back bedroom, the door of which was closed. He opened it and found the interior of the room a mass of flames and full of smoke. He

dashed into the room and saw the outline of a man who was kneeling face downwards on the floor. His clothing had been burnt off and his flesh was on fire. Farthing managed to pull the man out to the landing and attempted to put out the flames. The man was then carried downstairs and taken to hospital.

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct :

Cecil Alfred Richard DANN, Member, Birling Gap Company, Coast Life Saving Corps. (East Dean, Sussex.)

George Elms WORSELL, Member, Birling Gap Company, Coast Life Saving Corps. (East Dean, Sussex.)

For rescuing a man trapped at night on the cliff at Beachy Head.

Francis Stanley DEMAID, Sergeant, Glamorgan Constabulary. (Tonyrefail.)

Kenneth George ARTHUR, Constable, Glamorgan Constabulary. (Tonyrefail.)

William Thomas BROWN, Constable, Glamorgan Constabulary. (Talbot Green.)

For services when arresting a mentally deranged man armed with a loaded shotgun.

Frederick GALE, Master Builder, Plymouth.

For helping in the rescue of a man from a burning house.

George Elson GITTENS, Station Officer, Barbados Fire Service, Bridgetown.

For services when two men were rescued from a well.

Miss Fiona Mary Wright JOHNSTONE, Schoolgirl, Girvan.

Miss Morag Harris LAING, Schoolgirl, Girvan.

For services when a boy got into difficulties swimming in Girvan Harbour.

Peter Terrence RAFTER, Schoolboy, Evesham.

Peter Alan ROGERS, Schoolboy, Evesham.

For rescuing a boy from drowning.

Donald ROBERTSON, Labourer, Kiltarlity, Inverness-shire.

For rescuing a child from a burning house.

Doreen Florence, Mrs. THORNE, Nechells, Birmingham.

For services when armed criminals raided a bank.

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