

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

Neville Herbert FLEETON, Ambulance Driver,
Balmain, New South Wales.

Neil ROBERTS, Stevedore, Balmain, New South
Wales.

A petrol-driven pump being used to remove ballast water from the forepeak tank of the vessel "Marine Discoverer", berthed at Balmain, was found to be not functioning satisfactorily. Entrance to the tank from the forepeak was through a manhole and down a ladder. Two members of the crew entered the tank but were overcome by fumes from the motor and collapsed. Another man entered the tank in an endeavour to save the two men. Before he could do so he was overcome by the fumes. Shortly afterwards Fleeton arrived and after tying a wet handkerchief around his nose entered the forepeak. He saw the three men lying in the tank near the foot of the ladder but conditions forced him to return to the deck. He called for assistance and then returned to the entrance where he was joined by Roberts who immediately entered the forepeak. Fleeton followed him and when they reached the foot of the ladder they tried to lift one of the men but found the task beyond them. Roberts collapsed and Fleeton moved his body to the side of the tank to prevent his impeding the rescue of the other men. As he was himself being overcome, he then made his way from the tank. Subsequently, firemen equipped with breathing apparatus were able to remove all the people concerned. Fleeton and Roberts responded to hospital treatment but the others could not be revived.

William HARRISON, Sergeant, Lancashire County
Constabulary. (Accrington.)

An emergency call was received by the Police that a man who had been drinking heavily was in possession of a loaded shotgun and threatening to use it. The house was visited by a Constable who, from outside, saw the man in the living room holding the shotgun. The Constable tried to persuade him to surrender the gun but he refused and threatened to shoot. The Constable summoned assistance and was quickly joined by Sergeant Harrison and a Detective Constable. The Sergeant knocked on the door of the house but the man refused to admit him and again threatened to shoot. Some ten minutes later he came out of the house still holding the shotgun and whilst pointing it towards the Officers he walked towards them and stopped about five yards away. Sergeant Harrison eventually persuaded him to return to the house and he did so but kept the gun pointed towards Harrison and the Detective Constable who followed him into the house. Inside the house the man sat on a chair and placed the gun across his knees, keeping his right-hand forefinger on the trigger, as if about to shoot. The Sergeant sat in a chair opposite him, about six feet away and continued to engage him in conversation. After some time he succeeded in getting into a position where he was able to grab the gun barrel with his left hand and at the same time he grabbed the man's right hand which was on the trigger. The gun was fired but the shot narrowly missed the

Sergeant's legs and entered the carpet a few feet away. The Sergeant succeeded in forcibly taking the gun away and the man was arrested.

Monde MA-MUBITA, Housewife, Mongu Lealui,
Barotseland Protectorate, Northern Rhodesia.

Namangolwa MA-KAMBAI, Housewife, Mongu
Lealui, Barotseland Protectorate, Northern
Rhodesia.

An African went out to hunt a lioness which had been troubling a neighbouring village. His womenfolk accompanied him. They tracked the lioness to an ant hill which they fired. However the lioness had left and abandoning the unsuccessful hunt the party returned home. They were walking in line ahead, the African leading, when suddenly the lioness broke cover and sprang at him, felling him to the ground. The lioness started to savage him and bit him severely in the thigh. Seeing the attack Ma-Mubita Monde and Ma-Kambai Namangolwa rushed forward and attacked the lioness with an axe handle and a hoe which they were carrying. They beat at the lioness until it abandoned the injured man whom they then helped back to his home. Both women showed great courage in attacking the lioness which had already savaged one victim. They acted without thought for their own safety, with inadequate weapons for such an attack, knowing that they stood in grave danger of themselves being attacked by the beast.

Patrick MABUKU, Villager, Sesheke District,
Barotseland Protectorate, Northern Rhodesia.

Mabuku and another African youth were swimming in a pond, when Mabuku's companion was seized by a crocodile. The crocodile was of some size and had dragged the youth below the surface when Mabuku went to his rescue. He dived and caught the crocodile by the tail, pushing it above the surface of the water. The youth's leg was between the jaws of the crocodile and Mabuku struggled with the beast, eventually forcing it to release its hold of the boy. Mabuku got him ashore, comforted him and then carried him to his home from whence he was taken to hospital. Mabuku showed courage of a high order. He was well aware of his own danger in struggling with the crocodile. That he did so unaided showed complete disregard for his own safety and he undoubtedly saved the life of his friend.

Staifelo MWENYA, Fisherman, Mporokoso
District, Northern Province, Northern
Rhodesia.

Five Africans, two of them blind, were fishing from a dug-out canoe on the Mweru Marsh when their canoe overturned. Mwenya was also on the marsh when he heard the shouts of those who had been thrown into the water. The Mweru Marsh teems with crocodile and hippopotami and this fact was well known to Mwenya but he immediately steered a course towards the men struggling in the water. On his arrival at the scene the men all attempted to pull themselves into his canoe with the result that it also overturned. Mwenya attempted to support all the others around the overturned canoe but the worsening of the weather caused four of them to weaken