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TUESDAY, 25TH APRIL 1961

**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.