

*Chancery of the Royal Victorian Order,  
St. James's Palace,  
11th August, 1913.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to make the following appointments to the Royal Victorian Order:—

*To be Members of the Fourth Class.*

Commander John Ernest Troyte Harper,  
Royal Navy.

Commander Arthur Kenneth Macrorie, Royal  
Navy.

Lieutenant Henry Edmund Harvey Spencer-  
Cooper, Royal Navy.

Engineer Lieutenant Edward Leopold Dyke  
Acland, Royal Navy.

*Whitehall, August 8, 1913.*

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to award the Edward Medal of the 2nd Class to Thomas Aitken under the following circumstances:—

On the 3rd of October, 1912, Mr. George Lowthian, Consulting Engineer to the Tilehurst, Pangbourne and District Water Company, Limited, descended a well at the pumping station at Tilehurst to examine a set of pumps while they were working, accompanied by Aitken, the foreman. The engineer was standing on a staging, nearly in the centre of the well, about 80 feet below the surface, when a plank suddenly broke, and he fell about 34 feet. He crashed through an old pump staging, shattering his left foot and ankle, but managed to get hold of an iron bar about 4 feet below the old staging and 6 feet above water. Aitken, who had almost crossed the plank when it broke, caught hold of a beam and crawled round the pump to a ladder. He was in darkness, for the light had fallen with the engineer, but he groped his way down the slippery ladder to the second staging. He obtained a light, and found the engineer clinging to the girder below the staging. He reached him, and, with great difficulty, as the engineer weighed 14 stone and the whole place was very slippery, succeeded in dragging him to the top of the girder and thence to a place of safety on a ledge of brickwork. Then, ascending to the surface, he arranged for tackle to be let down into the well, and, going down again, managed to bring the man safely to the top. The engineer's strength was nearly exhausted when Aitken reached him, and he undoubtedly owes his life to Aitken's prompt and courageous action in going to his rescue at great risk to his own life.

Also to Allan Murdoch under the following circumstances:—

On the 10th of May, the barge "Arctic," belonging to the Liverpool Grain Storage and Transit Company, was taken alongside the s.s. "Monarch," in the Harrington Dock, Liverpool, to transfer some damaged corn from the ship to the barge. On the 12th of May, the captain of the barge and the mate went on

board and removed several of the hatch covers to put in more grain. The mate, noticing a dead rat lying in the hatch, went down, but collapsed on reaching the bottom. Murdoch, seeing that something was wrong through the conduct of the captain, who ran up and down the deck calling for help, rushed on board and descended the hold, accompanied by William Brown, the mate of another vessel. On reaching the bottom of the ladder, 12 feet long, both Brown and Murdoch were affected by the gas. Murdoch climbed out again, but Brown, in spite of his endeavours, failed to do so. In the meantime other men had arrived on board the boat, and Murdoch, with a life line attached to him, went down again into the hatch. He succeeded in bringing out the mate (Weedell), who was six feet away from the bottom of the ladder. He went down a second time, and managed to attach the rope to Brown, but then himself collapsed, and the two men were drawn out together. Weedell's life was saved; but Brown unfortunately succumbed to the effects of the gas. It is clear that Murdoch ran a very serious risk to his own life in descending twice into the hold, after being overcome by the gas in his first descent, and that his gallant action in all probability saved the mate from death.

*Whitehall, August 11, 1913.*

The KING has been pleased to give and grant unto the undermentioned gentlemen His Majesty's Royal licence and authority to accept and wear Decorations (as stated against their respective names) which have been conferred upon them by His Highness the Khedive of Egypt, authorized by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan of Turkey, in recognition of valuable services rendered by them:—

*Third Class of the Imperial Ottoman Order of the Osmanieh.*

Captain Adrian Aubrey Charles Taylor, the  
Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

Captain Ronald Macclesfield Heath, D.S.O.,  
Middlesex Regiment.

*Third Class of the Imperial Ottoman Order of the Medjidieh.*

Captain Charles Robert Graham Mayne,  
D.S.O., the Highland Light Infantry.

*Whitehall, August 11, 1913.*

The KING has been pleased to give and grant unto George Foster Smith, Esq., and Thomas Morton Chinn, Esq., Masters in the "Khedivieh" Secondary School, Cairo, and John Frederick Burrill, Esq., Master in the "Abbassieh" Secondary School, Alexandria, His Majesty's Royal licence and authority to accept and wear the Insignia of the Fourth Class of the Imperial Ottoman Order of the Medjidieh, which Decoration has been conferred upon them by His Highness the Khedive of Egypt, authorized by His Imperial Majesty