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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD,

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
10th February, 1948.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to award the GEORGE CROSS to:—

Thomas Raymond KELLY (deceased), Able Seaman, s.s. "Empire Plover," Ormos Shipping Company Ltd.

The s.s. "Famagusta" of London while on a voyage to Cyprus encountered very severe weather conditions in the Bay of Biscay and developed a list to port. The wind was of almost gale force in squalls and the seas high and tumbling. The weather worsened, the list increased and the vessel pounded and shipped water.

In response to an S.O.S. message the s.s. "Empire Plover" of London came to her assistance, and stood by. The "Famagusta" launched a lifeboat which pulled towards the "Empire Plover" but the boat capsized and threw its ten occupants into the water.

The "Empire Plover" quickly manoeuvred into position and lowered ropes, ladders and scrambling nets. Three of her crew stripped and entered the water. Two of them remained at the nets and ladders. The third, Able Seaman Kelly, swam off with a line to the crew of the lifeboat who were struggling in the raging sea. He first brought to safety an officer who had been badly injured. He then swam out again and returned to the "Empire Plover" with a second member of the crew. Notwithstanding the strain through which he had already gone, he swam way from his ship a third time, on this occasion to the assistance of a woman who was seen to be struggling in the water some 50 yards away. He succeeded in reaching her but both were struck by a heavy sea and disappeared. Five of the ten who had been in the lifeboat were drowned.

Kelly showed a very high order of bravery and it was due to his determined and gallant action that two lives were saved. Each time he left the "Empire Plover" he risked his life. To leave his ship on the third occasion, with the full knowledge which his first two rescues must have given him of the risk and difficulty of his undertaking and in the face of the bodily fatigue which those rescues must have entailed, was an act of supreme gallantry.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
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*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
10th February, 1948.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following awards of the British Empire Medal and for the publication in the London Gazette of the names of the persons specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal
(Civil Division).—*

Frank CARTER, Ripper, Tilmanstone Colliery, Kent.

A Chargeman was trapped in a space of about one foot in height when the collapse of a roof took place at Tilmanstone Colliery. His body was held but his head was free and exposed to unprotected roof. Carter took charge of rescue operations and succeeded in stopping further ground movement by erecting a stout prop. Pieces of roof continued to come away during this time and he had to withdraw twice.

Carter then realised that there was a stone, weighing about six cwt., precariously balanced on a girder and likely to fall at any moment on the head of the trapped man. Regardless of the danger Carter placed his body exposed to the unsafe roof so that he could steady the loose

stone. He remained in this dangerous position for about ten minutes until the Charge-man was withdrawn unharmed.

Carter acted with no regard for personal danger and risked his life in saving that of his fellow workman.

Kungusankaran KARUNAKARAN, Tractor Driver, Public Works Department, Singapore.

For services to the Forces during military operations in the Far East prior to 2nd September, 1945.

Thomas Matson ROBERTS, Company Officer, No. 22 (North Wales) Fire Force.

A man was trapped on Pen Cae, Cader Idris, and a request was made to the National Fire Service at Dolgelly Fire Station to assist in the rescue. The party, consisting of Police, Royal Marine Commandos and Firemen, was split up, and the N.F.S. party were detailed to make the ascent, the cliff in question, the Craig Cae of the Cader Range being about 1,200 ft. high. After several attempts had been made to make the summit, it was decided to try a narrow gully packed with scree. In the darkness the climb was both long and arduous but eventually the party reached the ridge. The position of the trapped man was very uncertain and it was not possible to see or hear him. The party at the foot then signalled that it was impossible to get up the rock from below while darkness lasted and the search was reluctantly called off until daylight. Company Officer Roberts and a Fireman stayed for the remainder of the night within shouting distance of the man. At day-break the search was resumed. A heavy mist further impeded progress and made the need for a quick rescue very necessary. By using every ledge and crack in the rock face, the two men eventually made their height by backing up a chimney. Company Officer Roberts then went the last lap alone. Working with elbows and knees, he made his way along a narrow ledge and was at last able to reach the trapped man. Roberts had to lift him bodily to get him to the top of the chimney. He was then brought down to safety.

Company Officer Roberts displayed courage and determination in effecting this most difficult rescue.

Harold WOODS, Foreman, Engineers Department, Mersey Docks and Harbour Board.

In the course of his work at Huskisson Dock a diver descended a 50 ft. shaft leading to a

sewer. The diver's linesman, who was on a wooden staging 30 ft. down the shaft tending the diver, was seen to fall into the water. Two other men descended the rope ladder down the shaft to the staging, but were immediately overcome by sewer gas and no response could be obtained from them. Woods suspected the presence of gas and, with a rope tied around him, immediately went down the shaft. Upon reaching the wooden stage he found two men lying in an unconscious state, partly submerged in the water. Although affected by gas Woods managed, with considerable difficulty, to fasten ropes around each of the two men and signalled for them to be pulled up to the surface. By this action he undoubtedly saved their lives. Woods then made a search for the body of the linesman but being overcome by the gas he was compelled to give up the search and was pulled up on the verge of collapse.

Woods displayed great courage without thought for self.

KING'S COMMENDATIONS FOR BRAVE CONDUCT.

William AUSTIN, Jr., Datal Man.

John Richard BROWN, Repairer.

Anthony HIRD, Datal Man.

Arthur MURRAY, Repairer.

John Wilson O'NEIL, Timberer.

Christopher THUBRON, Timberer.

For services when rescuing a man overcome by gas fumes in Hylton Colliery, Castletown, Sunderland.

Tom Meredyth BROOKES, Fireman, No. 22 (North Wales) Fire Force.

For services when assisting in the rescue of a mountain-climber.

Samuel LUDLAM (deceased), Contract Worker, Bullcroft Main Colliery, Yorkshire.

For services when an accident occurred in a mine (In substitution for the award announced on page 6092 of Gazette No. 38154 dated 23rd December, 1947.)

Walter OLIVER, Sergeant, Durham County Police Force.

For services when attempting the rescue of a woman buried under debris in a burning building

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