

Pudner has at all times put service before self. His organising ability, calmness and courage in times of stress were an inspiration to the unit under his management.

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

Albert Arthur Victor BARKER, Foreman, Grade II, Royal Ordnance Factory, Swynner-ton. (Walton, Staffordshire.)

An accident occurred during the pressing of high explosives into pellets in a mechanical press. A pellet took fire and exploded causing damage to the press, roof and wall and the resultant fire spread immediately to other pressed pellets and to the conveyor belt bringing these from the machine to the packing table outside the cubicle.

Barker and four other people were in the building at the time of the explosion. Barker ordered the others to leave the building and, collecting two fire buckets which were about 10 feet away, clambered over the gate and extinguished the fire at the press and the burning pellets on the conveyor belt inside the cubicle. Using water from other buckets he then dealt with the fire outside the cubicle. Barker would have been killed or seriously injured if another explosion had taken place while he was fighting the fires. The other workers, who were still near the building, would probably have been injured.

Barker's prompt and courageous action prevented a major fire and further serious explosions.

John Simpson BURKE, Constable, Metropolitan Police. (Bermondsey, S.E.1.)

Police Constable Burke and another Constable went to a flat to arrest a woman. A man answered the door but he refused to give any information, was abusive to the officers and threatened them with violence. Shortly afterwards he left the flat and the officers followed him. He saw them and producing a revolver he pointed it at them, threatening to shoot. Police Constable Burke then told the other Constable to get assistance while he followed the man as the latter backed away. Burke drew closer and the man again threatened to shoot but Constable Burke tackled him and brought him to the ground. There was a violent struggle, but the other Constable returned and the man was disarmed and overpowered.

George CHESHIRE, Motor Driver, Road Haulage Executive, Liverpool.

A vehicle driven by Cheshire was in collision with a lorry which was travelling in the opposite direction. Both fuel tanks were smashed and the petrol exploded. The cab of the lorry was distorted by the collision and the driver was trapped. Although Cheshire had been injured in the crash, he immediately went to the aid of the other man. The flames from the petrol fire were 30 feet high and both vehicles were burning. Cheshire smashed the rear window of the cab and pulled the driver out through an aperture, about 12 inches by 18 inches. Cheshire, who showed complete disregard of self, was severely burned whilst effecting the rescue.

Charles HILL, Constable, City of Glasgow Police Force.

Thomas MACDONALD, Constable, City of Glasgow Police Force.

Constable MacDonald and another Constable, on duty in plain clothes, were looking for a youth wanted for stealing money from the bank where he was employed. In the course of their search they saw him walking alone on the opposite pavement and crossed the road towards him. The youth stepped backwards, produced two guns and fired at the Constables. MacDonald's fellow officer collapsed, mortally wounded. Without hesitation MacDonald dived at the gunman but was hit by a bullet on the inside of the left elbow. The impact threw him down on the road. He rose up to make another attempt but a further shot hit him in the side and he fell to the pavement where he lost consciousness.

Constable Hill, on his beat nearby, heard the shooting and ran to the spot. He saw the two Constables lying on the ground and recognised their assailant, who was walking quickly away, as a wanted man. He gave chase and was fired at twice. He then took cover against a garden wall and was fired at again at a range of about 15 yards. To get the youth to use his ammunition Hill held his cap around the corner and two or three shots were fired at it. The Constable then arranged for a wireless message to be put out and for police help to come in from the rear. A few minutes later the youth shot himself.

Nathan HYAMS, Wholesale Fruit Salesman, St. John's Wood, N.W.8.

A small dinghy capsized when about 100 yards from the shore and the two occupants, a man and a woman, were thrown into the sea. They clung to the side of the dinghy but were in danger of being swept away and drowned. Hyams, although not a strong swimmer obtained a lifebelt, plunged into the sea and swam out to the dinghy. On reaching the dinghy he placed the lifebelt over the head of the man, who appeared to be unconscious, and told the woman to cling to the lifebelt while he guided them towards the shore. After travelling some distance they were then joined by another man who helped the party to the beach. The sea was very choppy and running high and Hyams showed complete disregard of his own safety in effecting the rescue.

Che MAN bin Ibrahim, Principal Officer, Grade I, Pudu Prison, Federation of Malaya.

The Superintendent of Prisons, Kuala Lumpur, was savagely attacked by a prisoner armed with an axe and severely injured. Che Man, although unarmed, grappled with the man as he was about to strike the Superintendent for a second time. Many prisoners saw the attack but made no effort to prevent it or to assist Che Man during his desperate struggle with the prisoner. Che Man disregarded his own personal safety and by his prompt action saved the life of the Superintendent.