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**TUESDAY, 12 FEBRUARY, 1957**

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

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

*12th February, 1957.*

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for the following 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.

*To be an Additional Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire :*

George Albert SCHOFIELD, Colliery Manager, Walsall Wood Colliery, Cannock Chase.

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

George BYWATER, Overman, Walsall Wood Colliery, Cannock Chase.

William Henry JOINER, Acting Overman, Walsall Wood Colliery, Cannock Chase.

A fall of roof occurred at the Walsall Wood Colliery, at a point where two roads in a seam cross at right angles. Four men were killed outright and a fifth was imprisoned under the stones and inside a cavity about 3 ft. square and 2 ft. 6 ins. high. Mr. Schofield immediately went to the scene of the accident and Mr. Joiner who had been in another part of the underground workings, joined him. They found that the three approaches to the fall each about 12 ft. wide and 4 ft. high, were completely blocked by fallen stone and they decided to go over the top to inspect the fourth side, which was in a fast end, a cul-de-sac. They were able to move enough stones to allow Schofield to squeeze through into a space

about 12 ft. square and 6 ft. high above the fallen stone. He sent Joiner for props to support the roof and disregarding the possibility of further falls, started to make a way into the fast end. He was by this time able to talk to the man trapped under the fall. About ten minutes later Joiner got to the top of the fall and set props to the roof and sides. He noticed that a triangular stone, 8 ft. wide, 12 ft. long and 2½ ft. high was gradually lowering and, in an attempt to prevent it falling, he built a pack under it with the stones that Schofield was removing to make a hole into the fast end. At about this time, Bywater arrived. He took charge in the approach road to the fall. Schofield and Joiner, located the imprisoned man, made a passage towards him through the stones and eventually were able to release him.

*Awarded the George Medal :—*

Augustus James Voisey FLETCHER, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Area Special Branch Officer, Kuala Pilah and Bahau Districts, Negri Sembilan, Federation of Malaya.

Goh Chin Hee, Inspector of Police, District Special Branch Officer, Kuala Pilah, Negri Sembilan, Federation of Malaya.

A series of highly successful and interconnected operations were carried out by a combined Police and Military Unit against Communist Terrorists in the Kuala Pilah and Bahau Police Districts of Negri Sembilan. These operations, which included assaults on two occupied Terrorist camps, were carried out by night with great daring and determination under hazardous conditions and in extremely difficult terrain. They culminated in the surrender of three, the capture of four, and the killing of three Communist Terrorists. A quantity of arms,

including a Bren gun, other automatic weapons, ammunition and important documents were recovered.

Assistant Superintendent Fletcher and Inspector Goh Chin Hee took a leading part in the actual assaults on Terrorist Camps, and displayed outstanding coolness, reliability and gallantry in the face of grave personal danger on several separate occasions during these operations.

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

**Aubrey Bernard ALLEN**, Constable, Birkenhead Police Force.

Constable Allen was travelling, off duty, on a 'bus when a dispute arose about the theft of a wallet. A man left the vehicle and ran away. Allen gave chase, caught the man and attempted to arrest him, but the man struck him on the face with an open pocket knife, inflicting a wound four inches long on the left cheek, and then ran away. The Constable, although bleeding profusely, pursued him and caught him when he took refuge in a station. The man, who still had the knife in his hand, struggled with Allen who, by this time, was growing weak through loss of blood, but the Constable held on until other people came to his aid. The man was then taken into custody.

**Ronald AYRE**, Electrical Fitter, Herrington Burn Sub-Station, North Eastern Electricity Board. (Herrington Burn, County Durham.)

**James Thompson HIGGIN**, Electrician, Herrington Burn Sub-Station, North Eastern Electricity Board. (Newbottle, County Durham.)

A fourteen year old boy climbed on to the platform of a terminal structure some 25 feet above the ground where there were electric cable terminals with insulators supporting the end of a bare copper overhead line. He touched one of the sealing bells, causing an explosion and fire, and collapsed on to the platform, his clothing a mass of flames. Ayre ran to the scene and although unaware whether the supply was alive or dead climbed up to the platform and removed the boy's burning clothing. He was quickly followed by Higgin who, besides cutting away the barbed wire protection and bringing a blanket, removed his overalls to make a pillow for the boy. Both men made the boy as comfortable as possible until firemen arrived with a stretcher and a ladder and helped them to lower him to the ground.

Both men acted without hesitation though they knew well the risks they ran.

**Douglas HUNTER**, Plant Attendant, Brancepeth Coke Works, Willington. (Hunwick, County Durham.)

Mr. Hunter was reporting for duty at the Benzole House, Brancepeth Coke Works, and as he approached the Plant he noticed a strong smell of benzole. When he reached the door he saw a man lying on his back in a pool of liquid some 35 ft. inside the House. Benzole was pouring out of the top of the washer at the rate of about 100 gallons a minute and the atmosphere was highly toxic and inflammable. Hunter immediately entered the Benzole House and dragged the

unconscious man outside. He then summoned help and arranged for an ambulance. It was essential that the steam supply to two stills should be turned off in case there had been a failure in the supply of spirit to the stills. Hunter again entered the House to complete this operation. By this time he had become dazed by the fumes and was taken to hospital.

**Thomas John JONES**, Deputy, Tymawr Colliery, Glamorgan.

A collier was working in a hole at the coal face of a conveyor district, when two pairs of props behind him discharged and he was buried by the resulting fall of roof. Deputy Jones crawled over the conveyor and scraped the rubbish away from the man's face. The trapped man began to shout and struggle upon revival, but Jones convinced him he would soon be free and so calmed him down. There were continuous small falls from the roof and nothing could be seen clearly in the dusty atmosphere. Jones was lying across the conveyor with his head below the level of his body and not only continued to keep the man's face clear of rubbish and to protect him with his own body, but he also directed and assisted in the erection of a canopy. Jones scraped away rubbish and eventually uncovered a wooden lagging wedged across the collier's neck. He managed to saw through the lagging and about thirty minutes after the fall occurred the trapped man and Jones, who by this time was himself so buried that he could not get out without assistance, were released.

**Charles RICHARDSON**, Sub-Officer, Lincs. (Lindsey) Fire Brigade. (Brigg.)

A fire broke out in a private house in Brigg. On arrival Sub-Officer Richardson was informed that a child was still in the house and presumed to be in the back bedroom. Richardson first attempted to enter the bedroom through the window by climbing on to the roof of a lean-to shed but was driven back by the intense smoke. He then entered the house by the front door and despite the smoke and heat, crawled upstairs. He searched the back bedroom but because of the smoke was unable to find the child. He then searched the front bedroom, again without success. Finally Sub-Officer Richardson returned to the back bedroom and crawling on the floor to avoid heat and smoke found the child under a bed. He carried the child from the bedroom and out of the house.

**Noel Francis Woodburn TROTTER**, Police Constable, Guernsey Police Force.

A boy scout fell down a steep, crumbling cliff some 300 feet high at Pleinmont, Guernsey. Constable Trotter was called and shown where the boy had fallen. The St. John Ambulance Brigade arrived with ropes and Trotter instructed them to lower him over the edge. When down 150 feet, large stones were dislodged and fell around him, forcing him to take cover and crawl some yards along a ledge before continuing his descent. When 20 feet from the bottom he found that the rope was too short and waited, slung in his harness, until such time

as more rope was found. He was then let down to the rocks at the foot of the cliff and after a search in the dark, found the boy suffering from shock and injuries and shivering with cold. Constable Trotter gave first aid but owing to the overhanging cliff it was not possible for the boy to be hauled up. The Marine rescue craft was summoned, and in the meantime the Constable lit a fire to keep the boy warm. At midnight the rescue craft arrived and launched a rubber dinghy. With assistance Trotter carried the boy over the rocks to the dinghy, a hard climb of half an hour in the dark, where in a heavy sea and among half submerged rocks, he took part in the hazardous task of paddling the dinghy out to the rescue launch.

*Queen's Commendations for Brave Conduct:—*

Edward BEVAN, Trainee, Walsall Wood Colliery, Cannock Chase. (Cannock.)

For services when an accident occurred in a coal mine.

Reginald Herbert BLANCHFORD, M.B.E., Area Commissioner, St. John's Ambulance Brigade, Guernsey.

For services when a boy fell down a cliff at Pleinmont, Guernsey.

James Howard DANSIE, Lift Installation Engineer, London.

Roy David FRANCIS, Lift Installation Engineer, London.

For helping to rescue an injured man when scaffolding collapsed on a building site.

Thomas David HEALY, Solicitor, Livingstone, Northern Rhodesia.

For attempting to save two men from drowning in the Zambezi River.

David Thomas HOPKIN, Sub-Officer, Glamorgan Fire Service.

Basil KENURE, Blast Furnace Foreman, Port Talbot.

John Wynne MORGAN, M.B., B.Ch., Medical Practitioner, Port Talbot.

For services when two men were trapped in an iron ore bunker.

Percival Edwin KYLE, Special Constable, Ulster Special Constabulary (Mullaghslin, Carrickmore).

For services when an attack was made by armed raiders.

John MAGUIRE, Leading Fireman, Lincs. (Lindsey) Fire Brigade (Brigg.)

For helping to rescue a child from a burning house.

John SMITH, Lock-gate Keeper, Walton-le-Dale.

James WHITTLE, Crane Driver, Wigan.

For attempting to rescue a child from drowning.

Arthur Lawrence TEBBETT, Ambulance Driver/Attendant, East Riding County Council.

For services when a man fell down a cliff at Bempton, Bridlington.

John WHITNEY, Measuring Clerk, Tymawr Colliery, Glamorgan.

For services when a man was trapped by a fall of roof in a coal mine.

Robert John YOUNG, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For services when a fire broke out on the fourth storey of a building.

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