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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