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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

25th September, 1951.

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:—

Robert CAMPBELL, Constable, Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary.

Following a report that a madman was running about the streets armed with a gun, Constable Campbell, with a Sergeant and another Constable, set out in a police car to look for him. While on their way they saw a man standing on the footpath with his back to the wall of a building and with his hands behind him. The Sergeant, who was driving the car, stopped it near him. It was seen that the man was in possession of a shotgun which he was trying to conceal behind his right leg.

As the Sergeant began to wind down the driver's window the man raised his gun and fired. The shot shattered the car window and struck the Sergeant on the face and the right side of the head killing him instantly. Almost immediately the man fired the second barrel. This shot inflicted deep ragged wounds on the other Constable's right wrist and left elbow.

As the second shot was fired Constable Campbell, who was in the back of the car, jumped out and closed with the man, who was reloading. A struggle followed in which the man put up a strong resistance but Campbell managed to overpower him and hold him flat on his back on the ground. He then handcuffed him and later took him to the police station.

Constable Campbell acted with courage, coolness and promptitude in closing with a dangerous assailant who had shot two men and who was still armed with a gun which he did not hesitate to use.

Clifford Robinson MITCHELL, Second Class Constable, Jamaica Constabulary.

Constable Mitchell was on station guard duty at Sandy Bay, Hanover, and during the day visited the cell of a convicted criminal. On opening the door the man rushed at Mitchell and slashed him on the left side of the face with the long blade of an open razor. Mitchell attempted to close with the criminal but he slashed him again and ran away. Mitchell, who was bleeding freely, then gave chase and followed the prisoner over a stone wall. He caught him but was slashed in the abdomen and the man broke away. Despite his severe wounds the Constable continued the chase and came up with the prisoner in a cane field about 200 yards from the cell. He tackled him and in the ensuing struggle was severely cut on the hand but he eventually overpowered him and with the assistance of others took him into custody.

Constable Mitchell displayed outstanding gallantry and devotion to duty.

Miss Marjorie VEARNCOMBE, Worlington, near Crediton, Devon.

Early one morning Miss Vearncombe heard the wife of the farmer in the adjoining cottage screaming for help. She tried to reach her by way of an internal communicating door but finding it locked, went to the back door and entered the cottage where she saw the farmer and his wife struggling for the possession of a double barrel shot gun. The woman had a cut on her forehead and realising that the man was determined to injure himself or his wife, Miss Vearncombe immediately tackled him in an effort to dispossess him of the gun.

A violent struggle ensued for two or three minutes and then the man suddenly pulled back one of the hammers of the gun and fired. Miss Vearncombe's right hand was at that time over the end of the barrel and as a result the top joint of the first finger of her right hand was badly injured and was subsequently amputated in hospital. The woman escaped into the other cottage.

The farmer regained possession of the gun and after firing at, and injuring, his wife, he shot himself.

Miss Vearncombe, realising the intentions of the deranged farmer, did not hesitate to risk her life in her efforts to obtain the gun and her gallant action probably saved the woman's life.

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

John Emlyn JONES, Constable, Gwynedd Constabulary, Caernarvon. (Llangoed).

A boy got into difficulties about half-way up the Tan Dinas Quarry, which is 300 feet high, and as a result was unable either to ascend or descend. Constable Jones volunteered to attempt to rescue him.

A steel bar was secured at the top of the quarry and three men took charge of a rope which was fastened around the Constable, who was then lowered down the rock face and on to a ridge. From there he made his way by lower ridges to the place where the youth was stranded. It was impossible to return to the top of the quarry with the boy and the policeman decided to lower him down to the beach with another rope which he carried. The youth was fastened to this rope and lowered down the rock face to safety. The Constable was then lowered to the beach.

Constable Jones showed great courage in going over the quarry edge. Overhanging ledges made it at times impossible for the persons in charge of the rope to see him and there was the added danger of being struck by loose stones dislodged by the rope.

Edmund Jackson Stacey Vaughan WHEELER, Police Constable 429, "M" Division, Metropolitan Police (Kennington, S.E.11).

A man attempted to commit suicide by jumping into the River Thames near London Bridge.

Constable Wheeler, who was directing traffic, was told about the incident and dashed to the scene divesting himself of his jacket and helmet as he went. He ran down about 60 steps leading to the water's edge and without hesitation plunged into the river.

He swam about 20 yards to a spot indicated by onlookers, dived under the water and, after a search, found the man in a semi-conscious state. With some difficulty Wheeler brought him back to the steps where they were both helped ashore.

Although exhausted by his efforts the Constable immediately started artificial respiration on the man who later recovered in hospital.

Constable Wheeler acted bravely without thought for himself.

Alan WILSON, Lorry driver, Dronfield, Derbyshire.

A house caught fire and three children were trapped inside. Wilson ran to the rear of the house and found the ground floor kitchen alight and dense smoke issuing from windows of the upper floor and from beneath the slates of the roof. He tried to enter by the back door to rescue two infants but a perambulator was wedged on end behind it and before he was able to release it he was forced back by the intense heat and fumes. He made a further effort to enter the room but it was now blazing like a furnace.

On learning that another child was in a first floor bedroom, Wilson obtained a ladder, mounted it, broke the window and climbed through into the room. He tried to make his way to the back bedroom but at the doorway, which met the head of the staircase, he found it impossible to get through the flames rising from below. The floor was partially collapsed and the ceiling had become involved. Wilson searched the room and found a child in her cot in a corner. He lifted her out and passed her through the window whence she was carried unharmed to ground level.

As a result of Wilson's courage and persistence, the life of one child was saved.

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

John Charles BEAVERSTOCK, Detective Sergeant 91, C.I.D., Liverpool City Police.

Isaac Joseph GILLBANKS, Detective Sergeant 88, C.I.D., Liverpool City Police.

For services when arresting an armed murderer.

William GIBSON (deceased), Sergeant, Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary.

Andrew HOPE, Constable, Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary.

For services when a man armed with a shot gun was arrested.

Miss Esme Mary HASELDEN, Secretary, Lewisham, London, S.E.13.

For services when a woman was attacked by a burglar armed with an iron bar.

Thomas McDERMOTT, Rigger, British Electricity Authority, Clarence Dock Power Station, Liverpool.

For services when an accident occurred during building construction.

Temate NUNU, Labourer, British Solomon Islands Protectorate.

For rescuing a man from drowning in the Tangarere River, Guadalcanal Island.

James William PARK, Constable, Cumberland and Westmorland Constabulary. (Wetheral, Carlisle.)

John WALTON, Publisher, Wetheral, Carlisle. For attempting to rescue a man from drowning.

James McNaughton YOUNG, Chief Officer, m.v. "British Tradition". (Stonehaven.)

For attempting to rescue a member of the crew overcome by gas in a cargo tank.

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