

played remarkable presence of mind and carried out her duties without panic and was of great assistance in maintaining the communications until the last possible moment. Mrs. Constable continued her work at great personal risk until the firefighters insisted upon her vacating the office and being removed to a place of safety.

William Francis Charles Newland, Sergeant 3rd Class, Police Force, State of New South Wales.

For services in connection with the Bush Fires of January, 1939.

Sergeant Newland, upon receiving word of the position at Yalwal which was wiped out by fire, communicated with a bus proprietor and directed him to start out with a bus capable of carrying 15 to 20 people. The Sergeant set out with the Coroner and two members of the Ambulance Brigade, travelling by motor car. At a point six or seven miles from Yalwal they encountered a wall of fire in thick bush country. Attempts were made to walk around the fire by way of gullies, but without success. The Sergeant then returned to the motor vehicles and was driven back some three miles to a house where he obtained towels and water. On returning to the fire he asked for volunteers to go through and five men agreed to accompany the Sergeant in the ambulance and a lorry into the fire. The party covered their faces with towels soaked in water. They reached Yalwal about 3.15 p.m. One man was found burned to death, nine people were sheltering in the creek and many were in an exhausted condition and had to receive treatment. After having the body of the dead man buried, the Sergeant arranged for the destitute and people suffering from the effects of the fire to be brought to Nowra by bus and ambulance. The Sergeant arrived back at Nowra at 9.30 p.m. His action saved residents of Yalwal from a very desperate situation.

Gladys Elizabeth, Mrs. Sanderson, Assistant to the Non-Official Postmaster, Post Office, Noojee, State of Victoria.

For services in connection with the Bush Fires in January 1939.

Mrs. Sanderson was on duty at Noojee, Victoria, when the town was destroyed by fire on the 13th January. During the previous week, when the fires were threatening, Mrs. Sanderson worked hard to maintain communications. On the day that the town was destroyed, she displayed remarkable courage and resource. Although the flames were nearing the office, Mrs. Sanderson remained on duty and in touch with the Postmaster, Warragul, until the building in which the office was conducted was about to catch fire. She carefully placed the departmental valuables in the safe and before leaving the office, called the Postmaster, Warragul, and informed him that she was forced to abandon the office and was rushing to the river in an endeavour to save her life. Mrs. Sanderson intimated that if she did not escape, the official keys would be found attached to her wrist.

Lala Hem Raj, Lorry Driver, Bahadur Khel, Kohat District, North-West Frontier Province.

On the evening of 26th April, 1939, Hem Raj was driving his lorry loaded with bags of maize and carrying 11 passengers along the Kohat road in the direction of Bannu. Near a milestone he saw that the road had been blocked with stones to a height of about two feet. Simultaneously, two persons in khaki clothes with muffled faces opened fire at his lorry with shot-guns from behind some adjacent rocks, while six other raiders, who had taken up other positions nearby, also opened fire on the vehicle. Hem Raj was wounded in his left arm by a bullet, and also received pellet injuries in his right leg; four of the passengers were also wounded. Hem Raj immediately summed up the situation and decided to charge the road block, which he did to such good advantage that he broke through it and drove his lorry and his passengers through to safety, although his engine failed after driving about two miles. It was entirely due to his presence of mind and his decision to run the gauntlet that the lorry, together with the passengers, was brought to safety, in spite of his being wounded in the left arm and right leg.

William Leslie,
Elkanah Williams,
Ronald Seivewright,
Jamaica.

On Wednesday, 8th November, 1939, at about 7 a.m. a party of men were fishing on a rock about 1½ miles from Dry Harbour, Jamaica. It was the hurricane period and a heavy sea was running, with the tides dashing over the rock. A great wave swept the rock and one man, Johnson, was thrown into the sea. Although a good swimmer, it was impossible to swim to the shore at that point and Johnson was only able to just keep afloat while being drawn further out to sea. He supported himself by holding on to a piece of log which had been thrown to him. When nearly exhausted, a small bamboo raft with an inflated inner tube attached, which had been hastily prepared and thrown into the sea, drifted near enough to enable him to grasp it and he thus kept himself afloat. Johnson was now about 100 yards from the shore. Leslie, Williams and Seivewright then took off in a canoe from Dry Harbour to rescue him. Leslie acted as coxswain, and Williams and Seivewright rowed. They pulled to outside the harbour and then for over a mile along the coast in the raging sea. They eventually reached Johnson, and Leslie pulled him into the canoe. After two hours they at last landed Johnson safely on the beach at Dry Harbour. It was exceptionally dangerous for a canoe to put to sea in the conditions prevailing.

Whitehall,
28th June, 1940.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the publication of the name of the undermentioned as having received an expression of commendation for his services:—
Leopold Dixon Romyn, Trawler Skipper.

On 3rd November last, at Bridlington, Mr. Romyn entered the sea and towed a mine clear of the sea wall, at great personal risk.