

the help of the Sierra Leone Selection Trust who quickly put one of their helicopters at the disposal of the Police. The Chief Police Officer and Chief Inspector Jaba were conveyed to the scene in the helicopter piloted by Capt. Connolly. A reconnaissance of the scene with the helicopter indicated more forcefully how grave the plight of the stranded people was.

The pilot then landed the helicopter at Dogboy. The Chief Police Officer, Chief Inspector Jaba and the pilot then had to walk through about 2 miles of thick jungle to reach the nearest place to the wrecked launch where by this time hundreds of people had assembled vainly trying to pass a rope to the people on the rock. The observations made here clearly confirmed beyond any doubt whatsoever that it was absolutely impossible to rescue the people from land as no one could approach the wrecked launch now perched precariously on rocks amidst the swiftly flowing river.

It was therefore decided that the only hope of rescuing the stranded people was to take a calculated risk with the small helicopter. With the Chief Police Officer remaining at the scene with the people who were trying to assist with the rescue, the pilot and Chief Inspector Jaba had to walk through the jungle swamp to Dogboy where a piece of strong rope was obtained. Chief Inspector Jaba was then conveyed to the scene again in the helicopter piloted by Capt. Connolly. With one end of the rope tied tightly around Jaba's waist, the other end with a loop was lowered down to the launch whilst the small helicopter was delicately manoeuvred into position hovering about 15 feet above the launch. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Chief Inspector Jaba partly leaned out of the helicopter and, by signs demonstrated to the stranded people how they should put the loop around their chest one at a time. This was done and Jaba slowly and deliberately raised the pregnant women up to the side of the helicopter and finally heaved her on board on to the middle vacant seat amidst great shouts of applause from hundreds of people who were watching the dramatic rescue operation. The first woman was then conveyed to Dogboy where she was landed. The same process was repeated seven times for the rest of the stranded people. The one year old child was raised up strapped to the back of its mother.

Unfortunately one man was swept away a short while before the helicopter started the rescue operation.

All through this operation Chief Inspector Jaba showed extreme courage and cool-headedness. One false move by him whilst the helicopter was hovering over the launch and the helicopter would have crashed into the river resulting in everyone perishing.

Chief Inspector Jaba displayed gallantry of the highest order without which all the people would definitely have perished in the river.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

20th April 1971.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's Sierra Leone Ministers, to approve the award of the George Medal to the undermentioned:

(To be dated 3rd April 1971)

Sergeant Joseph SAMUELS, Sierra Leone Police Force.

On 22nd July 1970 at about 4.15 p.m. No. 374 Sergeant Samuels, Post Commander, Mano Police Post, Southern Province, had arrested a highway robber named Roy Benson alias Rogers, a Liberian of Bassa Tribe, for the theft of various articles valued at £211 from the house of Miss Jeane Shoemaker, a member of the U.S. Peace Corps.

Benson (alias Rogers) was being searched by the Post Commander (Samuels) when ex-Major M. M. Koroma arrived and interrupted with a report of a road accident in which he was involved along the Taiama/Freetown Road. Whilst ex-Major Koroma was being attended to, a Volkswagen car with false identification number EM 8265 drew up and parked about 100 yards opposite the Post facing Taiama direction. Two armed men alighted, one a Mulatto and the other, a short bulky black complexioned fellow with bushy hair and beard, who was believed to be James Conteh alias Jessie James, the leader of the highway

robbers in this country. They entered the Police Post. The short statured bandit asked everybody out of the Post and then fired a pistol on the Charge Office wall.

The incident frightened the on-lookers in the Post who went to see Roy Benson and they ran out together with some Police personnel around. Sergeant Samuels was left alone. James Conteh then ordered the release of Benson. When Sergeant Samuels attempted to arrest him, he pointed the pistol at Samuels' forehead and fired. Samuels quickly ducked but the shot caught him at the back of his neck. Nonetheless he grappled with his assailants but one of them, Roy Benson, eventually ran out followed by the others and they jumped into the waiting car. Samuels made one more desperate chase with a view to arresting the bandits only to fall unconscious to the ground as a result of the gun shot wound he had sustained. One Abu Kamara a motor apprentice and friend of the Police at Mano together with the Station Master, Mr. Simbo, rushed at the windscreen of the car and grabbed one of the bandits; another bandit fired a shot at Kamara's thigh and they drove off leaving a pistol behind.

Sergeant Samuels and Abu Kamara were sent to Bo Government Hospital, where Samuels was admitted after an emergency operation and a bullet extracted from underneath the flesh near his esophagus. Abu Kamara was treated and discharged.

On 25th July 1970, at about 6 p.m., Saffa Samuels son of Sergeant Samuels was in Bo, when he saw suspect Roy Benson alighting from a taxi at Bo Clock Tower roundabout. He identified him and alerted by-standers who arrested him. The suspect admitted the theft and being rescued by his colleagues from Police at Mano on 22nd July 1970.

Sergeant Samuels at great risk to his life displayed conspicuous gallantry deserving of noteworthy recognition.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

20th April 1971.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's Sierra Leone Ministers, to approve the award of the British Empire Medal for Gallantry (Civil Division) to the undermentioned:

(To be dated 3rd April 1971)

Robert Bobohden SIMBO.

Mr. Simbo was one of the two civilians who were involved in the assault by armed bandits on the Police Post at Mano, a small town in the Southern Province, on 22nd July 1970, in a "rescue" operation.

The Station Sergeant sustained gun shot wounds. Mr. Simbo, together with a Mr. Kamara, rushed at the bandits when they were making their getaway in a waiting car.

Although other by-standers, including policemen, deserted the area at the time of the incident, Mr. Simbo with Mr. Kamara came to the rescue of the Station Sergeant and only abandoned the pursuit when Mr. Kamara was hit by a shot fired from the car.

Abu KAMARA.

Mr. Abu Kamara was one of the two civilians who were involved in the assault by armed bandits on the Police Post at Mano, a small town in the Southern Province, in a "rescue" operation.

The Station Sergeant sustained gun shot wounds. Mr. Kamara, with Mr. Simbo the local station-master, rushed at the bandits as they were making their getaway in a waiting car.

Mr. Kamara smashed the rear windscreen of the car and grabbed one of the bandits. Another bandit fired a shot and Kamara was hit in the leg. The bandits drove off leaving a pistol behind.

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE

UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND
CAMBRIDGE ACT 1923

A Statute made by the Governing Body of Girton College, in the University of Cambridge, on the 8th March 1971, has been submitted for the approval