



SUPPLEMENT TO  
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**TUESDAY, 3 JULY, 1956**

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
 OF KNIGHTHOOD.**

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

*3rd July, 1956.*

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned awards 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 for their brave conduct.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

**Chew Kim CHUAN**, Inspector, Federation of Malaya Police Force.

**Loh Kwang SEANG**, Inspector, Federation of Malaya Police Force.

**Tong Song LING**, Constable, Federation of Malaya Police Force.

Inspectors Chew Kim Chuan and Loh Kwang Seang and Constable Tong Song Ling have displayed outstanding gallantry in action against communist terrorists and have been responsible for the capture of the leaders of many of the gangs. On one occasion they undertook, unarmed, an operation which involved facing terrorists armed with sten guns, rifles and hand grenades and after a fierce hand to hand struggle succeeded in overcoming them and bringing them to justice.

The three police officers have acted in the highest tradition of the Police Service and with complete disregard of their own personal safety.

**Richard Raylton JOICEY**, Ship Manager, Walker Naval Yard, Newcastle on Tyne. (Ponteland.)

Some men were engaged in fixing steel racks in the forward magazine of a ship, the only access to which was a ladder from a small hatchway opening in the mess deck. An accident occurred, and a fire broke out.

The main oxygen supply from ashore to the welding equipment on board ship was turned on, the magazine became rich in oxygen and an intense conflagration developed rapidly as cables and hoses caught fire.

Joicey immediately went on board and organised rescue operations. Protected only by his wet duffle coat and scarf wrapped over his mouth, he forced his way through dense smoke and flames to the mess deck. He attempted to go down into the magazine but half-way down was forced to turn back. His calls to the men in the magazine were unanswered and later they were found to have been burned to death. Joicey then went to the forward position of No. 2 deck and found four men cut off by flames and smoke. At the second attempt he succeeded in bringing them to safety through the flames. After pouring water over his clothing he returned to the mess deck and tried again to force his way into the magazine but was once more beaten back by the flames.

Joicey's rescue work was carried out in a cool and calculated manner, without any regard for the possible consequences to himself, and resulted in the saving of four lives.

**John Henry MOFFATT**, Cogging Helper, Middlesbrough.

A workman was engaged in a slag pit filling pans with molten slag for removal by crane. While being lifted, one of the pans, full of molten slag, tipped over and almost half of the contents, about one ton, spilled out. The workman was unable to get clear and was splashed by the molten slag which set fire to his clothes and severely burned him.

Moffatt was working some thirty yards away when he saw the pan start to spill its contents and heard a shout that some one was in the slag pit. Without hesitating he left his job and ran to the edge of the

pit. Water had been thrown in and as a result he could see nothing on account of smoke and steam. He knew there was a drop of eight feet and that there might be some molten slag on the floor of the pit, but he jumped straight in and saw the man on fire at the far end. Moffatt's boots were burning but he dashed across the pit, picked up the injured man and carried him out of the pit and up the steps to the Ambulance Room.

Moffatt suffered burns on the hands and arms in effecting the rescue.

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

**Ali, Muhammad AULAQI**, Sergeant, Government Guards, Aden Protectorate.

A number of dissidents from the Ahl Abdulla Section of the Dayyani tribe attacked the Government Guard Fort at Khaura, determined to overpower or annihilate the garrison and to occupy the post.

The spearhead of the attack, under pretence of friendship, approached the door of the Fort, shot the sentry, stabbed him to death and seized his rifle. Two Government Guards, who were on a barrack roof, opened fire on the attackers and killed one, causing the other two to withdraw into a passage, from where they engaged the Guards on the roof. On hearing the shots Ali Muhammad Aulaqi rushed to the doorway at the front of the Fort, took what little cover there was and, although under fire from the rest of the attacking party, held his position until the two dissidents dashed out of the passage in an attempt to escape. Both were shot and killed and the Sergeant regained the Fort.

Heavy firing continued against the Fort and Naib Ali Muhammad Aulaqi showed a high degree of leadership and courage during the subsequent attacks and held off the attackers until reinforcements arrived.

**Percy George BURGESS**, Ripper, Penllwyngwent Colliery, Glamorganshire. (Nantymoel.)

The roof across a roadhead in the Penllwyngwent Colliery suddenly collapsed and some 25 tons of large coal and fine debris fell and completely buried two men. A cavity formed by the fall extended across the roadhead close to the coal face and up into the roof a distance of about 20 feet.

Rescue operations were commenced without delay, but roof movement, continual small falls and the confined space made rescue work slow and difficult. Both the buried men could be heard calling for help and after about two hours one was released, mainly through the sustained efforts of Burgess who persisted in working in the forward position. The other man was still completely buried. Burgess continued to make determined efforts to reach him and, by burrowing through the rubbish with his hands, eventually uncovered his face. Disregarding his own safety, which was continually threatened by falls from the roof and sides of the roadhead, Burgess at last uncovered the man's legs, but before he could be removed there was a further fall and he was again completely buried.

The only possible way left to release the man was for someone to clear the newly fallen rubbish by working in the cavity. Burgess, fully aware of the very dangerous conditions, immediately volunteered and after several attempts managed to squeeze himself up into the cavity. Whilst clearing the rubbish he was trapped for an hour when one of his feet became wedged but he remained in the cavity and erected supports to protect the buried man. The rescue work was continued and the trapped miner, after being buried for about seven hours, was finally released. He was found, however, to be dead.

**James Arthur CATLING**, Porter, London, W.1. (London, S.E.1.)

Catling was on duty in a jeweller's shop during the lunch hour when a man entered the shop, produced an automatic pistol, pressed it into Catling's stomach, pushed him into a chair and threatened to shoot him if he made a noise. Instead of submitting, however, the porter, despite his 67 years, attacked the gunman and called for help.

A struggle ensued during the course of which Catling was struck twice about the head by the gun, sustaining injuries which later necessitated hospital treatment. In spite of his injuries, however, he was able to hold on to the criminal until help arrived.

A fierce struggle ensued but the man was finally overcome and arrested.

**James Albert HALL**, Sub-Postmaster, Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire.

One evening at about 7 p.m., Mr. Hall opened the door of his Sub-Office, after hearing a knock, and was confronted by two masked men, armed with revolvers, who demanded the keys of his safe. He refused and tried to give the alarm but the intruders hit him a number of times on the head with their revolvers, kicked him in the groin and shot him through the back of the neck. When he recovered consciousness he found only one of the men guarding him. He managed to distract his attention and moved forward, hit him in the face and tore off the mask. He then ran into the street to obtain assistance. The intruders escaped but were later arrested and eventually convicted.

**Wallace George MARTIN**, Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

Constable Martin and another officer received a wireless message that an explosion has just occurred at the Wentworthville Post Office. Both officers immediately went to the Post Office and on arrival Constable Martin leaped the fence and ran along the western side of the premises to the back door.

Here he saw a man, masked, wearing gloves and armed with a .45 calibre automatic pistol. Martin approached the man who pointed the pistol at the Constable and threatened to shoot him. Constable Martin immediately closed and grappled with the gunman, at the same time calling to the other Constable, warning him that the man was armed. A fierce struggle took place during which the man continually attempted to raise his right arm and point the pistol at

the Constable. The other officer went to the assistance of Martin and the gunman was overcome and arrested. It was found that the weapon was fully loaded with a cartridge in the breech.

Albert Ernest PASSAM, Chargeman Cogger, Walsall Wood Colliery, Staffordshire. (Chasetown.)

A fall of roof occurred at Walsall Wood Colliery and a man was buried by stone and debris. Passam, who was nearby, went to his aid and pressed against a large rock to prevent it sliding on to the casualty although he knew that a further fall was imminent. He placed his own safety helmet on the man's head and, later, he took up a position across the face and body of the partially uncovered man to protect him from further injury. A second fall occurred and Passam was swept away and himself partially buried. He was freed and continued to assist until the rescue was completed.

*Queen's Commendations for Brave Conduct.*

William BEADNALL, Ambulance Man, Kilton Ironstone Mine, North Yorkshire. (Saltburn.)

Raymond BROWN, Loaderman, Kilton Ironstone Mine, North Yorkshire. (Saltburn.)

John Robert CARTER, Senior Overman, Kilton Ironstone Mine, North Yorkshire. (Saltburn.)

Edward DOVE, Loaderman, Kilton Ironstone Mine, North Yorkshire. (Saltburn.)

Robert Edwin JOHNSON, Back Overman, Kilton Ironstone Mine, North Yorkshire. (Saltburn.)

Frank MORRIS, Head Loco Fitter, Kilton Ironstone Mine, North Yorkshire. (Saltburn.)

Dennis PEARSON, Deputy, Kilton Ironstone Mine, North Yorkshire. (Saltburn.)

Andrew TURNBULL, Mine Manager, Kilton Ironstone Mine, North Yorkshire. (Loftus, near Saltburn.)

Wladislaw WNEK, Fitter, Kilton Ironstone Mine, North Yorkshire. (Saltburn.)

George WOODALL, Haulage Hand, Kilton Ironstone Mine, North Yorkshire. (Saltburn.)

Ivan ZAGROVIC, Loaderman, Kilton Ironstone Mine, North Yorkshire. (Saltburn.)

For services when a miner was buried under a fall of roof, in the Kilton Ironstone Mine.

Bernard Lloyd BROTHERRSON, Detective Senior Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

For services when armed criminals attempted to rob a Post Office.

William Joshua CHRISTMAS, Fitter, Battersea, London, S.W.11.

For services when an armed man attempted to rob a jeweller's shop.

Christopher COLLEY, Pumpman, m.s. "Liparus." (South Shields.)

For services when m.s. "Tresillian" foundered in heavy seas in St. George's Channel.

Donald Cedric Cox, Coastguardsman-in-Charge, Happisburgh Gap, Norfolk.

For services when an aircraft caught fire and crashed into the sea.

Miss Agnes Jean CURRIE, C.B.E., Sub-Postmistress, Chiddingstone, Kent.

For services when a man armed with an iron bar, attempted to rob a Sub-Post Office.

Anthony Vivian HARTLEY, District Officer, Nasarawa Division, Nigeria.

UMARU, Emir of Nasarawa, Benue Province, Nigeria.

MUHAMMADU, District Head, Udegi, Benue Province, Nigeria.

For services when disturbances took place at a mining camp at Udegi in the Northern Region of Nigeria.

KAROBIA s/o Kiboi, Kikuyu Guard Spearman, Kenya.

NJUGUNA s/o Njoroge, Tribal Police Constable, Kenya.

For services in operations against armed Mau Mau terrorists.

Leslie George Morley KIRBY, Sub-Officer, London Fire Brigade. (London, S.W.1.)

Thomas Malcolm TEMPLE, Sub-Officer, London Fire Brigade. (London, W.5.)

For rescuing a baby from a burning building.

James KOLANJI, Sergeant 3rd Class, New South Wales Police Force.

Kenneth James MATTHEWS, Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

For services when a woman, armed with a rifle, threatened a number of people.

Jacob LADIPO, Police Constable, Ibadan District Council Police, Western Region, Nigeria.

For rescuing a boy in danger of electrocution.

Leslie James McCoy, Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

For taking into custody a man of deranged mind who was armed with a rifle.

NYAMU s/o Kiguru, Forest Labourer, Ndathi, Kenya.

For rescuing a man who was attacked and seriously injured by a wounded buffalo.

James William VERNON, Assistant Secretary, Colonial Office. (Sutton, Surrey.)

For services when an armed man attempted to rob a jeweller's shop.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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

*3rd July, 1956.*

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's Australian Ministers, to give orders for the under-mentioned award of the George Medal and for the publication in the London Gazette of the name of the person specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for brave conduct.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

John Alfred MILLER, Farmer, Tinamba West, Victoria.

An aircraft struck high voltage electric wires, crashed, overturned on impact with the ground and immediately burst into flames. Miller was the first person to arrive at the scene of the crash. When he reached the aircraft the engine and cockpit were burning fiercely and the pilot was hanging in the straps clear of the ground, enveloped in flames. Miller, without thought for his

own personal safety and ignoring the possible explosion of the fuel tanks, immediately went to the assistance of the pilot. He released him from the aircraft moved him out of danger and, with assistance, extinguished his burning clothing.

Mr. Miller displayed gallantry and initiative of a high order and his action saved the life of the pilot.

*Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct.*

Clarence Peter SEMMENS, Farmer, Tinamba, Victoria.

For helping to rescue the pilot of an aircraft which crashed and caught fire.

Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation,  
Berkeley Square House, W.1.  
3rd July, 1956.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the recommendation of the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation, to make the following awards:—

*The Silver Medal for Gallantry in Saving Life at Sea.*

- Charles Stanley OWSTON, Chief Officer, m.s. "Liparus".  
John Ralph MILLER, 4th Engineer, m.s. "Liparus".  
Thomas ERSKINE, 5th Engineer, m.s. "Liparus".  
John William MORGAN, Boatswain, m.s. "Liparus".  
Frederick BISSON, Deck Storekeeper, m.s. "Liparus".  
John Charles HARTY, Able Seaman, m.s. "Liparus".  
Norman MACDONALD, Able Seaman, m.s. "Liparus".  
John MORRISON, Able Seaman, m.s. "Liparus".  
George SCOUTTAR, Able Seaman, m.s. "Liparus".

*The Bronze Medal for Gallantry in Saving Life at Sea.*

- Clement GRIFFITHS, Able Seaman, m.s. "Tresillian".

A distress message was received by m.s. "Liparus" that m.s. "Tresillian" was listing heavily to port in the entrance to St. George's Channel. Course was altered and emergency rescue preparations were put in hand. The seas were high with a heavy swell and severe squalls.

As "Liparus" approached the distressed vessel the Master of "Tresillian" asked for oil to be spread on the water but shortly afterwards "Tresillian" sank and when "Liparus" reached the vicinity of the wreck, lights indicating survivors were seen on the surface of the water. Owing to the rough seas "Liparus" had to be navigated with the utmost caution to avoid injury to

the survivors and it was necessary to await a lull in the heavy squalls before a lifeboat could be launched.

The lifeboat manned by a volunteer crew, got away under the command of Chief Officer Owston and did sterling work under appalling conditions. Having picked up all the survivors who could be found in the water, it made its way back to "Liparus" under the falls amidships. Attempts were made to hook on the falls, but the heavy seas pouring over the deck of "Liparus", made this impossible and it became clear that the foredeck offered the best chance of getting the survivors, who were past helping themselves, aboard. The boat was accordingly ordered forward, but the engine failed and this, coupled with the oil which made the handling of ropes and survivors extremely difficult, added greatly to the hazards of the operation.

Thirteen survivors were taken aboard "Liparus", one of whom died shortly afterwards. Throughout this operation visibility was at times almost nil in the squalls and "Liparus" was out of sight of her lifeboat for minutes at a time because of the swell. Only from the crests of the waves could survivors be seen and the search for them demanded the greatest skill and courage. There is no doubt that the survivors owe their lives to the skill, bravery and endurance of the "Liparus" lifeboat crew.

When "Tresillian" foundered one lifeboat got away with about seven members of the crew aboard, the remainder took to the water. Able Seaman Griffiths went down the side of the ship into the water and swam towards a lifebuoy to which five other men were clinging. Shortly afterwards the six men came across a large piece of timber and held on to it as well as to the lifebuoy. For the next two hours or more Mr. Griffiths inspired his shipmates to greater efforts of self-preservation by exhorting them to hold on and supporting them as they became exhausted, but one by one they died until only he and an apprentice were left. They then sighted m.v. "Ardglen", which had answered "Tresillian's" distress message. The apprentice was too exhausted to reach her, but Mr. Griffiths pulled him away from the timber and, holding on to the lifebuoy, drifted and swam with him towards "Ardglen" until they were seen and a line was thrown to them. Mr. Griffiths put the line under the arms of the apprentice, who was pulled aboard almost unconscious. Griffiths then climbed aboard.

Although in grave personal danger, Griffiths considerably reduced his own chances of survival by using his strength to support and encourage his shipmates, and there is no doubt that the apprentice owes his life to the fortitude and endurance displayed by Mr. Griffiths.

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