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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