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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