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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.