

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.