

strapped into the aircraft, and cut the straps and released him. While he was so doing one of the petrol tanks exploded and the fire increased greatly in intensity, but when he saw a foot protruding from the wreckage he once again went in and dragged yet another airman clear of the flames.

Perera showed outstanding courage and complete disregard of his own safety.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—

Thomas WHEATMAN, Under Manager, Loftus Ironstone Mine, Yorkshire.

G. H. DALE, Deputy, Loftus Ironstone Mine, Yorkshire.

A fall of roof occurred in a mine and three men were trapped.

Wheatman and Dale immediately went to the scene and one man was quickly released. The other trapped men were heard calling for help and Wheatman and Dale went over the fall and commenced rescue operations. They removed heavy stones and timber, but when one man was reached he appeared to be dead. Wheatman and Dale redoubled their efforts to reach the remaining victim who was lying, face down, on the wet floor and in danger of suffocation. Their work of rescue was interrupted by further falls and on two occasions they had to cover the casualty with timber to prevent further injury to him. The rescue work was carried on although there was imminent danger of the collapse of the roof above them, but after three hours work the man was rescued alive and removed to a place of safety.

Wheatman and Dale showed courage without thought for their own safety.

KING'S COMMENDATIONS FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

G. KNIGHT, Deputy, Loftus Ironstone Mine, Yorkshire.

James EASTON, Overman, Loftus Ironstone Mine, Yorkshire.

For services when an accident occurred in a mine.

BAHARUM BIN MAT, Office Keeper, Postal Headquarters, Kuala Lumpur.

Matthew CUNICO, Lighthouse Keeper, Raffles, Malaya.

Miss Isabel JALLEH, Chief Supervisor, Telephone Exchange, Penang.

For services during the enemy occupation of Malaya.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD,

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
25th June 1946.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in the Merchant Navy, and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of those specially shown below as

having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct.

To be an Additional Officer of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

Leslie COOMBES, Esq., Chief Engineer Officer, s.s. "Willesden," (Watts Shipping Company Ltd.).

To be an Additional Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

John Waters GARDINER, Esq., Chief Officer, s.s. "Willesden," (Watts Shipping Company Ltd.).

The s.s. "Willesden," sailing from New York to the Mediterranean was attacked by a German raider. Evasive action was taken but the ship was badly damaged by shellfire, which caused the deck cargo of aviation spirit to ignite. The Chief Officer went aft to engage the raider with the ship's gun, but the fire on board spread rapidly and the ship had to be abandoned. The Master and crew were made prisoners and the ship was torpedoed by the raider and sunk.

The Chief Engineer Officer and Chief Officer fully supported the Master in fighting back at the enemy, and displayed outstanding courage and devotion to duty.

To be an Additional Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

Captain John Anthony HUGHES, Master, s.s. "Portia," (Coast Lines Ltd.).

A tanker struck a mine and immediately caught fire. Although the sea was covered with blazing spirit over a large area, the s.s. "Portia" which was following in the wake of the vessel, at once lowered a boat. Five survivors were picked up in spite of grave danger from the burning spirit, which continued to spread rapidly.

Captain Hughes displayed coolness and courage in manoeuvring his ship, which was carrying ammunition, into the danger area and in directing the rescue operations in spite of the grave risk.

KING'S COMMENDATIONS FOR BRAVE CONDUCT.

Percival Robert AUSTRIAN (deceased). Boat-swain, s.s. "Shirvan," (Baltic Trading Company Ltd.).

Captain Richard David GRIFFITHS, O.B.E., Master, s.s. "Willesden" (Watts Shipping Company Ltd.).

John Edward JOHNSTON, Esq., Fourth Engineer Officer, s.s. "Shirvan" (Baltic Trading Company Ltd.).

Stanley George JUNNI (deceased), Carpenter, s.s. "Shirvan," (Baltic Trading Company Ltd.).

Francis Lacey MAIN, Esq., Chief Officer, s.s. "Shirvan," (Baltic Trading Company Ltd.).

For services when their ships encountered enemy ships, submarines or aircraft.