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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

21st December 1965.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for the following awards of the George 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 brave conduct.

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

Robert Botcherby TINDALE, Investigation Officer, Croydon.

A woman slipped down the steps and fell into the water at the north end of London Bridge. She went below the surface twice, and the fast ebb current at this point carried her for a distance of about 75 feet. Her cries for help were heard by Mr. Tindale who ran down the steps, divesting himself of his clothing as he went. He dived without hesitation into the river and swam towards the woman. A strong ebb tide was running at the time and was pulling at her. When Tindale was about 3 feet from the woman, she made a grab at him but missed, and again went under the water, but he dived, caught hold of her and brought her to the surface. He then swam against the strong current back to the steps, fending off driftwood as he went. Mr. Tindale reached the steps in a state of extreme exhaustion but was able to help the woman out of the water.

Awarded the George Medal:

Herbert Francis DAVIS, Press Photographer, Essex. (Woodford Bridge.)

Three police officers went to arrest a woman escapee. The woman had taken refuge in a house and with a .22 rifle and well supplied with ammunition, she took up a position at the first floor window overlooking the street, and threatened that she would shoot anyone who

came near her. When Mr. Davis arrived at the scene he commenced taking photographs of the incident. The woman obviously liked being the subject of so much interest by a representative of the National Press and soon Davis was close enough to reveal his identity and ask her to pose for him. He realized that he was able to play on her vanity and decided that having gained her confidence he might be able to persuade her to take up a position close enough to allow him to disarm her. Davis knew that a policeman had already been shot but nevertheless, he decided to try to put his plan into action. He made his way into the house and from a first floor landing window he climbed onto a small canopy above the front door and thence to a small ledge immediately outside the window of the room where the woman was standing. By encouragement he soon had her leaning further out of the window overlooking the street and took photographs of her. She followed his instructions implicitly and when she placed the rifle barrel within his reach, Davis, despite his precarious foothold suddenly grasped it. A struggle for possession ensued during which the rifle was discharged but the shot went wide. Mr. Davis was immediately joined by two of the police officers present and together they were able to take possession of the firearm and arrest the criminal. Mr. Davis acted with extreme courage in disarming an armed and dangerous criminal.

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

William ASHTON, Foreman and Traffic Supervisor, Cadishead.

An accident occurred on a railroad serving four blast furnaces. One of these was being water-cooled and a large amount of water spillage lay on the rail track. A diesel locomotive was pushing two full ladles, each containing 50 tons of molten iron, to rail points. As the locomotive passed over the points Mr. Ashton, who was standing nearby, noticed that molten metal had begun to pour out through the bottom of the leading ladle. As the locomotive began to run over the spilt metal it was enveloped in flames and smoke. Mr. Ashton immediately climbed on to the locomotive took over control from the driver and

drove it as fast as he could back towards the furnaces. When the leaking metal reached the water there was a violent explosion and metal flew in all directions. The glass window of the engine was shattered and there were further explosions. There was grave danger of a serious explosion from the oil fuel carried by the locomotive and to prevent this, Ashton descended from the cab to uncouple the locomotive from the metal ladles. A final explosion blew him off his feet. By this time his clothing was alight and he suffered burns on the head, back and right leg. When confronted by a dangerous situation requiring speedy decision and action, Mr. Ashton acted with coolness and courage.

James Edward BARRETT, Warder, Department of Prisons, New South Wales.

Three dangerous life prisoners at the Goulburn Training Centre attempted to break out by erecting an improvised ladder over the prison wall. On being seen by Warder Barrett who fired a shot at them from his revolver they immediately retreated with the Warder in pursuit. During the chase within the perimeter walls of the centre the prisoners fired a steel arrow from a crossbow which penetrated through the Warder's left thigh. Although wounded and in pain he continued to follow the prisoners who again attempted to scale the wall but were forced back by Barrett's harassing tactics. The prisoners continued to fire arrows from the shelter of a building and before they were finally overpowered by police and other warders Barrett was again wounded in the right elbow.

Eric William BRETTELL, Constable, Staffordshire County Police. (Burton upon Trent.)

The police were called to a house where a man in possession of a shot gun was threatening anyone who approached. When the police entered the house they saw the man at the top of the staircase with a gun. A shot was fired and pellets entered the hall where the police were standing. Every possible effort was made to persuade the man to give up the gun, but he refused and threatened any police officer who came near the stairs. There were three young children in one of the bedrooms, and any drastic measures would have endangered their health and possibly their lives. After nearly four hours of this state of siege Constable Brettell risked going up the stairs and sat on the top step talking to the man who had the gun trained on him the whole of the time. When the man's attention was diverted the Constable took the only opportunity he had to grab the barrel of the gun, snatch it from the man and run downstairs. The man then produced a sheath knife but he was eventually overpowered and taken into custody.

Gareth James SCANLON, Painter, London W.11.

A serious fire occurred in a four-storeyed terraced dwelling house, let off in separate rooms to a number of tenants. The fire originated when one of the occupants was lighting a paraffin stove in his room. Mr. Scanlon from

the house immediately opposite ran out to see if he could help. Flames and smoke were coming from all the windows and people were standing at the windows screaming for help. Some had started to jump to the ground. Scanlon got on to a first floor window ledge and a young girl climbed out of a second floor window and lowered herself so that he could take hold of her and hand her down to another man standing by. He then saw a woman standing on a ledge below a window on the third floor. From the third floor window of the house next door Scanlon climbed on to a shelf which ran between the houses and reaching for the woman guided her along the shelf. While remaining on the shelf himself he then helped to lift her through the window. The shelf was only eight inches wide and some thirty feet above the ground. Had he slipped, or fallen from his perilous perch serious injury and possibly death would have resulted.

Bryan John SHOVELLER, Fireman, Kent Fire Brigade. (Sittingbourne.)

A boy fell into a disused well and the Fire Brigade was called on to assist in his rescue. The well was about 325 feet deep with a diameter of about 3 feet reducing to about 2 feet 6 inches at the bottom. Tests showed that the air in the well was unbreathable below 150 feet. Fireman Shoveller volunteered to descend. Wearing breathing apparatus he was lowered into the well and on reaching the bottom found that the boy was dead, his badly mutilated body entangled in timber and metal debris. Owing to the narrowness of the well it was necessary to haul up the boy's body ahead of the fireman. This was a slow and difficult operation during which there was a danger that the line would break as a result of rubbing on the brick sides of the well, and that in the cramped conditions the fireman's breathing apparatus might be knocked off. Fireman Shoveller calmly and efficiently carried out an arduous and unpleasant task under conditions of great danger of which he was fully aware but which he accepted without hesitation.

Queen's Commendation for brave conduct :

Andrew ADAMSON, Constable, Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary. (Stranraer.)

For rescuing a woman who had fallen into Stranraer harbour.

Robert William Francis GOODALL, Fireman, Manchester Fire Brigade.

For rescuing a man from a burning house.

Dennis SCOTT, Sergeant, Cheshire Constabulary. (Northwich.)

Harry William Morrow ASCROFT, Detective Constable, Cheshire Constabulary. (Northwich.)

Douglas Joseph McCASKILL, Constable, Cheshire Constabulary. (Northwich.)

For services when arresting an armed man.

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