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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
 THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
 25th September 1962.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for the following awards 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.

To be Additional Members of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for Gallantry:

Percy BLUNT, Deputy Manager, Whitwell Colliery, Derbyshire. (Worksop, Nottinghamshire).

A heavy fall of roof at Whitwell Mine buried a machine operator up to his neck in small wet debris and pressed him tightly against an armoured face conveyor. The props were displaced and the roof bars on either side of him dropped. Attempts to release the trapped man were seriously hampered when the fall extended and completely buried him. Blunt, by lying outstretched on the conveyor under the displaced roof bars which were only nine to twelve inches above his head, cleared the debris with his bare hands from around the man and pushed it back over the conveyor and under his own body. He worked in this position for several hours but further falls occurred, some of which again completely buried the miner. On two occasions Blunt had to scratch the debris away in order to find him and remove the debris from around his face to enable him to breathe. During this time there was always a risk that the disturbed roof might collapse and fall on Blunt. Water from the roof increased the danger and made Blunt's work more difficult. After about six hours had passed, rescue operations began on the return side. Progress was very slow but the trapped miner was eventually rescued 13½ hours after he had been first buried. At all

times Blunt displayed great courage, showed outstanding qualities of leadership and accepted a high degree of personal risk by placing himself in a dangerous position for long periods.

Peter John CRIMMINS, Bank Clerk, Westminster Bank Ltd., Banwell. (Burnham-on-Sea.)

An attempt was made at an armed hold-up at the Banwell Branch of the Westminster Bank. Crimmings and a Bank Guard were alone in the bank when a man entered carrying a sawn-off double-barrelled shot gun, which he presented at the Bank Guard and demanded money. Within a matter of moments one barrel of the gun was discharged and the Bank Guard fell with serious injuries from which he died. Crimmings, who was behind the counter, immediately came out and tackled the man. A fight ensued during which the gun was discharged, the shot entering the wall of the Bank. Crimmings, struggling with the gunman, pushed him through the doorway of the Bank into the vestibule where other assistance was forthcoming and the man was overpowered.

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

Reginald Victor ANDREWS, Leading Fireman, Bristol Fire Brigade.

A fire broke out in the engine room of the motor vessel "Port Townsville" lying in the Royal Edward Docks, Avonmouth and a man was trapped below. Leading Fireman Andrews and a Fireman, both wearing breathing apparatus, descended to the engine room with a line of hose. In the dark, and in intense heat and smoke, they made their way to a bulkhead. Hearing a sound of moaning, Andrews instructed the Fireman to remain outside while he entered the smoke-filled bulkhead where he found a man who was semi-conscious. He managed to get the man to the opening of the bulkhead eight feet away, where the Fireman was waiting, and together they succeeded in

bringing him to the foot of the ladder leading to the engine room entrance where assistance was given to bring the man to the top.

Alan ASHWORTH, Constable, Rochdale Borough Police. (Shawclough, Rochdale.)

Two children were playing on an ice covered mill pond when the ice gave way and both fell through into the water. Constable Ashworth, who was in a police car, received information of the accident and was driven to the scene, arriving within 1½ minutes from the time of the call. On the way he took off his tunic and cap. On arrival he plunged into the pond and, swimming through the water and thin ice, managed to find the children. When he reached them both were unconscious. Taking hold of them by their clothing, he struggled towards the opposite bank, breaking the thin ice by his own weight as he went along. When the ice became too thick to break he lifted the children on to it and they were picked up by other police officers.

Frank BIRNIE, Constable, Stirling and Clackmannan Police Force. (Longcroft, Stirlingshire.)

Constable Birnie, with two other constables, was on duty at a road block. One of his fellow officers signalled a vehicle to stop and while it was drawing to a halt a stolen lorry swung out from behind and headed straight for the signalling constable who was forced to jump aside. As the lorry passed, Constable Birnie ran on to the roadway, seized the arm of the nearside driving mirror and jumped on to the running board of the vehicle. The lorry immediately accelerated. There were four men in the cabin of the lorry and the man on the nearside lowered the window and attempted to push Constable Birnie off the running board, but was unsuccessful and the window was shut. By this time the lorry was travelling at about forty miles per hour and on several occasions the driver swung close in towards lamp posts in an effort to brush the Constable off. Police cars started in pursuit and after some miles the driver swung the lorry sharply into a narrow, winding, tree-lined road and drove close to the overhanging branches which brushed against Constable Birnie but he still managed to retain his position. Birnie then climbed from the running board into the back of the lorry, shone his torch at the driver and identified him. When the lorry was halfway up a steep hill the driver suddenly swung it across the road and over a bank, after which it came to a stop with the front buried in a wooded slope. After the impact, Constable Birnie saw the driver jump from the offside door and start to run away. The Constable thereupon jumped on top of him and after a struggle overpowered him. Constable Birnie was clinging to the lorry for a total distance of seven miles.

Walter Alan BONNER, Constable, Liverpool City Police.

A man entered a bank, grasped hold of the only customer, a woman, pressed a revolver into her temple and threatened to kill her unless money was handed over. The cashier, fearing for the safety of the customer pushed over a bundle of five pound notes. The man

grabbed the money and ran out of the door brandishing the revolver. The alarm was sounded and two policemen and members of the Bank staff went in pursuit of the gunman. As his pursuers turned a corner after him the gunman turned as he ran and fired one shot at them. No one was hurt and the chase continued. Others joined in the chase and more shots were fired. Constable Bonner was driving a police motor cycle when he heard a shot and the sound of people screaming and shouting. He saw the man running with the revolver in his hand being chased by the constables and others. Constable Bonner then accelerated his machine and drove it straight at the man whom he hit and knocked to the ground. The motor cycle fell over and Constable Bonner jumped on top of the criminal and held him until the other Police Officers arrived and took him into custody.

John Bryan GILES, G.M., Inspector, 3rd Class, South Australia Police Force.

Inspector Giles displayed courage and devotion to duty in disarming and arresting a mentally defective person who had threatened the lives of others at Brompton. The man became demented during the night, terrorising and holding other occupants of the premises prisoners. One of the occupants managed to escape from the house and telephoned the police. Two Constables went to the house and found the man armed with a long, pointed carving knife. He lunged at the Constables, struck one a blow in the abdomen, rushed into a room at the front of the premises, and barricaded himself in, stacking furniture against the door to prevent entry. Inspector Giles arrived in response to a call for further assistance. The demented man was screaming and shouting. Giles engaged him in conversation through a broken window but after twenty minutes it was evident that the man had no intention of surrendering the knife or submitting quietly. Giles distracted his attention for a second, jumped through the window, overpowered him and wrenched the knife from him. The action of Inspector Giles undoubtedly prevented the man from causing serious or fatal injury to himself or others.

INDAR bin Angka, Farmer, Kampong Telibong, Tuaran District, North Borneo.

A Bugis immigrant labourer ran amok with a knife. His first victim was a European who was stabbed twice in the chest. The man then ran into the Agricultural Station where he killed a seven year old native girl and her mother, seriously wounded a sixteen year old girl and a man, and disappeared from sight. Indar bin Angka was warned that a dangerous killer was at large. He took up position on the main road to guard the approach to his house. He was joined by the Police Divisional Commander who had been summoned by telephone. The deranged man was seen and the Police Officer, who was carrying a riot baton, approached him. The man leapt at him and sought to stab him with a hunting knife. In the ensuing scuffle the knife dropped to the ground. The man then drew a second knife with a 5 ins. long blade and was about to renew his attack when Indar,

who was unarmed, grappled with him with his bare hands, but he broke loose and fled. He was chased and eventually arrested. Indar showed personal courage and presence of mind in intervening as he did, knowing that the man was in a maniacal condition. His timely and brave intervention, at the risk of his own life, almost certainly saved the life of the Police Officer.

William Allen LEE, Detective Senior Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

Allan Douglas COOTE, Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

The Police were informed that a man armed with a rifle had attempted to shoot his brother-in-law. Lee and Coote went to the house which was in darkness and knocked on the door. A short time later it was opened from the inside by a man carrying a rifle in his right hand. He walked towards the rear of the house about three or four paces and then turned quickly, pointed the rifle in the direction of the Police Officers and fired, but the bullet missed. He then ran along the hallway towards the rear of the house and disappeared into a room. The Police Officers smashed the bottom right hand portion of the wire screen door, opened the door and entered the house. They walked down the hallway and when approximately five feet from the room the offender stepped out raised the rifle and operated the bolt. The Policeman immediately dashed forward, caught hold of the man and after a struggle disarmed and arrested him.

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct

Saini CHIYUKA (deceased), Second Messenger, Provincial Administration, Kabompo District, Northern Rhodesia.

For assisting in the recapture of an armed and dangerous criminal.

Colin Clifford DAVIES, Bank Clerk, National Provincial Bank Ltd., Whitechapel Liverpool Branch. St. Helen's.)

David Jack DEMAIN, Clerk, Liverpool.

Brian FELTON, Constable, Liverpool City Police.

Harold William LEWIS, Constable, Liverpool City Police.

For services when an armed man attempted to rob a bank.

Oliver Spencer FOSTER, Shotfirer, Blaydon, County Durham.

For rescuing an injured man from the bottom of a 50 foot shaft.

John GUNN, Constable, Glasgow City Police.

For tackling a dangerous criminal armed with a stiletto knife.

Horace Alfred HAYDEN, Builder, Ryde, Isle of Wight.

Keith WAY, Apprentice Builder, Ryde, Isle of Wight. (Brading.)

For services when fire broke out in a building in Saint Cecilia's Abbey, Ryde.

Alexander McGECHIE, Extra Lockman, Port of London Authority. (London, E.6.)

For rescuing a drowning man in danger of being crushed between a ship and a lock wall.

Thomas OSBORNE (deceased), Boiler Scaler, Glasgow.

William RISK, Boiler Attendant, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire.

Thomas RITCHIE, General Labourer, Wishaw, Lanarkshire.

Michael SMITH, Boiler Attendant, Motherwell, Lanarkshire.

For services in rescue operations when workmen were overcome by fumes in a gas main.

Terence MEAD, Fireman, Bristol Fire Brigade.

For helping to rescue a man from the engine room during a fire in a motor vessel.

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