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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.

9th June 1964.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned 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.

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

Norman CROCKETT, Fitter's Mate, South of Scotland Electricity Board. (Cupar.)

A painter went to a terminal pole in a field near a transformer station to paint the cables on the pole for identification purposes. Immediately he started there was a flash and his clothing caught fire. Two persons were working near; one went for help and the other scaled the ladder and attempted to extinguish the burning clothing with wet earth but without success. At this point Mr. Crockett, summoned by the other witness, arrived at the pole, climbed the ladder and tried to extinguish the flames by beating the man's clothing with his bare hands. He continued to do so until buckets of water were brought to the scene and taken to the top of the ladder. Mr. Crockett eventually succeeded in extinguishing the flames by this means, but in doing so sustained severe burns to both hands. Despite his injuries and the precarious position he was in, he tried to secure the injured man by means of a rope but was unable to do this because of the burns to his hands. The man was subsequently brought to the ground by the Fire Service.

Alan HUDSPITH, Constable, County Borough of Tynemouth Police Force. (North Shields.)

A youth forced his way into a house and terrified the occupants, a young woman and her grandmother. He was carrying a small revolver

and was also armed with a knife. The girl managed to get out of the house and summon the police. A number of police arrived and as they approached the house the officers saw the youth standing just inside the bay window. He had the revolver in his right hand and he began to break one of the windows with it. He then threatened the officers, fired two shots directly at them and broke several windows with the gun in order to have a clear view of both sides of the house. Constable Hudspith then arrived with the police dog. He sent the dog at the youth who was still in the bay window. The gun was fired at the dog but Hudspith with complete disregard for his own safety followed the dog and tried to grab the revolver which was fired at him from point blank range. The Constable got hold of the youth through the broken window and was struck several times on the head and shoulders. Hudspith managed to get through the window and closed with the youth who again struck the officer with the gun and knife. Other officers then gained entry to the room and the youth was finally over-powered. Constable Hudspith was taken to hospital where it was found the tendon of his left thumb had been completely severed and the tips of three fingers on his left hand had been cut.

Patrick MURPHY, Plumber, London. (Harlesden, N.W.10.)

A fire broke out in a house and a young mother and baby were trapped in the top floor unable to descend because of intense fire and smoke on the first floor and staircase. The dense smoke forced the woman to climb with the baby out of the front attic window onto the tiled roof above the guttering. The fire got such a hold that flames leapt from the window of the first floor and were licking the guttering below. Mr. Murphy made efforts to get to the mother and baby through the house, but found this impossible, as did other persons. He then propped a ladder against the side of the house from the garage roof to the main roof, climbed up the slates until above the attic window beneath

which was the mother and baby. He then slid down the slates and placed himself between them and the threatening flames until the arrival of the Fire Brigade. By that time the smoke was getting thick, the flames nearer and the tiles very hot.

William George RANSON, Fireman, London Fire Brigade. (Southall, Middlesex.)

A fire broke out in a back room on the first floor of a house and two women and two children were trapped in the room above, the staircase being impassable. An escape was brought into use which, because the back garden was inaccessible, had to be pitched to the roof from a side road. Fireman Ranson mounted the escape followed by two other firemen. He crawled spreadeagled across the sloping roof to a dormer window, from which a woman was hanging above the rooms on fire, while the other men made their way along the ridge of the roof to a small flat roof above the window. Fireman Ranson then braced himself in the window opening and passed the woman up to the men above repeating this procedure with the children. He then entered the room which by now was very hot and smoky to rescue the other woman, who had collapsed, and with difficulty lifted her through the window and up to safety. The women and children were assisted across the roof to the escape. It is certain that but for the initiative and personal courage displayed by Fireman Ranson, lives would have been lost.

Ivan John SMITH, Constable, Leicester City Police Force. (Leicester.)

A young man, after an argument with his mother, left the house carrying a shot gun and threatening to shoot anyone who got in his way.

The Police were called and Constable Smith went to the house with other officers. He made a search and found the youth standing beside a van near the house. The youth pointed the shot gun at the Constable and warned him not to come closer. The mother then appeared and her son immediately swung the gun at her. Constable Smith immediately leapt over the bonnet of the van and grappled with the youth who pushed him away and put the muzzle of the gun into the officer's stomach. Smith managed to knock the muzzle away and overpower the youth. In the struggle for possession of the gun the bolt opened and a cartridge fell out.

Queen's Commendation for brave conduct:

Peter CLARY, Constable, Isle of Ely Constabulary. (Wisbech, St. Mary.)

For services when dealing with a mentally unstable man, armed with a shot gun.

Michael John CLOW, Constable, Leicester City Police Force. (Wigston Fields.)

For services when helping to arrest a man armed with a shot gun.

Albert COTTRELL, Site Foreman, Attleborough, Norfolk.

For attempting to rescue a man overcome by coal gas in a manhole.

Eris ROUGHAN, Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

For services when helping to apprehend a mentally deranged man armed with a shot gun.

Robert THOMPSON, Constable, County Borough of Tynemouth Police Force. (North Shields.)

For services when assisting in the arrest of an armed youth.