

Williams James GORMAN, O.B.E., B.E.M., Chief Officer, Hong Kong Fire Brigade.

A fire broke out in an old four-storey block facing Hong Kong Harbour. A flash-over among drums of chemical stored there blew out an iron grille and heavy door and killed a hawker. The entire ground floor with the lower wooden staircase was immediately enveloped in flames and the Fire Brigade was called out. The first two appliances arrived on the scene barely five minutes after the call, but ten inmates had already jumped from verandahs to the street, five losing their lives in so doing. The situation had become extremely serious, and the whole building was in imminent danger of collapse; the fire was spreading rapidly and the buildings on either side were stocked with kerosene, matches and chemicals, all in great quantity. An onlooker then told a police officer that an elderly Chinese woman might perhaps still be in the house next door. This officer searched the ground and first floors but the whole house was filled with smoke and he was blinded and choked and forced to leave. When he had recovered in the fresh air he reported the story to Chief Officer Gorman, who had arrived and was directing operations. Mr. Gorman at once ran into the house without seeking either a mask or any help. He searched the second floor, discovered a 70 year old woman unconscious under a bed and carried her to the first floor in spite of the suffocating smoke. He was met by a fireman who helped him to carry the woman to safety.

On a subsequent occasion Chief Officer Gorman displayed great bravery and resource when in command of rescue operations following a fire and an explosion on a ship carrying a cargo of oil.

*Awarded the George Medal :*

Peter Johnstone MCGILL, Station Officer, Glasgow Fire Brigade.

James McMurray DUNLOP, Fireman, Glasgow Fire Brigade.

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

Charles NEESON, Sub-Officer, Glasgow Fire Brigade.

George Buchanan ALEXANDER, Fireman, Glasgow Fire Brigade.

John NICHOLSON, Fireman, Glasgow Fire Brigade.

James GRIBBEN, Constable, City of Glasgow Police Force.

For gallantry, leadership and devotion to duty when fighting a disastrous fire in a congested built up area in Glasgow.

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

William FLAHERTY, Air-frame fitter, Bournemouth.

Mr. Flaherty was about to picnic on a heathland, overgrown with dense gorse and heather, when he saw a puff of smoke break from the top of the gorse about 50 yards away. He immediately ran towards it, but by the time he reached the spot flames were sweeping through the bushes and the area was burning fiercely. Flaherty heard children shrieking but could not see them and moved

to a part of the gorse which was not burning. Bending down, he saw children running about in the bushes encircled by fire. Flaherty moved to the windward side of the fire where he saw a boy about four yards inside the burning bushes, with his clothing alight. Flaherty immediately crashed through the bushes and bundled the boy to safety. Three other children perished in the fire. Despite having been in danger once of being encircled by the burning gorse, Flaherty entered the fire at another point to a depth of some 12 feet to reach the boy. He risked severe burning and the possibility of being overcome by the smoke.

Robert Crawford GRAY, Detective Senior Constable, Roma Police Force, Brisbane.

Richard Allen SPAIN, Constable, Roma Police Force, Brisbane.

A telephone call was received at the Roma Police Station advising that shots from a firearm had been heard near a dairy farm. Detective Senior Constable Gray and Constable Spain went to investigate. When about half a mile from the property they noticed a person carrying a torch apparently making a search amongst the trees and undergrowth of the scrub. When some fifteen yards from the person Spain, who was in uniform, shone his torch onto his uniform and identified himself. Both Officers then saw that the man was endeavouring to load a firearm pointed in their direction. They called out to him to drop the firearm, but he said he would kill them, and fired in their direction. The Officers then rushed at the man, who turned and ran to a nearby railway line. During the chase that followed along the railway line, he screamed and shouted on a number of occasions and could be heard apparently trying to re-load the firearm he was carrying. He was eventually captured and was subsequently found to be mentally sick and dangerous. Both Detective Senior Constable Gray and Constable Spain who were unarmed, displayed outstanding courage and devotion to duty in pursuing at night an armed person known to be mentally deranged and who had fired at them.

SUHAILI bin Jili, Boatman, Pangkalan Tebang, Bau, Sarawak.

DALIL bin Mantali, Shop Assistant, Pangkalan Tebang, Bau, Sarawak.

The Pangkalan Tebang bazaar was attacked by nine armed and masked men, all Chinese. They were armed with fighting knives and had at least three pistols. One shop was closed and the gang entered simultaneously into the other two. Dalil was in the front of the first shop which was entered by two robbers, one of whom was exceptionally big and powerful and was armed with two knives. Dalil, a slightly built man, at once attacked them with a stool. One of them grabbed the proprietor's wife and in response to her screams the proprietor, an elderly Chinese, Suhaili and another Chinese came out of the back shop. The proprietor went to his wife's assistance, was cut on the arm and was stabbed again as he ran for the back shop. The second Chinese retired when he saw what was happening. Suhaili, who was unarmed, stayed to help Dalil and came to grips with the big man, attempting to disarm him. He was viciously stabbed in the chest, the knife puncturing the lung and