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TUESDAY, 7TH OCTOBER 1969

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE  
 ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

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

7th October 1969.

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 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.*

Francis Joseph LORRIGAN, Chief Officer, Carlisle Fire Brigade.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal for Gallantry, Civil Division*

Joseph SEWELL, Station Officer, Carlisle Fire Brigade.

In response to a fire call, a water tender with a crew of one Sub-Officer and four firemen, and Station Officer Sewell were sent to railway sidings where a railway van containing ammunition was on fire. Three members of the crew man-handled a nearby ballast wagon up the line to within 30 ft. of the burning van to provide cover for the fire-fighters while others prepared to set the pump into a pond 300 yards away. Chief Officer Lorrigan arrived at the scene and shortly after there was an explosion and shells, shrapnel and debris were flung over a wide area. Due to the violence of the explosion the van was lifted into the air and fell back across the rails. Chief Officer Lorrigan with the assistance of the crew, ran out two hoses from the open water using the dip of the embankment as a screen. During this action a second explosion occurred but due to the cover afforded by the embankment no one was injured. The hose was taken up the embankment across the

main lines and behind the ballast wagon. The Chief Officer manned one hose and Station Officer Sewell the other from behind the ballast wagon until the hoses were lashed to it. It was then discovered that a live shell had dropped on to the ballast wagon which was being used as a screen. The Chief Officer ordered all personnel to retreat to a safe area 300 yards away adjacent to the pond. As the men were taking up their positions there was a third explosion and a further seven explosions took place at 4-6 minute intervals. The two jets of water finally extinguished the burning debris and cooled the ammunition in the van, preventing further explosions. Chief Fire Officer Lorrigan and Station Officer Sewell showed courage, fortitude and tenacity in extremely dangerous conditions.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal for Gallantry, Civil Division*

Harry FIELDHOUSE, Prison Officer, Department of Corrections, New South Wales.

A fire broke out in the cell of a prisoner in the Observation Ward of the Central Industrial Prison, Long Bay. The fire and smoke in the cell would most certainly have resulted in the death of the prisoner had he not been rescued. Prison Officer Fieldhouse, in company with a second officer, went to the cell and when the observation port was open flames projected through the port and scorched the faces of the officers. The cell door was thrown open and it was seen that the cell was not only smoke-filled but the lining was blazing with fire. The prisoner had placed his mattress in an upright position across the doorway and this was burning furiously. Fieldhouse seized the burning mattress, dragged it into the corridor and thus cleared the doorway. He then entered the flaming, smoke-filled cell where visibility was almost nil and by touch searched for and found the now unconscious prisoner lying in the far corner. He dragged the helpless prisoner through the door of the cell into the corridor