

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