

and swinging in the wind with the movements of the men on it. The risks were increased by the jib being constructed of triangular sectioned steel, giving a minimum foothold when in the horizontal position and being covered with grease. Coupled with the physical difficulty of moving along the jib Pollock was faced with the problem of the unknown mental state and possible reactions of the man being rescued.

*Awarded the George Medal :*

David Middleton COPPIN, Assistant Personnel Manager. (Purley, Surrey.)

Four men, armed with two shotguns and a car starting handle, entered a Bank and after threatening the staff stole £25 from a cashier's drawer. At the time one of the bank clerks was in a vault passage out of the raiders' view and he went to the side entrance to raise the alarm at the next door premises. Mr. Coppin heard the call for assistance and after telling a commissionaire to telephone the Police he looked through a window and saw one of the raiders walking on the counter. He then went to a car parked outside the Bank and seeing two shotgun cartridges inside it, surmised that it was the raiders' getaway vehicle. He released the handbrake and pushed the car until its bonnet was against a concrete pillar so as to hamper the raiders escape. He then went towards the front door of the Bank at which moment the raiders ran out of the premises. Coppin immediately went for the first of them, a man carrying the starting handle. However, on seeing that the second man was armed with a shotgun he tackled him instead. The man immediately threw the gun at Coppin who ducked and on looking up he saw that the raiders had separated and were running away in different directions. Straightaway Mr. Coppin picked up the gun which had fallen at his feet and chased after one of the men. The chase continued along an Avenue, over the dividing fence of the dual carriageway, along a footpath and finally over a private fence and on to some waste land where Mr. Coppin, after running for some 250 yards, finally caught up with the man who was lying down behind some bushes. On reaching the man he gripped the shotgun by the barrels and threatened him with the butt. He then took him by the neck and began to walk him back towards the road. Another of the raiders suddenly appeared behind Mr. Coppin picked up some stones and threatened him. Coppin, however, turned and shouted at him, whereupon the second man disappeared into some bushes. On reaching the road Mr. Coppin handed his prisoner over to the crew of a police car. Mr. Coppin displayed astuteness and calculation in first of all immobilising the raiders' car and extreme bravery in ignoring the man with the starting handle and approaching the one with the gun which he had every reason to believe was loaded.

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

Derek CARTER, Constable, Newcastle-upon-Tyne City Police.

Shortly after midnight P.C. Carter, together with other officers, in response to an emergency call went to a High Level Bridge where it was reported that a man was attempting to commit suicide. On their arrival it was seen that a

man was sitting on a ledge which surrounds a stone support of the bridge. This ledge, which measures approximately 18 inches in width, is about 80 feet above the level of the River Tyne and 6 feet from the safety railings of the bridge. The ledge itself was covered in moss, bird droppings and mud, making it an extremely perilous position to stand on. P.C. Carter climbed the safety railings of the bridge and edged himself to the side of the man, who was sitting with his legs hanging over the ledge. Other officers also climbed onto the ledge from the other side of the bridge support and caught hold of the man's left arm and P.C. Carter took hold of his right arm. At this stage, the man became agitated and began to shout. He pulled himself away from the officers and took hold of Carter's trouser leg and attempted to slide over the ledge. He was restrained by the officers but made further attempts. It was obvious that he could not be brought back to the bridge by force. In spite of being in this dangerous position, Carter remained firm and instructed the other officers to withdraw. He then began talking to the man in an effort to get him to the safety of the bridge. He remained with him, on the ledge, for approximately thirty minutes and eventually convinced the man to leave the ledge and return to the bridge at 2 a.m.

John Anthony DAWSON, Constable, Metropolitan Police. (Morden.)

Derek HEATON, Constable, Metropolitan Police. (Morden.)

Constable Dawson was at home and off duty, when his suspicions were aroused by the behaviour of two youths, who had called at his house. Having watched them go to another house farther along the road, he followed but was unable to see what they were doing. He telephoned for police assistance from a private house and then stationed himself at a street corner near where two Post Office engineers were working. The officer told these men what he had seen and enlisted their aid should the need arise. Soon afterwards, the youths approached. The Constable went over to them and announced that he was a police officer, whereupon they both tried to run away. The two engineers chased after and detained one of them while the officer struggled with the other. In the course of the struggle the youth drew what appeared to be a Luger pistol from his pocket and threatened the officer with it. Dawson continued to grapple with the youth who eventually managed to break loose and ran off with the officer in pursuit about ten yards behind. At least twice during the ensuing chase, the youth turned and fired at Constable Dawson who heard the shots whistling past his face but carried on undeterred. Constable Heaton, who arrived on the scene on a motor cycle in answer to a radio call, joined in the chase and took the lead. He knew that the youth was armed and a shot was in fact fired at him. In spite of this, he went on after the youth until the latter stopped, faced the officer and levelled the gun at him. On being ordered by the officer to drop the gun, the youth finally obeyed and, after a brief struggle, he was arrested.

Robert GRAY, Fireman, London Fire Brigade. (London E.5.)

Fireman Gray was a member of a fire appliance crew called to a house fire. Smoke was