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TUESDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY 1962

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF  
 THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.  
 6th February 1962.

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*

Edward DRENNERT, Inala, Queensland.

Whilst Mr. Drennert, an invalid pensioner, was sitting in the yard adjoining his house, he heard the sound of a rifle shot. Some minutes later a girl came running towards him, calling out that a man was at her home armed with a rifle, and that he was threatening to shoot her sister and other members of her family. Drennert ran to the house, entered by the back door and saw a woman in the kitchen. She told him that a man had shot and killed her husband and was now inside the house threatening to kill her daughter. Drennert went through the kitchen into the hallway where he saw the man pointing a rifle at a girl who was trying to reason with him. Drennert attempted to disarm the gunman and succeeded in grasping the rifle barrel. In a violent struggle which ensued the rifle was fired. The bullet, after passing through Drennert's body near his right hip, struck the girl in the right arm. Although injured and in great pain Drennert continued the struggle and eventually wrested the rifle from the man and then pushed him into another room. At this stage a police officer came to Drennert's assistance, and took the gunman into custody.

Granville MASON, Face Worker, Cortonwood Colliery, Wombwell, Yorkshire.

An outburst of gas in the intake end of a face in the Cortonwood Mine affected seven men and for a long time the return gate and face were impassable. Two of the seven men who tried to escape were overcome and died after travelling only one hundred yards. The other five, including Mason, were all rendered unconscious. Mason recovered and went to the aid of one of the men who was lying in the face of the machine stable and revived him. They returned together to the machine stable to rescue another man but as they attempted to pull him out they were partially overcome again and retreated to the gate, where conditions were slightly better. The first man telephoned the manager for help and then made his way out along the return gate travelling with great difficulty for 1,300 yards. Meanwhile Mason recovered and returned once more to the machine stable and was able to bring out the second man who was semi-conscious. He revived him and they both tried to revive the remaining two unconscious men but without success. When a rescue team arrived wearing self-contained breathing apparatus, the team captain decided that with the two sets of reviving apparatus available it was advisable to take only one man out at a time. Mason, although fully aware of the danger of staying in an almost irrespirable atmosphere which might at any moment become worse, insisted that the younger man should go and he would stay. The rescue team then brought this man out, but the second set of reviving apparatus had to be used on him before he reached the fresh air base. About 90 minutes later a second rescue team carrying breathing apparatus brought Mason out to