



SUPPLEMENT TO

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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
25th April 1961.

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 :

James Dickinson APPLEBY, Miner, Alnwick, Northumberland.

The occupier of a house in Alnwick went out for a short period leaving her four children aged between 2 and 5 years asleep in the front upstairs bedroom. She returned after an absence of about twenty minutes and on opening the back door found the house to be full of smoke. She immediately raised the alarm and a number of neighbours, including Appleby, arrived on the scene. On being informed that four children were in bed in an upstairs bedroom Appleby immediately dashed into the house in an attempt to effect their rescue. The heat was too great for him to get through the flames without protection so he turned back into the yard. He borrowed a jacket which he put over his head and then re-entered the house through the back door. The kitchen was well alight but he forced his way up the stairs until three-quarters of the way up when he was overcome by fumes and fell back down to the bottom. He was able to get through the kitchen into the yard but his clothes were a mass of flames and his hair was on fire. Neighbours beat out the flames and wrapped

him in coats. He was then taken to hospital suffering from multiple burns and detained for eight weeks. The bodies of the children were subsequently found in the front bedroom.

John Leslie Edward EDWARDS, Manager, Birmingham Municipal Bank, Birmingham.

A junior clerk at a bank was about to lock the doors at closing time when they were pushed open and he was confronted by a masked man who held a revolver in his hand. Behind him was another man similarly masked, also carrying a revolver, who demanded money. Mr. Edwards heard the conversation, came forward, and when he saw two men wearing masks and carrying guns, immediately grappled with one of them. The second gunman struck Mr. Edwards on the back of the head with the butt of his revolver, but Edwards continued to struggle until he broke away and went behind the counter to protect the money. He held the swing door but the two criminals made a determined attack repeatedly striking him on the right arm with the butt of one of the revolvers until he was compelled to relinquish his grip on the door. At that moment the gun was discharged but Mr. Edwards was unharmed and picking up a round ruler he struck at one of the men. At that stage both men decided to abandon the attempt to get the money. As they ran through the door Mr. Edwards threw a pair of scales at them. He then followed them out of the bank and saw them leave in a motor car. Mr. Edwards was later taken to hospital where he was treated for an abrasion on the right wrist and a deep laceration of the scalp which required two stitches. The men were subsequently traced and arrested.

Herve KOOMANIKOOA, Constable, Mauritius Police Force.

A notorious bad character of Camp Caval, Curepipe, terrorised the inhabitants of the locality. Several cases of wounding were reported against him and one day a local trader was stopped by him and under threat of a dagger was compelled to part with all his money. Koomanikooa with three other Police Officers went at once to lay an ambush for the miscreant. He was seen approaching the ambush and Koomanikooa rose from his hiding place and ran towards him. The criminal pulled out a pistol, fired once at Koomanikooa and ran away. The Constable gave chase and on two occasions when he drew near to the man he called upon him to drop the firearm. The gunman continued to run and fired two more shots which missed. Koomanikooa although knowing the pistol probably contained more rounds, continued the chase. The criminal started across a cane field and Koomanikooa was closing with him when he fired two more shots but again missed. The fugitive threw the weapon away and drawing a large dagger turned to face Koomanikooa. The Constable dived at the man, knocked him to the ground, disarmed him and arrested him.

Frank WHITE, Technician I, London Telecommunications Region, South West Area, General Post Office. (South Croydon.)

A lorry belonging to a heavy cable gang skidded off the road and stopped with its near-side wheels sinking into the soft earth which sloped away at an angle of about 30 degrees. Every effort to pull the vehicle back on the road was unsuccessful and a call was made for a crane. This arrived at about 8 p.m. and, after passing a sling round the vehicle, was about to lift it on the road when it slid off the edge and pulled the crane over on its side. A member of the gang who was standing at the rear was unable to jump away in time and was trapped by the left leg, his ankle being caught between the tree and the tool box of the lorry which was pushed onto the tree by the ballast box of the crane. All efforts on the part of the gang to release the trapped man were unsuccessful and the Fire Brigade was called to help. Mr. White then crawled under the cab of the crane and supported the injured man who was in a most dangerous position. The Fire Brigade arrived at about 8.45 p.m. and it was decided that the crane should not be touched as its whole weight was being taken by the tool box pressing against the tree. The firemen commenced to cut away part of the tool box and also part of the tree in an effort to free the man's foot. At about 9.30 p.m. a doctor was called and the trapped man was given a morphine injection. There was a possibility that the crane might slip and crush the two men but it was decided to continue with the slow cutting away process and at about 11.30 p.m. the man was released. Mr. White had wedged himself under the crane and had been supporting his workmate for the whole time he was trapped and with his free hand he had helped to saw away part of the tree. When he was pulled out from under the crane he was soaked in diesel oil and battery acid and had great difficulty in moving due to cramp. After receiving hospital treatment however, he was allowed to go home at about 2 a.m.

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

Leonard Stanley DAWSON, Constable, Lincolnshire County Constabulary. (Skegness.)

Fred Atkinson WILSON, Constable, Lincolnshire County Constabulary. (Sleaford.)

A man who had convictions for robbery with violence and assault threatened to shoot a police officer. He then drove off at a fast speed in a stolen shooting brake. A patrol car driven by Constable Dawson, with Constable Wilson as observer, was overtaken by the shooting brake travelling at a fast speed. The two officers were aware that the man was armed and that he had threatened a police officer earlier but they overtook the brake and signalled the driver to stop. The brake was immediately pulled over to the offside of the road and accelerated fiercely away. The patrol car followed and the driver of the brake stopped, opened the offside door and partly got out. The police officers could plainly see him pointing a shot-gun towards the patrol car. Constable Dawson drove the car at the man in an attempt to trap him in the doorway of his vehicle and, at the same time, to knock the gun out of his hand, but the gunman withdrew into his vehicle and drove away just as the front nearside of the patrol car came into contact with the door of the shooting brake. The chase continued. Eventually the brake reached a level crossing and was driven forward through the gate, and along the railway lines until it was stopped at the end of the sleepers. Constables Dawson and Wilson rushed to the shooting brake. The doors were locked but Dawson seized the driver through the broken windscreen, unlocked the nearside door and pulled him out. A double-barrelled gun was found on the floor of the shooting brake. It was loaded with two cartridges. Twenty-three other cartridges were found in the vehicle.

Walter Brian MURPHY, Detective Constable, Preston Borough Police. (Preston.)

Two police officers went to a farm and saw a youth who was recognised as an absconder. This youth was carrying a .410 shotgun and on seeing the police officers he immediately turned to run away but, in doing so, fell over a dog. He got to his feet, cocked the gun, levelled it at the officers and threatened to shoot if they approached any nearer. The officers walked towards him and he turned and ran away across some fields. He was pursued by Detective Constable Murphy, and in the course of the chase the youth stopped twice and threatened to shoot the officer. In spite of this Murphy, disregarding the possibility of any personal danger, relentlessly pursued his quarry and eventually succeeded in disarming and arresting him. On examination the gun was found to be cocked with a live cartridge in the chamber.

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct.

Robert Edward ANDREWS, Constable, Warrington County Borough Police, Warrington.

Maurice Murray CARO, Constable, Warrington County Borough Police, Warrington.

For services when three men broke into a garage.

Lionel Walter BROOKS, Sub-Officer, Middlesex Fire Brigade. (London, N.3.)

For rescuing a mother and two children from a blazing house.

Dennis Cox, Constable, Lincolnshire County Constabulary. (Spalding.)

Gerald MAKEHAM, Constable, Lincolnshire County Constabulary. (Spalding.)

Anthony Peter MILLER, Probationary Constable, Lincolnshire County Constabulary. (Spalding.)

For services when an armed man was chased and arrested.

Alistair Sherriffs DAVIDSON, Constable, Aberdeen City Police.

For rescuing a man from a burning house.

Alfred John GOODCHILD, Superintendent, Uganda Police Force. (Kampala.)

For services during a riot at Kigo Prison, Buganda.

Marion, Mrs. SIBLEY, Sub-Postmistress, Carleton Town Sub-Post Office, Carlisle.

For services when an armed man attempted to rob a Post Office.

Edward TILL, Farm Labourer, Preston.

Roy Anthony WILSON, Farm Labourer, Preston.

For helping in the arrest of a youth armed with a shotgun.

Ministry of Transport,
St. Christopher House, London S.E.1.
25th April 1961.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the recommendation of the Minister of Transport, to make the following awards:

Silver Medal for Gallantry in Saving Life at Sea.

Richard Matthew EVANS—Coxswain

Donald Murley FRANCIS—Acting Assistant Mechanic

Hugh JONES—Lifeboatman

Hugh OWEN—Acting Second Coxswain

Evan OWENS—Motor Mechanic

Moelfre, Anglesey Lifeboat.

The British coaster "Hindlea" which had anchored in Dulas Bay to shelter from a strong south-westerly gale dragged her anchor. The vessel was yawing some ninety degrees, causing considerable strain on her cable and was gradually dragging towards the shore. Coxswain Evans launched a reserve lifeboat with a scratch crew and took the boat close under "Hindlea's" stern. Whilst carrying out this manoeuvre the lifeboat was hit by a tremendous breaking sea which rolled her over on to her beam ends putting her mast in the water. The lifeboat was dangerously close to "Hindlea's" thrashing propeller, which was so far out of the water as to be above the heads of the lifeboat's crew. Coxswain Evans brought the lifeboat along the port quarter on ten occasions and on eight of these one member of "Hindlea's" crew jumped aboard the lifeboat amidships. The lifeboat ran in at an angle of about 25° and as soon as a man had jumped she came out astern clear of the propeller. The rescue was completed within about eleven minutes, by which time "Hindlea" had drifted so far inshore that her stern was only one hundred yards off the rocks. The gallantry and tenacity shown by Coxswain Evans and his crew of four were in the finest traditions of the lifeboat service.

