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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
 24th April, 1951.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for the following 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.

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

Charles Stanley GRISMAN, Divisional Officer (Rural), Serae Division, British Administration, Asmara, Eritrea.

Divisional Officer Grisman led with coolness and courage an attack on a force of some 40 brigands who were assembled under a notorious leader in the village of Adi Laghen.

On two previous occasions Divisional Officer Grisman has taken part in difficult and dangerous operations against brigands and distinguished himself by coolness, determination and sound judgment.

Awarded the George Medal.

Thomas Albert CHARLTON, Police Lieutenant, Federation of Malaya Police Force.

A well defended bandit camp which contained several important bandit leaders was located in the Muar Circle and an operation was launched against it with a Police jungle squad under Police Lieutenant Charlton and one military platoon.

The operation involved a difficult approach march through deep swamp and when the attack was made bandit reaction

was immediate and fierce. The small military and police force was quickly surrounded by a much larger number of the enemy armed with automatic weapons. The platoon commander and leading men became casualties in the first few minutes and the remainder were pinned to the ground by enemy fire.

On realising that the platoon commander was a casualty and the remainder of the platoon was in dire need of assistance, Police Lieutenant Charlton moved in from reserve under heavy fire and brought the men into action most effectively. Showing complete disregard of his personal safety and under still heavier fire he then moved up to the platoon commander and assisted the platoon sergeant in carrying out the commander's instructions. He remained in action with the platoon for the next three hours during which time he displayed the highest qualities of personal courage, determination and leadership.

The conduct of Police Lieutenant Charlton was an inspiration to all ranks of the military and police force.

Robert GRAVER, Police Lieutenant, Federation of Malaya Police Force.

OSMAN bin ADAM, Corporal, Federation of Malaya Special Constabulary.

Police Lieutenant Graver and two subordinates were attacked by bandits on an old rubber estate road in the Kulai District of Johore. Lieutenant Graver and Osman engaged the bandits, who fled. One was wounded and brought down by a long shot from Osman's rifle but the other two took cover in a swamp overgrown with long grass.

Lieutenant Graver and the Corporal, ignoring the danger that a strong force of bandits was possibly lying in ambush, immediately pursued the two escaping bandits and re-engaged them. Osman

succeeded in killing one and wounding the other, who subsequently died. The bandit first wounded then broke cover, still carrying his Sten gun. Lieutenant Graver and Osman attacked him in the open and managed to kill him, though he threw a hand grenade at them.

As a result of the outstanding courage, cool determination and fearless initiative shown by Police Lieutenant Graver and Corporal Osman, three bandits were killed and their arms, ammunition, some grenades and a number of valuable documents captured. Police Lieutenant Graver has on two previous occasions been in command of Police patrols which have engaged bandits in far greater strength than his own party. His leadership on this last occasion proved an inspiration to Corporal Osman during an engagement lasting about twenty minutes and both men showed high qualities of bravery and complete disregard of personal safety. The success of this police operation had a considerably heartening effect upon the whole population of the District.

Geoffrey Oliver HARTLEY, Police Lieutenant, Federation of Malaya Police Force.

Police Lieutenant Hartley was in charge of a party of police travelling towards Kuantan. With him were another Police Lieutenant and 13 rank and file and in a radio van behind were a woman and three children.

A few miles from Kuantan the leading vehicle came under heavy automatic fire from a high bank and the police at once engaged the attackers. Lieutenant Hartley, armed with a Bren gun, ran back towards the radio van to protect the woman, expending all his ammunition at the bandits as he did so. Under covering fire he then ran back for a further supply and advanced towards a party of five armed bandits who were moving down on the party. He brought down one bandit armed with a Bren gun and wounded another, on which the remaining three broke off the attack and withdrew.

Lieutenant Hartley then arranged to evacuate the woman and children in the radio van and also a Special Constable who had been wounded. He and his party then withdrew, still engaging the bandits with rifle fire and grenades. Having reached a place where reinforcements became available he at once returned to the spot with a party of police and military to renew the attack but the bandits had disappeared.

Throughout the engagement Lieutenant Hartley displayed a complete disregard of his own safety. By his fine example and courageous and intelligent leadership he extricated his party from a position which might otherwise have resulted in serious losses of life and property.

Andrew HOUSTON, Oversman, Knockshinnoch Castle Colliery, Ayrshire. (New Cumnock.)

David Walker PARK, Deputy Labour Director, Scottish Division, National Coal Board. (Edinburgh.)

An accident occurred at the Knockshinnoch Castle Mine and an enormous quantity of fluid peat and moss poured into

the working places, filling up some and isolating others.

Andrew Houston was among the 115 men trapped and he immediately took charge and organised exploratory parties to search the accessible workings for stragglers and to find out exactly what the position was. He then assembled all the men in what he thought was the safest part.

The workings in which the men were trapped were, at one point, separated by only 24 feet of coal from the disused workings of a neighbouring colliery. The telephone to the surface was still working and Houston was thus able to receive instructions as to how best the men could help in their own escape. He organised teams to drive a way through the barrier and, at the same time, rescue teams began to drive from the other side.

Parts of the disused workings were heavily charged with inflammable gas, and although a connection was rapidly made it was not possible for the trapped men to leave Knockshinnoch. Efforts to clear the inflammable gas were unsuccessful and the connection between the mines had to be temporarily closed to prevent foul air entering Knockshinnoch.

The men had been imprisoned for over 24 hours when Park volunteered to go through the connection to the trapped men, using breathing apparatus, so that he could explain the efforts being made to free them.

It had meanwhile become evident that it would not be possible to clear the gas from the old mine and sets of light self-contained breathing apparatus were taken below ground so that the trapped men could be brought out in relays through the foul air. Park largely organised the progress of the men out of Knockshinnoch, remaining until last to instruct each man in the method of using the breathing apparatus and to give him confidence in its efficiency. When the last of the men had been rescued he stayed to lead a Rescue Brigade in a search to make sure that no one had been left behind.

Park voluntarily left his place of relative safety to join the trapped men and his presence among them at a time when their endurance had been severely tested, contributed much to the eventual success of the rescue. Houston sustained and encouraged the trapped men in his charge. His coolness and resource and the example of his steadfast courage contributed incalculably to the success of the rescue work.

Norman Clifford WEBB, Police Inspector, Eritrea Police Force.

Inspector Webb, when in command of a force of 17 armed Eritreans, engaged a much superior force of about 170 bandits at 400 yards range. The bandits started an encircling movement necessitating the withdrawal of Inspector Webb's force to the town of Fecel, which he carried out with skill under continuous concentrated fire and over very difficult terrain. The action continued until the bandits came within hand grenade throwing distance, whereupon Inspector Webb advanced alone and engaged the nearest body of the force single-handed with his machine gun, killing three.

Returning to his main force, which had in the meantime been strengthened by the arrival of six constables, Inspector Webb continued to direct the action for over twelve hours until military reinforcements arrived.

Inspector Webb displayed conspicuous gallantry and leadership and set a high example of devotion to duty.

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

John CLARK, Deputy, Heworth Colliery, Co. Durham. (Gateshead.)

While he was making a routine inspection of his district in the mine, Clark found that the driving head of a conveyor had caught fire and had filled the adjacent roadway with dense smoke. He knew the great potential danger of such a fire and realised that the first need was to cut off the power from the conveyor motor. The switches were, however, separated from him by some 10 yards of roadway filled with dense smoke and fumes. To take the alternative route in clean air would have involved delay which might have been extremely dangerous as the poisonous fumes and smoke were spreading with alarming rapidity. Clark decided to try and grope through the smoke to the switches rather than accept delay which might have seriously endangered the lives of the two men working at the face. No sooner had he entered the road than he fell on to another conveyor which was still running. Fortunately he was not injured and was carried through the smoke on the belt. He pulled himself off when he came into cleaner air and then made his way to the switches and cut off the power.

Having done this he obtained help and returned to cut away the belt of the burning conveyor. Clark's passage through the smoke and fumes to the switches exposed him to considerable danger and his prompt and courageous action prevented what might have become a serious fire.

Edwin Godfrey HARGREAVES, Mechanic, Grade II, Chemical Defence Experimental Establishment, Porton, Salisbury. (Fordingbridge, Hampshire.)

During a 24 hour continuous running test at Porton, a petrol explosion occurred with the result that the whole immediate area, which had already become heavily saturated with Diesel oil spray, was covered with blazing petrol and oil.

A three-ton vehicle, which was standing a few yards away loaded with 350 gallons of petrol, also caught fire and in a few seconds the tilt cover of the vehicle was a mass of flame. Petrol vapour was burning round the filler caps of the petrol drums in the vehicle and they were likely to explode at any moment.

Hargreaves without any regard for his own personal safety, climbed over the burning drums, removed the burning tilt cover and put out the flames in the interior of the vehicle, thus allowing the fire to be brought under control.

Hargreaves showed courage and initiative and prevented what might have been a serious explosion.

Victor Harold HASKET, Civilian Waiter, Officers' Mess, Royal Air Force Station, Thorney Island, Hampshire. (Emsworth, Hampshire.)

An Anson aircraft crashed and burst into flames in thick fog near the R.A.F. Station, Thorney Island. Hasket, who was working nearby, immediately ran to the scene of the accident. The signaller and three pupil navigators had succeeded in escaping from the aircraft but a Squadron-Leader and an Officer Cadet were badly injured and unable to extricate themselves from the wreckage. Hasket concentrated on releasing the Squadron-Leader but being unfamiliar with the harness and parachute equipment he experienced great difficulty. He persevered in spite of the flames which were rapidly spreading and seeing the Cadet had been freed from his harness Hasket helped to pull him out and carry him to safety. Then he immediately returned to the aid of the Squadron-Leader who was unable to move owing to his injuries and managed to pull him clear just before the fuselage was completely enveloped in flames. But for the courage and prompt action of Hasket the two injured men would probably have lost their lives.

Conrad JACKSON, Chauffeur, Laventille, Trinidad, British West Indies.

Alfred MOLLINEAU, Seaman, Carenage, Monos Island, British West Indies.

George THOMAS, Caretaker, Carenage, Monos Island, British West Indies.

A launch was towing a heavy barge from one of the islands between the mainland and Trinidad, when the weather changed and the two vessels were swept into the Atlantic waters by the strong wind, rain and current between the islands. Many times the tow rope parted and eventually fouled the launch propeller. The crafts separated and were battered on the rocky cliff face of the island.

Two of the crew of the barge were killed or drowned and one of the men on the launch was swept away by a large wave. The remaining three were thrown on to a projecting rock some distance from the island and about 30 feet above water, where they clung for three days whilst the stormy weather continued. A schooner saw them but could not venture to stop and a powerful police launch had to retire from the heavy seas and jagged rock.

Meanwhile, Mollineau hearing of the situation, obtained a small but powerful launch and with Jackson and Thomas went off to attempt a rescue. In spite of the failure of others, and in imminent danger of being thrown up against the rocks by the still surging waves, they remained determinedly at their task and by means of lines and life belts eventually got all three men off into their boat.

Mollineau, Jackson and Thomas displayed considerable skill of seamanship and risked their lives in carrying out the rescue.

LEBAI DUSIN bin JENUBI, Religious Teacher to the 1st Battalion, The Malay Regiment.

Lebai Dusin was journeying to an outlying company position by train when it was derailed and fired on. The crash wagon and

leading coach were hurled down the embankment and the engine was turned on its side. Lebai Dusi was trapped with the soldiers in the coach. He aided their escape by cutting a hole in the roof of the coach and urged them into the attack of the bandits who were by then firing on the coach.

Lebai Dusi then went to the rescue of a wounded Malay soldier whose left leg had been completely severed below the knee. He was under fire from the train attackers but managed to carry the wounded man to the safety of the railway engine, where he rendered first aid in such an efficient manner that the man's life was undoubtedly saved by this prompt action.

Lebai Dusi displayed conspicuous bravery in rescuing and tending the wounded Malay under fire and gave courageous moral support in the action against the bandits.

KING'S COMMENDATIONS FOR BRAVE CONDUCT.

John Ralph CREASEY, Farmer and Master Butcher, Ufford, nr. Woodbridge, Suffolk.

George William PEGG, Range Warden, Bromeswell Rifle Range, Suffolk. (Ipswich.)

For services which led to the recapture of two armed youths who had escaped from a Borstal Institution.

Andrew CUNNINGHAM, Underground Conveyor Shifter, Knockshinnoch Castle Colliery, Ayrshire. (New Cumnock.)

For services when an accident occurred in a mine.

Richard Atkinson HAMILTON, Head Wagonwayman, Heworth Colliery, Co. Durham. (Gateshead.)

For services when a fire occurred in a mine.

Alfred Victor HOCKINGS, Fireman and Trimmer, s.s. "British Guardsman". (Jarrow.)

For services when attempting to rescue a shipmate who fell overboard.

Alfons Wiktor MACKOWIAK, Hotel Proprietor, Saffron Walden, Essex.

Czeslaw RATAJ, Gardener, Saffron Walden, Essex.

Zbigniew SZOTARSKI, Retired Officer, Saffron Walden, Essex.

For rescuing the pilot of an aircraft which crashed and caught fire.

Robert SEYMOUR, Factory Worker, Market Harborough, Leicestershire.

For rescuing two children from drowning in the River Welland.

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

24th April, 1951.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the British Empire Medal (Military Division), in recognition of gallant conduct in fighting fire in circumstances of extreme danger, to the undermentioned:—

No. 22133566 Corporal Peter SMITH, Royal Pioneer Corps.

No. 22171594 Private Bert SAICH, Royal Pioneer Corps.

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