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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
 THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

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

24th December 1968.

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 brave conduct.

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

Joseph HANCOX, Constable, Liverpool and Bootle Constabulary.

Constable Hancox was informed that a woman had fallen in the water between a pier head wall and a floating landing stage. He ran to the scene and was then told that the woman was in the water beneath the floating stage, where she had been carried by the current. The Constable climbed down on to a pontoon and plunged into the water. The tide was on the ebb and a fast current was flowing. He swam underneath the floating stage, where the water is very turbulent due to the suction caused by the rise and fall of the pontoons. It is also very dark, making it difficult for a rescuer to distinguish objects. Hancox eventually located the woman but as he approached her she sank beneath the surface of the water. When he reached the spot where she had sunk, she floated back to the surface and he was able to grasp her. She was then apparently unconscious. He supported her in the water and swam with her, against the ebbing tide, back to the pontoon. Several men then climbed down and the woman was lifted on to the stage. She was taken by ambulance to hospital where after treatment she recovered. The action of Constable Hancox in the rescue of the woman, taken with complete disregard for his own personal safety, was in accord with the best traditions of the police service.

Frank PULLEY, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Constable Pulley and two other Constables were patrolling in a car when they saw two men, one a known criminal, looking at shops. The officers decided to question them. Constable Pulley stopped one of the men, told him that he was a police officer and asked him to return with him to the other officers. He then started to question the man who suddenly rammed his knee into the officer's groin and tried to escape. Although he was in pain Pulley grabbed and hung on to him whereupon the man took a gun from his right hand pocket, kicked the officer in the shin and threatened to shoot if he was not released. Pulley shouted to his colleagues who, on seeing him threatened with a gun, ran towards him. Pulley, although in great pain, threw himself at the man, and knocked the gun from his hand. The three officers then subdued the violently struggling criminal and arrested him.

Joseph Robert SPEERS, Prison Officer, Parramatta Gaol, New South Wales.

Three notorious criminals, attempted to escape from Parramatta Gaol. A prison officer, when opening the gate of the security yard occupied by one of these prisoners, was seized by the prisoner and threatened with a knife at the throat. The other two prisoners then climbed over the walls of their adjoining security yards. Although threatened with the knife the officer withdrew the security keys from the lock of the gate and threw them to the back of the yard, thereby depriving the escapees of easy passage through other yards to the prison wall. The prisoners then forced him and another officer into the yard and bolted the gate. Prison Officer Speers saw the three prisoners in a position which indicated that they had escaped from the maximum security area and, although alone and unarmed, moved to intercept them. The escaping prisoners had obtained a ladder and a coal rake. They erected the ladder against the inside of the gaol wall and two climbed to the top. One of them had hooked the rake