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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
 OF KNIGHTHOOD.**

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

21st July, 1953.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointments 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 Additional Members of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire :—*

Kitty Anna, Mrs. Hesselberger, Farmer, Kenya.  
 Rhoda, Mrs. Raynes-Simson, Farmer, Kenya.

One night, at about 9 o'clock, Mrs. Hesselberger and Mrs. Raynes-Simson were attacked by a Mau Mau gang armed with knives.

The two ladies were sitting alone in their isolated farm house when four or five attackers entered. A larger number are known to have been outside the house. Mrs. Hesselberger was walking towards the table with her back towards the door through which the gang entered. Mrs. Raynes-Simson saw the gang enter and sprang to her feet, picking up her revolver which was in readiness on the seat of her chair, and at the same time warning Mrs. Hesselberger. A member of the gang armed with a knife came towards Mrs. Raynes-Simson. She fired at him and he fell dead. Another member of the gang had thrown Mrs. Hesselberger into a chair, had a grip on her neck and was just raising a knife when Mrs. Raynes-Simson fired at him. He ran out of the room. Mrs. Hesselberger jumped up, grabbed her automatic and followed him. Mrs. Raynes-Simson picked up another

revolver and followed her. From the next room they heard sounds in the corridor which was in darkness. They fired down the corridor and by this action stemmed a determined attack by the gang which broke up and fled in disorder. Later an African was found lying dead in the corridor with a knife by one hand and some rope in the other. The two ladies re-loaded their guns and fired off the warning signal to their neighbours.

Mrs. Hesselberger and Mrs. Raynes-Simson showed great determination and courage in taking the offensive against a savage gang and set a great and much needed example of alertness and preparedness to the people of all races of the Colony. Their gallant action gave much heart to the community.

*Awarded the George Medal :—*

Wilfred Cain, Constable, Nottingham City Police (Bulwell, Nottinghamshire).

Shortly after midnight Constable Cain saw a man in the River Trent near Trent Bridge, Nottingham, and heard a call for help. Cain went to the river side and by the light of the headlights of a radio patrol car could see that the man was in difficulties in the centre of the river. With complete disregard of his own safety, the Constable immediately stripped off his uniform and swam to the rescue. The drowning man was about 150 feet from the bank, and the river, which is between 12 and 15 feet in depth at that part, was running with a very strong current. The water was extremely cold and the man fought and struggled continuously. Cain, however, persisted in his efforts and swam with him for a distance of about 350 yards before he was able to bring him to the river bank. Throughout the rescue, which was on a very dark night, the only lighting at the scene was from the headlights of the Police

vehicle, and Constable Cain displayed great courage and determination in saving the life of the drowning man.

Leung Yiu Tong, Detective Corporal, Special Branch, Hong Kong Police Force.

Corporal Leung was walking in Gram-pian Road, Kowloon, when he was accosted by two Chinese criminals, one of whom was armed with an automatic pistol. Corporal Leung immediately drew his revolver, whereupon the armed man opened fire and shot the Corporal in the stomach.

Corporal Leung returned the fire and wounded his assailant but while doing so was seized by the second man who attempted to disarm him. This man gave up the struggle and fled when he saw that his accomplice had been shot and was lying on the ground.

Corporal Leung pursued the second criminal for about a quarter of a mile, finally catching up with him in a sand pit on some waste land. The man drew a knife, but with the help of two citizens the Corporal arrested the man and took him back to the road. Corporal Leung then collapsed. He had displayed courage and outstanding devotion to duty in pursuing the second armed criminal although severely wounded.

*Awarded the George Medal :—*

John Swanson, M.B.E., Assistant Firemaster, National Fire Service, Glasgow.

James Melvin, Divisional Officer, National Fire Service, Glasgow.

William Anderson, Column Officer, National Fire Service, Glasgow.

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

John Blackwood, Branchman, National Fire Service, Glasgow.

John Harrold, Branchman, National Fire Service, Glasgow.

Fire broke out on the top (fifth) floor of the premises of a firm of cabinet-makers at 270, Ballater Street, Glasgow. An employee immediately raised the alarm and the workers on that floor promptly made their way to the lower parts of the building, warning others as they went.

A motor driver employed by the firm entered the lift on the ground floor and, together with the lift-man, travelled to the third floor, where they were joined by the Managing Director, the Works Manager and the Foreman who had seized extinguishers and a pail of water before entering the lift, which was then taken to the fifth floor. There the trellis gate of the lift and the heavy metal folding safety door covering the lift shaft were opened by one of the five men. Immediately, flames shot up in front of the lift, so intense that the men were unable to close the door and gate. They could not therefore operate the lift and were trapped.

Branchmen Harrold and Blackwood arrived at the burning top floor by a stairway and found that the fire was billowing and roaring like an oil fire. The firemen had with them a line of hose with nozzle but were without an immediate water supply. They heard screaming from the direction of the lift and before water arrived at their end of the hose tried to reach the lift, but

progress without water cover was impossible. As soon as water was available Harrold and Blackwood, now helped by another branchman, again tried to get through the fire to the lift. The water had little effect on the fire, however, and it was found impossible to cut a path through the flames. The three branchmen were joined by two other firemen and all five tried to reach the lift but without success. Column Officer Anderson arrived, followed by Assistant Firemaster Swanson and Divisional Officer Melvin. Without hesitation, these three officers, having forbidden the firemen to attempt to enter the flames, themselves tried to reach the lift under the cover of one jet of water but were driven back by the fierce fire. Swanson then had a second line of hose brought into use and the three officers attempted once more to reach the lift, but because of steam, flames and falling timbers they were forced to return to their original positions. A life-line was obtained and Melvin, Swanson and Anderson, on their hands and knees, again went through the flames. The five firemen played their jets of water on the three officers while burning timber fell all around them and they crossed a floor which was burning and breaking beneath them as they moved. The heat was intense and in places the men's feet went through the floor, which was liable to collapse at any moment. They succeeded this time in reaching the lift and found one body in front of it. At the back of the lift they found another body. The Works Manager was discovered still alive and removed on a stretcher without delay. The bodies of the other two victims were also recovered.

Assistant Firemaster Swanson, Divisional Officer Melvin and Column Officer Anderson all showed utter disregard of their own safety in making persistent attempts to save the lives of the trapped men and were ably supported by Branchmen Harrold and Blackwood, who acted with considerable gallantry.

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

Douglas Thomas Gawthorpe, Senior Animal Keeper, Chester Zoo. (Great Saughall, Chester.)

Mr. Gawthorpe heard a moaning noise coming from the direction of the Zebra House at The Zoological Gardens, Upton, Chester. He looked into the Stallion Zebra's pen, and, through an open door connecting the pen with the exercise compound, saw the Stallion Zebra standing over a Trainee Keeper. The man was lying on the ground between the zebra's forelegs and the animal had the man's right arm in its mouth. Gawthorpe immediately summoned assistance but, without waiting for help, armed himself with a stiff bristled sweeping brush, unlocked the door of the Stallion Zebra's pen and made his way through the pen to the exercise compound. The zebra was dragging the Trainee Keeper along the ground and Gawthorpe hit the animal on the nose two or three times with the brush, drove it away, and commenced to pull the injured man into the pen. The zebra attacked again

but Gawthorpe managed to keep it off with the brush and was able to drag the man to safety.

The clothing worn by the Trainee Keeper was torn to shreds and he suffered severe injuries, but his life was saved by the prompt and courageous action of Keeper Gawthorpe.

**Nathan Levine, Taxicab Driver, Stamford Hill, N.16.**

Mr. Levine was sitting in the driving seat of his taxicab on the cab rank in Edgware Road, W.2, when a man crossed over to his cab and attempted to open the door. Levine had noticed that the man was unsteady in his walk and declined to accept him as a fare. The man went away but suddenly returned, pointed a pistol at Levine and threatened to shoot him.

Levine, who was still in the driving seat, punched him in the face and the man ran away. Levine gave chase and caught up with him. On being caught, the man faced Levine and fired a shot from the hip position but fortunately missed. A struggle took place and Levine managed to disarm him and throw the pistol into the middle of the road.

The man broke away and was pursued by Levine. The chase ended when two police officers tackled the man and arrested him.

**Andrew Charles Lewis, Senior Fireman, No. 38 Maintenance Unit, Royal Air Force Station, Llandow, Glamorganshire.**

A Spitfire aircraft of the Burmese Conversion Squadron crashed while taking off. Senior Fireman Lewis was the driver and sole occupant of the Crash Rescue vehicle at the time and before the aircraft came to rest he was on his way to the scene and was the first to arrive. The aircraft was upside down and petrol was pouring from the wreckage. Lewis saw that it was impossible to lift the aircraft to release the pilot. In spite of the very real danger of an imminent explosion he immediately dug a hole beneath the cockpit, cut away part of the fuselage and extricated the injured pilot. The initiative, determination and disregard of his own personal safety displayed by Mr. Lewis in this prompt, singlehanded rescue in difficult and dangerous circumstances, set an exceptionally fine example.

**William St. Leger Thomas, Sergeant, 3rd Class, New South Wales Police Force.**

**Wilfred Neil Roffe, Detective Constable, 1st Class, New South Wales Police Force.**

**Joseph Clark, Detective Constable, New South Wales Police Force.**

Following a report that a shot had been fired in Unara Street, Campsie, Detective Constable Clark went to the street and caught sight of a man holding what appeared to be an automatic rifle. The man threatened to shoot but Clark stood his ground and called to him to drop the rifle. The man immediately fired the weapon and seriously wounded the Detective Constable. The man then entered a house. Clark was conveyed to hospital and Sergeant Thomas and Detective Constable Roffe, who were

called to the scene, went to the front door of the house and took up positions on either side. Movements could be heard inside the house and Roffe called upon the man to come out. The gunman opened the door and was immediately apprehended by Thomas and Roffe. A search of the house revealed a repeating shotgun and repeating rifle, both fully loaded.

Sergeant Thomas and Detective Constable Roffe were well aware that the armed man had not hesitated to shoot when Detective Constable Clark had approached him earlier but despite this they unhesitatingly risked their lives to effect the arrest.

**Alfred Waite, Snack bar Proprietor, Openshaw, Manchester.**

Waite was standing outside his snack bar, which is on a main road, when he saw a woman with her two children, aged four and three years respectively, waiting to cross the road from the opposite side.

The youngest child suddenly ran into the roadway in front of an oncoming motor van which was about 12 yards away. Without hesitation Waite dashed into the road between the child and the van and thrust the child back and away from the vehicle. Although the van driver swerved he was unable to avoid striking Mr. Waite who sustained a sprained ankle and a lacerated shin bone. The child was unhurt and was undoubtedly saved from death or very serious injury by Waite's prompt and courageous action.

**Elizabeth Eunice, Mrs. Williams, Housewife, Gwynfe, Llangadock, Carmarthenshire.**

A fire broke out in the kitchen of a farmhouse at Gwynfe, Llangadock. The occupants of the farm consisted of Mrs. Williams and her husband, their son aged 16 and daughter aged 11, who all slept on the first floor, and Mrs. Williams' mother, aged 80, totally blind and a partial invalid, who slept in a small ground floor room. Those upstairs were alarmed and groped their way, in thick smoke, down the narrow wooden staircase. Mrs. Williams was leading and heard sounds of crackling in the kitchen, the door of which was immediately at the foot of the stairway. She opened the door and was partly overcome by the fumes, smoke and flames. Her one thought, however, was to rescue her aged mother, who was still asleep in the room adjoining the kitchen.

Mrs. Williams, although very severely burned, crawled through the thick smoke and flames and succeeded in rescuing the old lady by dragging her along the floor.

Despite the efforts of the farmer and his son to quench the fire, the whole building became involved within a few minutes and the roof collapsed.

Mrs. Williams was taken to hospital suffering from severe shock, also extensive second and third degree burns to the back and was in a critical condition for many days.

**Humphrey Williams, Labourer, Llanfair, Harlech.**

A fire occurred in a garage beneath a house in Llanfair. A woman and her three grand-children were sleeping in the bedroom immediately above the garage. The mother

of the children was asleep in a separate room. She was aroused by the noise of the fire and shouted to the others to get up, which they did, with the exception of one child aged 3½ years. By this time, Williams, who lived next door, had arrived and the grandmother and two of the children had come down from the bedroom but there was no sign of the third child. Flames were breaking through the garage and bedroom floor boards. Williams entered the room and made a search but could not find the child. He then went outside to make enquiries and, on being informed that the child was still in the house, he made his way back to the bedroom and found that the child was under the bedclothes at the bottom of the bed. He carried the child out and made his way down the stairs just as the whole of the bedroom floor collapsed into the fire. The bedroom was completely gutted.

#### QUEEN'S COMMENDATIONS FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

John Balmain, Branchman, National Fire Service, Glasgow.

Martin McArthur, Fireman, National Fire Service, Glasgow.

Alexander Hunter Morton, Fireman, National Fire Service, Glasgow.

For attempted rescue operations during a fire in Glasgow.

Edward Frank Bean, Technician, Class I, General Post Office. (Aldershot.)

Albert George Dyer, Technician, Class I, General Post Office. (Aldershot.)

John Henry Hawkins, Sergeant, Air Ministry Constabulary. (Farnborough.)

Thomas Murphy, Constable, Air Ministry Constabulary. (Farnborough.)

Cyril Taylor, Constable, Air Ministry Constabulary. (Farnborough.)

For services when an aircraft crashed and caught fire.

William Henry Benefield, Sergeant, Admiralty Constabulary Fire Brigade. (Sheerness.)

Edward Henry Madely, Constable, Admiralty Constabulary Fire Brigade. (Sheerness.)

For services when an explosion followed by a petrol fire, took place in H.M. Dockyard, Sheerness.

Victor Dutton Calder, Omnibus Driver, London Transport Executive. (Fulham, S.W.6.)

For assisting the police in the arrest of a thief.

William John Gordon, Fireman, Ministry of Civil Aviation Fire Service. (Belfast.)

For rescuing passengers from a crashed and burning aircraft at Belfast.

Owen Johnston, Deckhand, s.t. "T.R. Ferens". (Fleetwood.)

For attempting to rescue the Mate of a trawler who was washed overboard.

Monty Loveridge, Street Trader, Leytonstone, E.11.

For assisting the police in the arrest of a shopbreaker.

Roylance Frederick White, Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

For services when arresting an armed offender.

#### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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

*21st July, 1953.*

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's New Zealand Ministers, to give orders for the following award of George Medal.

#### *Awarded the George Medal:—*

Bruce Desmond Christofferson, Detective, New Zealand Police Force.

Detective Christofferson, stationed at Palmerston North, interviewed a youth who was suspected of shop breaking offences committed in the district.

Christofferson questioned the youth at his place of employment and they then went to the boy's home. The Detective wished to inspect a workshop at the back of the house, but the youth stated that the key was at his work place and he was allowed to return there to get it.

In the meantime, as the result of information furnished by the boy's father, the Detective broke open the door of the workshop and found a quantity of ammunition, a sawn-off rifle and other weapons.

The youth returned with an associate and both were armed with loaded rifles. The youth covered his father and Detective Christofferson with the rifle and the associate went to the back of the house. The Detective heard a woman screaming from that direction and with no thought for his own personal safety rushed to her assistance. The accomplice fired two shots but Christofferson tackled him again at close range. A further shot was fired and the Detective was severely wounded in the chest and sustained grave injuries. The two armed youths then fled from the scene in a motor car and were subsequently captured.

Detective Christofferson displayed great courage and determination.

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