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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.

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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