



THIRD SUPPLEMENT TO  
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TUESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY, 1953

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
 OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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

*10th February, 1953.*

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders 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.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Frederick Leslie JONES, Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

An argument developed between two men in an hotel at Gwabegar. One of them obtained a rifle from his room at the hotel and, returning to the scene of the argument, pointed it at the other man. The latter was pulled out of range by onlookers. Constable Jones, who was on duty nearby, was called and saw the man with the rifle standing about half way up a flight of stairs leading to the yard of the hotel. The Constable called upon him to put down the rifle, but he refused and threatened to shoot him. Constable Jones ignored the threats and climbed the stairs towards the man. When near enough he grabbed at the rifle but the gunman stepped back up the stairs and wrenched the barrel from the Constable's hold. He then fired and the bullet entered the Constable's leg below the knee. In the meantime three other men had moved through the inside of the hotel to the balcony above the miscreant and before he could load and fire again, they disarmed him.

The action of Constable Jones in approaching an armed offender and, despite the latter's threat to shoot, attempting to seize the loaded rifle, reflects courage of an extremely high order.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Eric Joseph RIPPON, Sergeant, 1st Class, New South Wales Police Force.

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

Trevor Victor FIELD, Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

Following complaints about a man, Sergeant Rippon and Constable Field interviewed him at his home. During their questioning the man ran into the house. The two Policemen followed him whereupon he shouted to them from an adjoining room to get back or he would shoot them. He then approached the doorway of the room in which the two Police Officers were standing, at the same time pointing a double-barrel shotgun at them. Sergeant Rippon moved to the wall alongside the doorway and the Constable stepped behind a cupboard on the other side of the doorway. The Sergeant saw a portion of the shotgun barrel protrude past the door at his side and succeeded in forcing it upwards as the trigger was pulled. The shot passed over the Sergeant's left shoulder and lodged in the wall on the opposite side of the room. The man with the gun stepped backwards into the adjoining room, pulling the weapon from the Sergeant's grasp. Sergeant Rippon immediately followed him and although the shotgun was pointed at his chest, he crouched low and, pushing upwards with his right hand, managed to divert the barrel as the man pulled the trigger. The shot narrowly missed his head. Constable Field heard the first shot and thinking the Sergeant may have been injured, ran to his assistance and was just passing through the doorway as the second shot was fired. There is little doubt that but for the deflection of the barrel, either the Sergeant or Constable Field, who were both in line with the weapon, would have been killed or injured.

Following the second shot the man was disarmed and taken into custody.

Sergeant Rippon displayed outstanding courage and determination in tackling the armed offender. Constable Field, without regard for self, went to the assistance of his Sergeant.

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

**Leslie James ASHMAN**, Nursery Garden Foreman, Ditton, Kent.

The driver of a train on the 15 inch gauge Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway, who was alone on the engine, was rendered unconscious by striking his head on the bridge carrying the Derville Road over the railway. The train was carrying about 100 passengers, mostly children. A girl in the coach next to the engine saw the driver lying across the coal in the tender of the locomotive and attracted the attention of Mr. Ashman who was in the second coach. The train was gathering speed but after it had passed under the next bridge Ashman climbed to the top of the coach, crawled to the cab of the engine and succeeded in stopping the train about 600 yards past the second bridge. The total distance travelled by the train after the accident was nearly two miles.

Ashman's action in climbing along the top of two coaches to the cab of the engine was determined and courageous. If he had not stopped the train it would almost certainly have become derailed, with the possible loss of life or serious injury to the passengers.

**Norman Wellcome KELLY**, Apprentice Electrical Engineer, Huddersfield.

A fire broke out in the living room of a third storey flat occupied by a woman, her son aged 2 years, and her sister. A man in a flat on the second storey ran upstairs to warn the occupants. He opened the first door he came to, which was the living room door, and found a fierce fire burning in the room. He left this door open and ran to the next door and awakened the two women. He then went back downstairs. By the time the two women got out of the bedroom the fire had spread from the living room on to the landing and they found themselves trapped.

In the meantime Kelly, who lives next door, ran into the house and dashed upstairs to the third storey landing. The fire was between him and the bedroom, however, and he was unable to get through. He then ran down to the second storey landing, arriving there just as one of the women, who had climbed down the fallpipe, entered through a small window. Without any regard for his own safety Kelly clambered out of the window on to the fallpipe and climbed up about 10 feet to the bedroom window above. Clinging on with one hand, he took the baby from its mother, climbed back down the fallpipe and handed the baby through the window. The fire brigade then arrived and the mother was rescued by fire escape.

When on the fallpipe Kelly was about 25 feet above ground level and below him were the pavement and railings. He risked serious injury in effecting the rescue of the baby.

**David John LISTON**, Constable, County Borough of Wallasey Police.

While on night duty in the dock area of Wallasey, Constable Liston and another constable saw a man who was a deserter from the Army and who was suspected of committing housebreaking offences. They arrested him and took him towards the Police Sub-Office. When about thirty yards away from the office Constable Liston, who was holding the prisoner, was hit a severe blow on the side of the face from behind. He turned and saw that his assailant was the brother of the prisoner. Liston, still retaining his grip on his captive, fought him off but another man then attacked the other Constable with an open razor. He knocked him down and slashed at his head and face which were covered in blood. The prisoner's brother also ran at the prostrate Constable and commenced to kick him on the face, head and shoulders. Constable Liston, still gripping his prisoner, went to his colleague's assistance. Resisting the attacks of the man with the razor, he fought both men one-handed with such skill and courage that they broke off the encounter and ran away. Constable Liston lifted up his severely injured comrade and continued on his way to the Police Sub-Station, prisoner in one hand and helping the Constable with the other. Arriving at the Sub-Station, Liston secured his prisoner and at once joined in the search for the two men, who were later arrested and charged.

By his determination, coolness and courage in tackling two desperate men, one armed with a razor, and still retaining his prisoner, Constable Liston set an outstanding example of devotion to duty.

**Thomas Richard RITSON**, Licensee, Chapel Hotel, Coggeshall, Essex.

A man, who lived with his wife and daughter, suddenly became deranged and attempted to strangle his wife. She broke away and ran next door to Mr. Ritson to whom she appealed for help. He went to the house and upstairs saw the man standing with a pistol in his hand in the act of loading it. Ritson immediately dived at him and knocked the weapon from his hand. There was a struggle and Ritson was thrown across the room. He again closed with the lunatic and held on to him until further assistance was forthcoming. The man was then taken away to a mental hospital.

Ritson acted without thought for himself and his courage in tackling and disarming a dangerous lunatic undoubtedly averted a tragedy.

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

**Samuel ADAMSON**, Foreman, Southwold Borough Council.

For services when recovering a drifting mine from the sea.

**Derrick George Edgar BONFIELD**, Baker, Northall, Buckinghamshire.

For services when helping to arrest a car thief.

**Robert Leonard DAY**, Sub-Officer, Essex Fire Brigade. (Sible Hedingham, Essex.)

For services when a man was overcome by fumes at the bottom of a well.

Fred ELSBURY, Detective Constable, Rochdale Borough Police.

Annie, Mrs. SWEENEY, Packer, Rochdale.

For services when two people were rescued from a burning house.

John Ernest FELTHAM, Conductor, London Transport Executive. (South Lambeth, S.W.8.)

For services when assisting the Police to arrest a thief.

Christopher Thomas MEREDITH, Detective Sergeant, Shropshire Constabulary. (Shrewsbury.)

For arresting an armed man.

Peter STRACHAN, Fisherman, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.

For rescuing a member of the crew of the Drifter "Three Bells" who fell overboard.

Frederick TIPLADY, Detective Constable, City of Glasgow Police Force.

For services when arresting an armed man.

Sidney Charles WHARTON, Station Officer, Birmingham Fire and Ambulance Service.

Leonard John FLETCHER, Fireman, Birmingham Fire and Ambulance Service.

For rescuing a woman buried by debris when a chimney stack crashed through the roof of a dwelling house.

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