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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
 OF KNIGHTHOOD.**

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

7th February, 1950.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned awards of the George Medal and of the British Empire Medal 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:—

Awarded the George Medal:—

Stanley Ernest BELL, Ladle man, South Durham Steel and Iron Company Ltd., Stockton-on-Tees.

Frederick PEARCE, Ladle man, South Durham Steel and Iron Company Ltd., Stockton-on-Tees.

Frank SIMPSON, Pitman, South Durham Steel and Iron Company Ltd., Stockton-on-Tees.

A smelter at a steel foundry slipped from a platform into a 9 ft. pit containing cylindrical moulds of molten metal each 6 ft. high with a casing 6 ins. thick. The man fell into a 2 ft. space between the moulds with 7 tons of molten metal on either side of him. The heat was very intense and owing to the confined space he was unable to move.

His cries were heard by Bell, who shouted to Simpson and Pearce, and the three men ran to the scene of the accident. They were well aware of the extreme danger presented by the situation but without hesitation and regardless of personal risk they each stepped down into the pit and stood astride on the rims of two of the moulds. They then hauled up the smelter and lifted him to

safety at the side of the pit. The man was very heavy and it required great skill to get him out.

Owing to their exertions and the overpowering heat the three men were on the point of fainting when the rescue was completed. Had they collapsed they would almost certainly have fallen into the mould of molten metal. Each man showed great courage and acted without thought to self. Any delay in effecting the rescue would have resulted in the death of the smelter.

George Alfred HARRISON, Shop Assistant, Jaeger & Company Ltd., Birmingham.

Early one morning Harrison was the first employee to report for duty at the shop and, after unlocking the front door, went to the basement. The basement door was ajar and he saw a man standing in the staff room. Without hesitation he tackled him and pulled him into the passageway. He then attempted to get him up the stairs so that he could dial 999 from the shop.

As he was struggling he was set upon from behind by two other men. All three had scarves or handkerchiefs tied around the lower part of their faces. At this point Harrison received a blow on the head from a box spanner. He continued to struggle, but after a further three or four blows he became semi-conscious and fell to the ground. Whilst on the ground he received another blow which rendered him unconscious.

Upon regaining consciousness he found that the keys to the safe had been ripped from his pocket and were lying nearby and that the safe had been opened. He locked it and followed in the direction his assailants had apparently gone, through the basement

into the street. On emerging he saw one of the men walking away from the premises. He ran after him, caught him, and, with the assistance of bystanders, held the man until the Police arrived.

Harrison showed outstanding devotion to duty and courage. His determination and persistence, although injured, were the means of bringing a dangerous gang of criminals to justice.

Alexander INNES, Gardener, Calderpark Zoo, Glasgow. (Uddingston.)

The head keeper at Calderpark Zoo was attacked and mauled by a tigress while cleaning out her cage.

The animal was housed in a two-compartment cage and when the keeper approached he found the tigress lying in the night-compartment. Forgetting that he had opened the communicating door earlier that morning, the keeper entered the exercise-cage, leaving the outside door open. With his back to the communicating door he was in the act of lifting a drinking dish when the tigress came towards him and pinned him to the ground. He shouted for help and managed to scramble between the animal's legs and got out of the cage, landing between it and a four foot safety fence.

Hearing the cries, Innes ran about 50 yards to where the keeper was lying on the ground with the tigress on top of him. Innes jumped the safety fence, seized a heavy shovel and struck the tigress a blow on the head. This caused her to release her hold on the now almost exhausted keeper, who succeeded in scrambling over the safety fence, but the tigress, after turning momentarily towards Innes, jumped after him just as he was getting to his feet. Innes at once leaped the fence too and saw that the tigress had hold of the man from behind with a paw on each side of his forehead and her mouth about the back of his neck. He then dealt the animal two heavy blows that caused her first to stagger and release the keeper and then to slump, stunned, to the ground. Whilst the keeper managed to make his escape to the restaurant about 50 yards away, Innes stepped back a few yards and prepared for a further attack, but by this time the Director and Overseer of the Zoo, who had witnessed the accident from the adjacent offices, had procured rifles and the tigress was shot dead.

By his courage and resourcefulness Alexander Innes undoubtedly saved the life of the head keeper.

Awarded the George Medal :—

William Seth PARR, Member, Permanent Rescue Corps, Lyme Colliery, Lancashire. (Boothstown.)

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division) :—

Herbert EVITTS, Member, Permanent Rescue Corps, Lyme Colliery, Lancashire. (Boothstown.)

When a fire broke out in the waste in one district of Lyme Colliery the men were withdrawn and walls built to seal off the affected

area. Later, however, accumulated firedamp exploded behind the stoppings and rescue teams with breathing apparatus were sent to investigate. Two teams went down the pit. One established a base in fresh air and the other pressed on to the stoppings, which were found to have been partly demolished by the explosion. Conditions were very bad. The temperature was in the vicinity of 90° F. and the atmosphere was saturated with water vapour. In such conditions very little exertion could be made. The approach to the stoppings was down a slope of about one in three and the team went down without great difficulty. As soon as the team started back up the slope, however, its captain collapsed. Parr assumed the leadership and sent one member of the team for help and attempted to revive the captain. Later he sent another member of the team for help and forty minutes later he sent his last companion, remaining alone with the unconscious man.

In taking the decision to stay, Parr was fully aware of the extreme risk to which he exposed himself. He had little oxygen left and it was clear that if he collapsed himself he could not rely on others being able to help him. Nevertheless he stayed behind until the second team arrived from the base. He gave some help in loading the casualty on to a stretcher and then managed to crawl up the slope by himself to safety, arriving with his oxygen nearly exhausted.

The second team started the journey back, but after a few yards one of the stretcher bearers collapsed. The remainder of the team could not revive him, and also found themselves unable to carry the stretcher up the slope. They reluctantly abandoned it and, with the greatest difficulty, made their way back to fresh air. Evitts, well knowing how dangerous his position was, made one last attempt to revive his comrade before crawling to safety.

Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division) :—

John Albert William EDWARDS, Police Constable, Essex County Constabulary. (Colchester.)

Police Constable Edwards, who was off duty and at home, was informed that a stranger to the district was using a tent in a wood and acting in a suspicious manner. The constable went to the wood and questioned the man who was unable to give any satisfactory explanation concerning himself. The constable then asked the man for his identity card. He produced a bundle of papers from a bag and then drew a pistol and fired it at the constable. Fortunately Edwards escaped injury and immediately tackled the man. A struggle ensued in which the tent collapsed and the constable managed to get astride his assailant, who dropped the pistol, but pulled out a sheath knife and stabbed Edwards in the back. The constable grasped the man's right hand, forcing him to release the knife, and held him until police reinforcements arrived.

Police Constable Edwards, despite his injuries, persisted in effecting the arrest of an armed and dangerous criminal.

**KING'S COMMENDATIONS FOR BRAVE
CONDUCT.**

Neil CAMPBELL, Inspector, Birmingham City
Police Force.

For the arrest of an offender armed with
a chopper.

Thomas HINDLEY, Member of the Permanent
Rescue Corps, Lyme Colliery, Lancashire.
(Boothstown.)

John IRVING, Member of the Permanent
Rescue Corps, Lyme Colliery, Lancashire.
(Boothstown.)

Herbert SHAW, Deputy, Lyme Colliery,
Lancashire. (St. Helens.)

Harold CLARE (deceased), lately Member of
the Permanent Rescue Corps, Lyme Colliery,
Lancashire.

For services when an accident occurred in
the mine.

The name of Robert MULLIN is as now
shown and not as in London Gazette
No. 38797, dated 2nd January, 1950, page 29.

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