

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.