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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
19th October 1965.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to make the undermentioned award:

GEORGE CROSS

Wallace Arnold OAKES (deceased), Locomotive Driver, British Railways Board, Crewe. (Sandbach.)

Mr. Oakes left Crewe driving the steam locomotive of a relief express passenger train. The train consisted of ten coaches and was reasonably well filled with passengers. When about seven miles from Crewe, travelling at nearly sixty miles per hour, the engine cab was suddenly filled with smoke and flames blowing back from the firebox. The fireman at once climbed through the side window and somehow managed to get on the cab steps where he extinguished his burning clothing by rubbing himself against the plating. He could not see into the cab but, realising the brakes had been applied, he remained on the steps until the train stopped. The flames subsided at once and he re-entered the cab to find that Oakes was missing; he saw him lying on the cutting slope just ahead of the cab. His clothing was severely burnt and the flesh beneath had suffered similarly to an extent described later as 80 per cent. of the body. Oakes was, however, still able to speak at that stage but was dazed. The first person to make an inspection of the controls was a fireman from an up train which was stopped to pick up the injured men. He found the brake fully applied, the regulator partly open, and the blower valve open. It seems apparent, therefore, that Driver Oakes, instead of quitting the cab as soon as the blow-back occurred, remained to apply the brake, open the blower, and probably close the regulator partly. The position in which he was found shows that he did not leave the engine until it had come to rest. Mr. Oakes must have been aware that to

remain at the controls of the locomotive was a grave risk to his own life. Nevertheless, he applied the brakes fully and took all the measures he could to reduce the effects of the blow-back. Mr. Oakes' gallant action showed that his first thought was for the safety of his passengers, and he thereby sacrificed his life, for he died a week later. He set an outstanding example of devotion to duty and of public service.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
19th October 1965.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned awards of the George Medal, a Bar to the British Empire Medal and 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:

Kenneth IRVINE, Constable, Manchester City Police. (Handforth.)

Police Constable Irvine and another Constable were on duty in a police van when they saw a man carrying a large square object which he put into the back of a car. The officers were suspicious that this was stolen property and decided to interrogate the man. Constable Irvine started up the engine of the van and drove diagonally across the road towards the car. As they did so the car drove straight at them and Irvine had to swerve to avoid a collision. A chase ensued and eventually Constable Irvine managed to get the police van in front of the car which stopped. The man got out and ran down a nearby entry closely followed by Irvine. The Constable caught the man who immediately attacked him. Irvine felt a blow in his chest which forced him down to his knees. He retained a grip on the man with his left hand and

put his right hand to his chest where he felt the handle of a knife which was sticking into him. He pulled the knife out of his chest and the pain this caused made him drop the knife. His assailant went for the knife again and there was a struggle which resulted in Irvine regaining possession of the knife. The other Constable then came to his assistance and the man was overcome and arrested. In spite of the serious and painful nature of his injury, Constable Irvine was so devoted to duty that he plucked the weapon from his body and held on to his struggling prisoner until such time as he was able to hand him over safely to the custody of other officers.

Awarded a Bar to the British Empire Medal (Civil Division), for Gallantry :

Gerald Arthur PLANT, B.E.M., Volunteer in charge of Coastguards, Lulworth, Dorset.

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

Kenneth Middleton PEARCE, Constable, Dorset Constabulary. (Wool.)

A man was reported to be stranded on the cliff at Warbarrow in a hole on the cliff face about 25 feet above the water. Swanage lifeboat was launched but, due to gale winds and heavy seas it was unable to get near to the bottom of the cliff. Constable Pearce and Mr. Plant approached the scene from the foot of the cliffs and helpers above sent down ropes which they used to climb the face of the cliff to the top. The two rescuers then climbed down the cliff face in an endeavour to establish contact with the stranded man. The cliff at this point is about 120 feet high, quite vertical, and with an overhang of 20 feet over the hole where the stranded man was trapped. Plant at one stage, was suspended by the safety line some 30 feet above the rocks at the base of the cliff. The two rescuers together negotiated the overhang and then had to reascend to get in under it. This was a most dangerous and delicate operation and they were then faced with the complicated task of getting the stranded man from his ledge over to the ledge on which they were now standing. Constable Pearce removed his safety harness and threw it to the man for him to use. It was found to be impossible to haul either the man or his rescuers to the top of the cliff and the helpers at the top of the cliff manoeuvred the ropes to enable all three men to progress along the cliff face. This was a most difficult operation as the man was in a very exhausted and highly emotional state and it was necessary for Pearce and Plant to place his feet and hands into safe holds. It was then decided to lower the man, who was in need of medical attention, to the bottom of the cliff and to transfer him to the lifeboat. This rescue was outstanding because of the force 5 wind, a rough and heavy sea, thick sea mist, and loose boulders on the cliff face; it was only effected by the maximum use of skill, determination and courage.

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

Alfred HARRISON, Inspector, Cumberland, Westmorland and Carlisle Constabulary. (Carlisle.)

Alexander ARCHIBALD, Constable, Cumberland, Westmorland and Carlisle Constabulary. (Carlisle.)

Robert Hilton FELL, Constable, Cumberland, Westmorland and Carlisle Constabulary. (Kendal.)

Thomas WOOD, Constable, Cumberland, Westmorland and Carlisle Constabulary. (Burnside, near Kendal.)

The theft of a car was reported to the police and a police car carrying a sergeant and three constables saw the stolen car, followed it, overtook it and forced the driver to stop. The driver, however, reversed the car down the hill, ran into a ditch and made his escape holding a revolver in his hand. At midnight P.C.s Fell and Wood were manning a road block when a blue van was stopped. A man answering the description of the wanted man was seen in the passenger seat. This man produced a revolver and pointing it at the officers in turn threatened to shoot the first one that made a move in his direction. Still holding the revolver and covering the officers he then jumped out of the van and ran off. The officers gave chase and the running man turned and fired several shots towards them. The officers cornered him against a high wall and iron fence. He vaulted over the fence, however, and, dropping to his knees, fired at them through the railings. P.C. Fell leapt the railings but the man evaded him and escaped. At 3.10 a.m. a crime car containing Inspector Harrison, P.C. Archibald and two other constables, all of whom were unarmed, went to a railway station and found the wanted man in the waiting room lying on a form. The crime car driver was wearing a civilian greatcoat over his uniform and for that reason he was the first into the waiting room. He opened the door and immediately a shot was fired. The Constable fell and Inspector Harrison was pulling him away from the door when he himself was hit in the shoulder by a second shot. P.C. Archibald then attacked the man with his truncheon. Another shot was fired and Archibald was severely wounded and collapsed. More shots were fired and the criminal made good his escape. He was later discovered in a field and after an exchange of shots was wounded in the thigh and arrested.

Joseph HOLLEY, Farm Bailiff, Ashford Hall, Ludlow.

In the course of his duties in looking after his employer's herd of pedigree Dexter cattle, Mr. Holley was attempting to return a four year old bull from a compound to the bull pen. The bull was secured by a pole to the ring in its nose. The bull turned savagely upon him knocking him to the ground in the course of which the pole was released. Mr. Holley was thrown about by the bull and was finally tossed over the railings and out of the compound, severely bruised and shaken. He reported the incident to his employer, and having secured the bull by the pole his employer himself attempted to return the bull to its pen. The bull, however, again went berserk and the farmer was unable to control it. The bull knocked him to the ground and gored him. Mr. Holley, in spite of his dazed and bruised condition and the alarming experience he had already undergone, re-entered the compound and attempted to rescue his employer. He ultimately succeeded in driving the bull off with a metal bar and managed to drag the injured man out of the compound. Mr. Holley risked his life in trying to rescue his employer.

Thomas Henry LUCAS, Constable, Warrington County Borough Police. (Great Sankey.)

In the early hours of the morning a Constable saw a man standing on the parapet of a bridge. As the officer approached, the man jumped off the bridge into the River Mersey. The Constable immediately summoned help and taking a life-belt ran some distance down river. From here he lowered the life-belt to the water level. The man was seen in the water floating down in mid-river. In the meantime several other police officers arrived on the scene including Constable Lucas. He divested himself of his uniform ran barefoot about thirty-two yards until he was slightly ahead of the floating man and then entered the water and swam diagonally towards the centre of a bridge. He was able to grab the floating man, and at the same time take hold of the life-belt which had been lowered. Various other ropes were obtained and one was lowered to the two men in the water. With help from several people both on the bridge footpath and on the river bank, the men were pulled to the side of the river and lifted from the water. The River Mersey at the scene is nothing more than an open sewer. The water was filthy and covered with a foam. The street lighting did not give much illumination to the river and valuable assistance was given by lorry drivers turning their headlights on to the water.

Frederick Leonard John TOWNEND, Audiologist, Loanhead, Midlothian.

A woman and two children went to the south bank of the River Tyne where the children began to play in the river and the boy, aged 9 years was seen to go into a pool at the centre of a bridge. A short time later he began waving his arms and shouting as though he was in some difficulty. The other child, aged 10 years went into the pool. Both children then began to shout for help. The mother of the boy, a non-swimmer, then went into the pool, but found that she was out of her depth and could not reach the children. She was unable to make any progress and screamed for help. Mr. Townend heard the screams and ran over the bridge to the south bank of the river. He saw a woman in the deep pool, obviously in trouble and removing his shoes and trousers immediately swam out and brought her to the side. Someone then told him that a boy was in the pool. He dived in, swam to the bottom of the pool and brought him out. Mr. Townend was then told that a little girl was still in the water. He again dived in and searched along the bottom of the pool until he found her, and brought her to the side. By this time, Mr. Townend was in a very exhausted condition. Both children were unconscious but recovered in hospital. There is no doubt, but for the actions of Mr. Townend, both children must have been

drowned. He entered this deep pool three times without any thought of his own safety and without any knowledge of the river conditions.

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct :

Brian Malcolm Herbert ADAMS, Constable, Somerset Constabulary. (Pill, near Bristol.)

For arresting a man armed with a knife.

Trevor John BONNINGTON, Cashier, Nottingham Trustee Savings Bank, Nottingham. (Burton Joyce.)

Stanley Gordon Dawson HANCOCK, Manager, Nottingham Trustee Savings Bank, Nottingham. (Gedling.)

For services when an armed man attempted robbery.

Robert DUNLOP, M.B.E., M.B., B.Ch., St. Columb, Cornwall.

Derek HARVEY, M.B., B.S., St. Columb, Cornwall.

For services when disarming a man armed with a shot gun.

William Leonard ESPIE, Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

For extricating two drivers who were trapped in their blazing motor vehicles after a collision at a road junction.

Alan JOBSON, Constable, Manchester City Police. (Worsley.)

Anthony STEPHENSON, Detective Constable, Manchester City Police. (Middleton.)

For services when arresting an offender who was hiding on the sloping roof of a building.

Wycliffe James LOVE, Detective Constable, Walsall County Borough Police. (Aldridge.)

Samuel WASSELL, Detective Constable, Walsall County Borough Police. (Walsall.)

For disarming a youth armed with a shot gun.

Dolina, Mrs. MACNAB, Sister, St. Luke's Woodside Hospital, London N.10.

For disarming a mentally deranged man armed with a shot gun.

Philip Henry NAISH, Constable, Metropolitan Police. (London N.W.10.)

Bruce Ian WEBSTER, Constable, Metropolitan Police. (London W.6.)

For attempting to rescue the occupants of a burning house.

Marshall Basford STYLES, Assistant Superintending Engineer, Grays, Essex.

For services when two men were overcome by fumes in a tank at an oil storage wharf.

Basil George TOWLER, Pests Operator, Harrogate.

For services when a youth was pinned beneath an overturned tractor.

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