

avail. The intruder threatened to shoot any person who attempted to enter the shop and at one stage pushed open the door and pointed the gun into the back room. In the poor light it appeared to Brown that the intruder was using both hands to open some boxes and had put down the gun. Seizing this opportunity, he threw himself into the shop to find that the intruder still had the shotgun under his arm, but before the man could bring the gun to bear on him the Constable rushed forward and grasped the barrels. The armed man was standing some 12 feet from the doorway by which Brown entered. The Sergeant followed Brown into the room and was able to assist in disarming the intruder after a struggle. Constable Brown acted with initiative and with the highest sense of duty in seizing a very brief opportunity to come to grips with an armed and dangerous criminal.

John Montague CUNNINGHAM, Baker's Roundsmen. (London W.5.)

A girl aged six years wandered onto some railway lines. Mr. Cunningham was nearby and on being told that there was a child burning on the line he immediately ran to the railway where he saw the child about fifteen yards from a level crossing lying face down with her left arm and body under the electricity conductor rail and her right arm over it. Her left arm was smoking and Mr. Cunningham thought she was dead. After looking to see that no trains were coming Mr. Cunningham jumped between the rails and, without any regard for the fact that he could also be electrocuted, he grabbed hold of the child's arm and pulled her over the other lines to safety. He then applied artificial respiration. The child finally rallied and was conveyed by ambulance to hospital where she was detained with burns to her arms and legs.

John Patrick FENNELLY, Ganger. (London W.10.)

Three or possibly four men armed with a pistol, a sawn-off shotgun and a water pistol containing ammonia, raided a bank. During the raid ammonia was squirted at the bank staff and shots were fired. Mr. Fennelly was working outside the rear of the bank when a workmate told him the bank was being raided. Picking up a shovel he ran into the road adjoining the bank where he saw three men, one of whom was carrying the gun, running towards a car which was standing with its engine running and another man at the steering wheel. Two of the men got into the car but as the man with the gun went to get in Mr. Fennelly attacked him with the shovel. Someone inside the car shouted to shoot and the man started to raise the gun at Mr. Fennelly who dropped the shovel, grabbed hold of the barrel and pushed it towards the ground. Mr. Fennelly was then squirted with liquid by someone inside the car and as he released the gun barrel he was hit on the back of the left hand with the butt of the gun. The man was then able to get into the car and the raiders made their escape. Mr. Fennelly sustained cuts and bruising to his hand. Although he was unsuccessful in preventing their escape, the courageous manner in which he set about the armed thieves forced them to remain at the scene of their crime thereby losing valuable time and affording another witness the opportunity to note the registration number of the getaway car. The delay occasioned by the gallant action of Mr. Fennelly was instrumental in leading to the subsequent arrest of the culprits.

Victor John LOCK, Constable, Metropolitan Police. (London N.15.)

Charles Browne VON, Constable, Metropolitan Police. (London N.2.)

A wages car and an escorting police car were rammed and the occupants savagely attacked by about ten masked men armed with iron bars and other weapons. The robbers made off with over £32,000 in cash. Police Constables Lock and Von, who were patrolling in a police wireless van, heard the call for assistance and went to search for the robbers. They decided to stop and question a man. At their approach he drew a revolver from the belt of his trousers, pointed it at Lock and threatened to shoot him. Both Officers moved towards the man who then pointed the gun at chest level and the Officers heard it click as the trigger was pulled. The Officers dropped to the ground and the gunman ran off with the gun in his hand. The two Constables ran after him keeping their distance about fifteen yards behind. The chase continued with the man still brandishing the revolver. At one point he stopped, turned and threatened to shoot his pursuers. Eventually, however, he began to tire and was seen to throw the revolver away. Lock and Von closed with him and he was overpowered. When the gun was subsequently recovered it was found to be loaded in five of its six chambers.

William Arthur NIELD, Constable, Metropolitan Police. (London E.8.)

Brian Edwin WHEELER, Constable, Metropolitan Police. (Ilford.)

A shop window was smashed and goods on display were stolen. On hearing of this, Constables Wheeler and Nield went to the scene by car and obtained descriptions of the culprits. They then searched the area in the car. After about half an hour they came upon a man and woman who answered to the descriptions they had been given. Constable Nield got out of the car and questioned the man. Making as if to produce a receipt from his pocket, the man without warning slashed the face of Constable Wheeler, who had by now joined Nield, from mouth to ear with a barber's razor. Both Officers immediately grappled with the man, who was tall and powerfully built, and struggled to overpower him. The struggle, which lasted at least ten minutes, was extremely violent and further injuries were inflicted on both Officers with the razor. The criminal was not finally overcome until police reinforcements arrived on the scene. Police Constables Wheeler and Nield acted with commendable initiative and diligence in searching for this vicious criminal and they displayed outstanding courage and resolution in tackling him after he had seriously wounded one of them with the razor.

*Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct :*

Maurice Bertie AYRUS, Sergeant, Norfolk Constabulary. (Holt.)

For services when helping in the arrest of an armed criminal.

Leslie Edgar BRACHE, Constable, Guernsey Police Force, Guernsey, Channel Islands.

For services when arresting a youth armed with a loaded shot gun.

Gertrude BUCKLEY, Woman Police Sergeant, West Riding Constabulary. (Brighouse.)

For services when armed criminals attempted to rob a bank.