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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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

27th September, 1955.

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 Bar to the George Medal, 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.

To be Additional Officers of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire :—

Robert Arthur LAURIE, Operations Manager, Shell Company (Uruguay) Ltd.

At the Shell Company's depot in Paysandú, a local employee was seen to take matches and climb up on to a tank containing about 900,000 litres of petroleum. Ignoring orders to come back, the man descended to the floating lid of the tank, opened the sampling cover, soaked himself with petrol and set fire to himself. Mr. Laurie, without thought of the obvious danger to his own life, immediately rushed to the top of the tank and extinguished the burning corpse and the flames which were already coming from the escaping vapour round the edge of the tank lid.

Mr. Laurie's immediate and exemplary action, while it could not prevent the suicide, averted a major disaster.

Dermod Art Pelly MURPHY, Administrative Officer, Western Region, Nigeria.

For courage and devotion to duty during a riot in Ogbomosho, Ibadan Province, Nigeria, when armed groups threatened to over-run the district.

To be Additional Members of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire :—

Ronald Herbert CRENNELL, Second Officer, s.s. "Benin Palm", Palm Line, Ltd. (Liverpool.)

The s.s. "Benin Palm" was anchored in the port of Takoradi, West Africa, when it was reported that two labourers had been overcome by gas and were lying on the top of bags of coke which were stored in a deep tank in the hold.

Without hesitation, Second Officer Crennell, descended the ladder into the tank with a rope round his waist, but before he could take effective action he was overcome by the strong concentration of fumes and had to be pulled up by other members of the crew.

Another Officer then descended the ladder, whereupon Crennell, knowing the danger involved and the risk he was taking, courageously went down again and endeavoured to get ropes round the bodies of the two unconscious men. As he began to ascend the ladder he was overcome by fumes and fell back unconscious on to the coke.

By then smoke helmets had been obtained by other members of the crew who went to the assistance of the four men in the tank and brought them up to the deck.

Second Officer Crennell showed outstanding courage and devotion to duty in the face of extremely dangerous conditions.

Lawrence DARMANIN, Contractor, Marsa, Malta.

An explosion took place in a store containing bombs at Marsa, and as a result the store caught fire. Mr. Darmanin immediately went to the help of two men whose clothes were burning and after extinguishing the flames, he took them in his car to hospital.

He then returned to the store which was still on fire and assisted in rescuing a man who was lying injured in the debris.

Mr. Darmanin acted without thought of his own safety as he knew that another explosion might occur at any moment.

Roger Bernard WARNER, Senior Agricultural Officer, Western Region, Nigeria.

Mr. Warner was appointed Returning Officer for a by-election to the House of Representatives in the northern district of Oyo. He heard that a riot had broken out in the town of Iseyin and immediately went to see if he could restore order. In the centre of the town he found groups of supporters of rival political parties, estimated at 800 persons, fighting with stones and bottles at 30 yards range. Mr. Warner rallied the twelve Local Government police who were present and made every effort to keep the two factions apart. He moved from one group to the other urging them to stop fighting and on turning to check an attempted flanking movement Mr. Warner was hit by a stone, on the right side of his face, which damaged his eye. Nevertheless he continued his efforts and eventually caused the mob to disperse.

Mr. Warner's prompt and courageous handling of an ugly situation, which was quite outside the normal scope of his duty, prevented the two crowds from closing and starting hand-to-hand fighting which would almost certainly have resulted in severe injuries and probably in loss of life.

Awarded the Bar to the George Medal:—

Ian Stewart McWalter HENDERSON, G.M., Superintendent, Kenya Police Force.

Bernard Edward RUCK, G.M., Superintendent, Kenya Police Force.

Awarded the George Medal:—

John Vincent PRENDERGAST, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Kenya Police Force.

Over a period of three months, conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty were displayed by the members of the Kenya Police Force who made and maintained contact with Mau Mau leaders.

Acting Assistant Commissioner Prendergast was in command of a Special Branch Team which made contact with Mau Mau terrorists in the Aberdare Forest to arrange for a mass surrender of terrorists. Prendergast directed and controlled the activities of the Team and in the course of his duties he entered the Aberdare Forest on more than thirty occasions.

By his power of leadership, calmness and personal bravery, Prendergast proved himself to be a source of inspiration to the men under his command and the work achieved by his Team in the most difficult and dangerous circumstances was outstanding. The ability and courage displayed by him were of a very high order.

Superintendent Henderson was the second-in-command of the Special Branch Team and in the course of his duty he made some thirty-four visits to the forest. At the outset it was essential to establish confidence in the minds of the terrorists and seven preliminary visits were made to the forest. The

rendezvous was some two miles in from the forest edge and was approached by a route which left all initiative of attack with the terrorists. On each occasion Henderson drove the leading vehicle of the small convoy, thereby placing himself in a most vulnerable position. On arrival at the small forest clearing where talks were to take place Superintendent Henderson alone dismounted from his vehicle and walked forward unarmed to a bamboo post placed on the track where a message was usually left by the terrorists. Henderson fully realised that he was an easy target and that he was watched and covered by armed Mau Mau sentries in the vicinity. It was necessary for the Team to make some twenty-seven further visits to the forest and despite the fact that it became known that certain Mau Mau leaders were actively against the surrender talks, and that they had threatened to ambush the party, Henderson persisted on every occasion in driving the leading vehicle. His sustained courage and example were an inspiration to all who worked with him.

Superintendent Ruck accompanied the convoy on all thirty-four visits to the forest and was always a member of the team, usually only three strong, which had to enter a clearing unarmed for the actual talks with terrorists. He knew that while in the clearing there were a number of armed Mau Mau guards in the vicinity who were watching him. On certain occasions these armed guards showed themselves and more than once adopted an aggressive and provocative attitude. Despite this Ruck calmly continued to do his duty.

A stage was reached in the talks when it was necessary that every effort should be made to contact Mau Mau leaders on Mount Kenya and to this end Superintendent Ruck led a team of terrorists on numerous operations in circumstances of extreme danger. During these operations he showed a complete disregard of his own safety and in his efforts to make the correct contact exposed himself to grave danger.

Awarded the George Medal:—

Mohammed Zaid Othman Areeki, Fisherman, Aden.

Mohammed Zaid was probing for crabs to use as bait on the shores of Telegraph Bay, Aden, while further along the beach a woman was bathing waist deep in the sea. Suddenly she was attacked by an eight foot shark which partially severed her arm and leg and ripped a gaping wound in her back.

Her screams were heard by Mohammed Zaid, who, with complete disregard for his own life and armed only with his iron probe, plunged into the sea. With his arm around the woman the fisherman fought off the shark with such determination that it was forced to release her mutilated body. Still braving the snapping jaws of the shark, Mohammed Zaid struggled ashore with the woman and until an ambulance arrived did everything possible to comfort her and staunch her wounds.

Mohammed Zaid displayed great courage in his efforts to save the life of the woman and acted without thought of the grave danger to himself.

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

Isabella Watson RANKINE, Policewoman,
Lanarkshire Constabulary. (Cambuslang.)

Policewoman Rankine heard the sound of a police whistle and saw a youth being pursued by a policeman. She ran across the street to intercept the youth and saw that he carried a pistol in his hand but without hesitation she tried to seize him. The youth fired the pistol in the direction of her face but she ducked and he ran past her firing a second time in her direction. Policewoman Rankine continued the chase and after a 100 yards or so the youth turned into a close slamming a gate behind him. Policewoman Rankine got the gate open and was then joined by the policeman and together they effected the arrest of the youth.

Policewoman Rankine displayed courage and determination and acted in the best tradition of the Police Service.

Sefu Hemedi, Messenger of Native Authority,
Handeni, Tanganyika.

Sefu Hemedi was sent to arrest a man who had been on the wanted list for some time for housebreaking and escape from lawful custody and who was known to be a dangerous character. He tracked him down to an isolated hut and called upon the man to come out and give himself up. The man came out armed with a long knife and without hesitation Sefu tackled him and during the course of the struggle received four slashes from the knife which severed the muscle tendons of his left wrist. Despite these wounds he continued his efforts until the criminal was overpowered.

Sefu Hemedi acted without fear of the consequences to himself and his courageous action resulted in the arrest of the criminal.

William Leonard Edward TUNSTALL, Sub-
Officer, Kent Fire Brigade.

William John WAY, Leading Fireman, Kent
Fire Brigade.

Thomas Albert GRAVES, Fireman, Kent Fire
Brigade.

The Kent Fire Brigade were called to the Belvedere Power Station where four men had been overcome by carbon monoxide fumes at the bottom of a manhole about 8 feet square and 60 feet deep.

On arrival Sub-Officer Tunstall found that three of the men were on a staging 10 feet from the bottom of the manhole whilst the fourth man who was believed to be seriously injured, was lying at the bottom. Tunstall put on breathing apparatus and descended a ladder into the manhole followed by Leading Fireman Way and Fireman Graves similarly equipped. Way and Graves were instructed to go to the bottom of the shaft and secure the man there to a stretcher, while Tunstall secured the three men on the staging to lines and sent them to the top. Meanwhile the fourth man was secured to the stretcher by Way and Graves and then all three firemen guided the stretcher through

the staging and from there it was hauled to the surface. All the four men recovered in hospital.

On arrival at the surface, Sub-Officer Tunstall and the two firemen were in a state of extreme exhaustion and the oxygen in their breathing sets was almost expended. Their lives were in jeopardy throughout in the highly toxic concentration of carbon monoxide in which they were working, and but for the speed with which the rescue was carried out, there is little doubt that the four men would have died.

George WHELTON, Stoford, near Yeovil.

A fire occurred in a wooden bungalow at Stoford. Mr. Whelton saw the fire from his house and immediately ran to the bungalow as he knew that an elderly man would be sleeping there. Whelton smashed the bedroom window of the burning building, entered the blazing room and struggled with the man who had lost control of himself. Making a great effort Whelton finally managed to get the man out into the garden.

Whelton showed courage and determination in effecting the rescue.

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

William Douglas BELL (deceased), Apprentice
Painter, Carlisle.

For services when attempting to rescue a boy from drowning.

Norman Robert FLEMING, Rigger, Mersey
Docks and Harbour Board. (Wallasey.)

Doris Elizabeth QUINE, Policewoman, Liver-
pool City Police.

For rescuing a man from drowning.

Edward Thomas HAYWARD, Gardener, East
Grinstead, Sussex.

For assisting the police in the arrest of a housebreaker.

Thomas Edwin Shea LEIGH (deceased), Chief
Officer, s.s. "Benin Palm", Palm Line, Ltd.

For services when two men were over-
come by fumes in the hold of s.s. "Benin
Palm".

William Hugh MORGAN, Farm Servant,
Rhiwdywyll, Tregaron, Carmarthenshire.

For rescuing a man attacked by a bull.

James Alexander NEVILLE, Sergeant, City of
Edinburgh Police Force.

For services when tackling a madman
armed with a knife.

Leonard WILSON, Ambulance Depot Super-
intendent, Settle, Yorkshire.

For attempting to rescue an injured man
from a crevice in a pot-hole.

**QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR
VALUABLE SERVICE IN THE AIR.**

Neville Frederick DUKE, D.S.O., O.B.E.,
D.F.C., A.F.C., Chief Test Pilot, Hawker
Aircraft, Ltd. (Godalming.)

For services when an aircraft, undergoing
tests, sustained damage in the air.

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