

return to the top, the air being very foul. de Greeff, secured by a rope, then made the descent and found a man at the bottom. He tied his rope around the man who was pulled up. de Greeff climbed the ladder and guided the body to the top. Despite artificial respiration the man died soon after he was brought to the surface.

Cecil FERGUSON, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary. (Derrylin, Co. Fermanagh.)

Derrylin Police Station was subjected to a heavy and sustained attack by armed raiders who, with heavy explosives, breached the front door of the Station. The Station party consisted of a Sergeant and four Constables and one of the Constables was fatally injured in the attack. After the first burst of machine gun fire Constable Ferguson rushed upstairs so that he could better his position, firing at such targets as he could see. He had just entered one bedroom which overlooks the rear of the Station when a hand grenade was thrown in through the window. A heavy explosion occurred at the front door which caused widespread damage to the Station premises. The ceiling fell on the Constable and the stairway was demolished, but this did not in any way deter him from continuing to engage the raiders. The whole place was in complete darkness as the electricity supply was damaged in the explosion. The attack continued for twenty minutes during which time Constable Ferguson kept up a devastating fire on the attackers. When the raiders retreated he continued to display the same coolness, untiring effort and courageous sense of duty in pursuing the attackers to the Eire Border, to which they had fled.

Jack Warran LANE, Foreman, Conrad Mine, New South Wales.

Lane and two other miners were working at the ore face of the Conrad Mine and had bored nineteen holes which were then loaded with explosives and fused. Lane went down the drive to warn workers that firing was about to take place. In the meantime the other men commenced lighting the fuses. Lane returned to the face and after seeing both men pick up their lamps, turned to walk away. When about 30 feet from the face an explosion occurred which blew out his lamp leaving the area in complete darkness. By the time Lane relit his lamp one of the men staggered out, bleeding, and told him that the other was lying on the ground. At that moment, a second explosion occurred but Lane continued to the face, found the injured man and started to carry him down the drive. He had gone only a short distance when two other explosions occurred, knocking him to his knees, but he regained his feet and managed to carry the man to safety.

Alexander Victor NANGIBO, Postal Officer and Telegraphist, Federation of Nigeria.

Nangibo displayed exceptional courage and initiative at Maiduguri, Northern Region, when a masked robber entered the Post Office and demanded at pistol point the cash which the Postmaster was checking.

Nangibo, single-handed and unarmed, tackled the thief, tore off his mask and prevented the robbery. The thief escaped but Nangibo, who was hurt in the struggle, immediately telephoned the Police to whom he gave information which led to an arrest and conviction for armed robbery.

Desmond James SHEEHAN, Constable, Queensland Police Force, St. George.

A man, who was known to be of unsound mind, became out of control, attacked his brother with an iron bar, entered a café, smashed the fittings and threatened the proprietor. He then attacked another man and commenced to smash doors and windows of public buildings. Constable Sheehan arrived on the scene and was advised not to take action by himself but to get some further Police assistance. Sheehan indicated that there was no time to seek assistance and approached the madman who raised the iron bar in a threatening manner and walked towards the Constable telling him at the same time to go away. Sheehan, however, immediately tackled the man and a fierce struggle ensued. The two men eventually fell down on the footpath. Others then came to the Constable's assistance and the deranged man was subdued.

Leslie Woodroe SINGER, Head Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary. (Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh.)

An armed attack was launched on Brookeborough Royal Ulster Constabulary Station by members of the Irish Republican Army. At the time of the attack Head Constable Singer was seven miles away at another Police Station. He left immediately with a mobile party and on arrival learned that the attackers had fled in the direction of the Eire frontier, and that they had left behind them at the front door of the Station two unexploded hand-made high explosive bombs and a large hand-grenade. He sent his mobile party to pursue the raiders while he remained behind to deal with the explosives. Brookeborough Police Station is situated in the centre of a populated village and the Head Constable quickly realised that the explosive missiles should be rendered harmless with the greatest possible speed. One bomb consisted of 10 one pound sticks of gelnite packed in a seven pound toffee tin. The second bomb consisted of 24 one pound sticks of gelnite packed in a biscuit tin. The pin had been removed from the grenade and the lever detached. The Head Constable, with no regard for his own safety, undertook the work of rendering the missiles harmless. This he did with speed and skill.

*Queen's Commendations for Brave Conduct :—*

William George BASTIN, Station Officer, Dorset Fire Brigade. (Charmouth.)

Laurence HAYES, Constable, Dorset Constabulary. (Bridport.)

For services when two men were overcome at the bottom of a well.

Alfred BRIGGS, Sub-District Commandant, Ulster Special Constabulary. (Armagh, County Armagh.)