

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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