

such that he was immediately out of sight of the lowering party and could only make contact with them by signals relayed by watchers posted on projecting points. Blanchford was lowered inch by inch to one side of the boy and then had to make his way laterally along the cliff towards him. As he was lowered, rocks were dislodged and a large boulder hit his crash helmet then struck him a disabling blow on the right arm and thigh. Other stones showered on him and the dust made it difficult to breathe. Suffering from shock and in great pain Blanchford came in sight of the boy who was on a small ledge. Immediately above the boy was a mass of loose rocks and boulders. Blanchford signalled to be lowered to a spot where he might hope to reach the boy without the debris being dislodged by the rope. During this descent an enormous boulder missed him by inches and he was repeatedly struck by smaller rocks. He reached a point where the final descent could safely be begun and the boy was then lowered to the beach. Blanchford's clothing was torn beyond repair and he was severely bruised and lacerated. But for his experience, skill and daring and the outstanding team work of the lowering party, the rescue could not have succeeded.

Dennis Ernest SMITH, Divisional Fire Officer, Mombasa Municipal Fire Brigade.

A newly constructed pit, twenty feet in diameter, which had been excavated to a depth of thirty feet, collapsed, taking with it most of the coral block lining and a considerable quantity of surrounding earth. An African labourer working at the bottom of the pit was trapped by the mass of stone and rubble. The section of the wall still standing was leaning inwards and partly cracked, minor earth falls continued and it appeared that at any moment there would be another major cave-in. Divisional Fire Officer Smith entered the pit and shoring was begun. Two hours later excavation had progressed for a depth of five feet, with a shaft of about three feet in diameter leading down to the trapped man. Smith worked head downwards for half an hour, with two men holding his feet, until it became clear that further excavation had become extremely dangerous. A temporary scaffold was built over the pit and a platform let down inside it in order to remove part of the remaining wall. The work of excavation continued and four hours after first entering, Smith left the pit for the first time for a brief rest. He returned immediately and an hour later warning was given that a heavy fall was imminent. Smith remained below however and ten minutes later one side of the pit top collapsed and nearly three tons of debris fell on to the platform, buckling the steel scaffolding and causing a sag of about twelve inches. By this time the African at the bottom of the shaft was free except for one foot which was pinned by coral blocks. Smith, still working face downwards, was at last able to release the trapped man and he was hauled to safety by ropes. Half an hour later the pit top collapsed, burying all shoring and excavations. Throughout the whole period of eight hours Smith left the pit but once, and most of the time he worked head downwards, held by the feet. He would have had no hope of survival had a further collapse occurred.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal for Gallantry  
(Civil Division)*

Wahabi AKANDE, Motor Driver, Ministry of Health, Northern Region, Nigeria.

Akande was helping to refuel motor vehicles attached to an anti-malarial spray team when a drum of petrol ignited and blew up. A moment later two other drums exploded. Two persons standing near Akande were killed. Akande was severely injured by flash burns on his face and limbs, his clothes were partly on fire and his hands badly burned but he immediately ran to his vehicle which was standing nearby and succeeded in driving it away from the scene of the fire. This action undoubtedly reduced the extent of the fire and thus the danger to the town and people of Dogondaji.

Henry James ASHTON, Patrolman, s.s. "Empress of France," Canadian Pacific Steamships, Ltd. (Liverpool.)

John Alphonse WHITTAKER, Patrolman, s.s. "Empress of France," Canadian Pacific Steamships, Ltd. (Liverpool.)

While at sea, a passenger was awakened at about 1.15 a.m. by a fellow passenger who, after making certain allegations against him, fired a revolver which he had concealed beneath a pillow folded over his hand. The bullet missed the passenger, who managed to escape from the cabin and report the incident. Ship's Patrolmen Ashton and Whittaker started to search the ship and at 2.45 a.m. it was reported that the man was hiding on the Promenade Deck. Ashton approached from one direction while Whittaker took another route. Ashton saw the man and went towards him whereupon he pulled a revolver from his pocket and aimed it at Ashton. At that moment Whittaker came through adjacent swing doors and Ashton seizing the opportunity leaped at the gunman. The man fired at Ashton, but the shot missed him narrowly. Whittaker also seized the man and after a struggle he was disarmed. The revolver still contained six rounds of ammunition. The man was later found to be insane.

Albert Edwin JONES, Fireman, London Fire Brigade. (Enfield.)

A fire broke out in a three storied terraced house at Stamford Hill. When the fire brigade arrived the ground floor was ablaze and four people were trapped on the first floor. Owing to the sloping nature of the ground the wheeled escape on the first appliance to arrive could not be used and a ladder was brought to the window of the room in which the people were trapped. One man escaped down the ladder which began to sink into the ground and a woman who started to climb down it fell into the basement area. Another fire appliance then arrived and a 30 foot extension ladder was used to reach the first floor window. Fireman Jones then ascended the ladder. Smoke and flames pouring from the broken ground floor window caused his lips to swell and crack and although a water screen was ordered to cover his ascent, it did not come into operation in time. As Jones reached the open window he saw a woman about to faint. He caught her and despite the intense heat from below, carried her down the ladder, through the flames from the ground floor window, to safety.