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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
 THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
 6th February 1962.

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

Edward DRENNERT, Inala, Queensland.

Whilst Mr. Drennert, an invalid pensioner, was sitting in the yard adjoining his house, he heard the sound of a rifle shot. Some minutes later a girl came running towards him, calling out that a man was at her home armed with a rifle, and that he was threatening to shoot her sister and other members of her family. Drennert ran to the house, entered by the back door and saw a woman in the kitchen. She told him that a man had shot and killed her husband and was now inside the house threatening to kill her daughter. Drennert went through the kitchen into the hallway where he saw the man pointing a rifle at a girl who was trying to reason with him. Drennert attempted to disarm the gunman and succeeded in grasping the rifle barrel. In a violent struggle which ensued the rifle was fired. The bullet, after passing through Drennert's body near his right hip, struck the girl in the right arm. Although injured and in great pain Drennert continued the struggle and eventually wrested the rifle from the man and then pushed him into another room. At this stage a police officer came to Drennert's assistance, and took the gunman into custody.

Granville MASON, Face Worker, Cortonwood Colliery, Wombwell, Yorkshire.

An outburst of gas in the intake end of a face in the Cortonwood Mine affected seven men and for a long time the return gate and face were impassable. Two of the seven men who tried to escape were overcome and died after travelling only one hundred yards. The other five, including Mason, were all rendered unconscious. Mason recovered and went to the aid of one of the men who was lying in the face of the machine stable and revived him. They returned together to the machine stable to rescue another man but as they attempted to pull him out they were partially overcome again and retreated to the gate, where conditions were slightly better. The first man telephoned the manager for help and then made his way out along the return gate travelling with great difficulty for 1,300 yards. Meanwhile Mason recovered and returned once more to the machine stable and was able to bring out the second man who was semi-conscious. He revived him and they both tried to revive the remaining two unconscious men but without success. When a rescue team arrived wearing self-contained breathing apparatus, the team captain decided that with the two sets of reviving apparatus available it was advisable to take only one man out at a time. Mason, although fully aware of the danger of staying in an almost irrespirable atmosphere which might at any moment become worse, insisted that the younger man should go and he would stay. The rescue team then brought this man out, but the second set of reviving apparatus had to be used on him before he reached the fresh air base. About 90 minutes later a second rescue team carrying breathing apparatus brought Mason out to

the fresh air base. Mason showed great courage in his rescue efforts and gallantry of an extremely high order in choosing to stay behind so that another could be rescued first.

Awarded the George Medal

Robert CARSWELL, Constable, Liverpool City Police. (Liverpool.)

Thomas Owen DAVIES, Constable, Mid-Wales Constabulary. (Bryn-mawr, Breconshire.)

Robert William ROBERTS, Constable, Shropshire Constabulary. (Oswestry, Salop.)

Arthur Rees ROWLANDS, Constable, Gwynedd Constabulary, Caernarvon. (Bala, Merioneth.)

Awarded the British Empire Medal for Gallantry (Civil Division)

John Francis Ivor BENNETT, Constable, Mid-Wales Constabulary. (Crossgates.)

Geoffrey Seymour EDWARDS, Sergeant, Mid-Wales Constabulary. (Llandrindod Wells.)

Following a series of burglaries in the surrounding countryside an intensive search was made for the criminal who was known to be dangerous. At about 3 a.m. Constable Rowlands, who was patrolling in the vicinity of some lonely cottages, suddenly came upon the criminal who was carrying a sawn-off shotgun. The man pointed the gun straight at Rowlands' face and threatened to shoot him. Although only two yards away from the pointed gun the Constable advanced unflinchingly towards the man, at the same time trying to reason with him. As Rowlands moved forward the criminal fired at point-blank range, full into his face. The Constable was terribly injured but in spite of the agonising pain, being blinded in both eyes, his face covered by multiple wounds, and losing much blood, P.C. Rowlands remained conscious on his hands and knees and tried to voice an alarm. His mouth and teeth had been smashed by the gunshot but he did not spare himself and was able to provide an accurate description of his attacker. Constables Roberts and Carswell took up the chase and followed a trail through a valley until Roberts saw the criminal, still holding the gun, run for cover of some bushes. Roberts immediately ran after him and fearlessly approached although threatened by the gun. When only a few yards separated them the criminal fired but the Constable ducked and the shots smashed into the boughs above his head. The man then ran off and Roberts followed. Meanwhile Carswell had gone ahead with a police dog in an attempt to cut off the escape. He released the dog which ran towards the armed man. When the dog was a few yards away the gunman shot it in the head. Carswell attempted to reach the man who threatened to shoot him and as the Constable came forward fired directly at him. Carswell threw himself to one side and the shots flew over his head. The gunman then jumped on a bicycle which was lying nearby and rode away. Constable Davies, who had been in the front of the chase, made a final effort to capture the mad gunman. He jumped into a police car and caught up with him on a small bridge. The car hit the rear wheel of the bicycle and threw the rider but he regained his feet and withdrew the shotgun from its holster. Before he could fire it Constable Davies threw himself at his legs and brought him down. There

followed a terrific struggle during which the deranged man tried to fire the gun into the Officer's stomach but help came from Sergeant Edwards and Constable Bennett, who had been prominent throughout the chase, and the man was eventually subdued.

Awarded the British Empire Medal for Gallantry (Civil Division)

Thomas Frederick HORNSBY, Constable, Bristol City Constabulary.

Kenneth William TUCKER, Sergeant, Port of Bristol Authority Police.

A series of offences involving the use of firearms culminated in a man armed with a sawn-off shotgun robbing a taxi-driver. Police efforts to trace the culprit were intensified and special arrangements were put into operation. Constable Hornsby, a dog handler, was on plain clothes duty when he saw a man acting suspiciously. The Constable, leaving his dog in a van, approached the man and asked him whether he was carrying a firearm. The man started to walk away but Constable Hornsby followed him, whereupon the man attempted to draw a revolver from beneath his jacket. Constable Hornsby immediately closed with him and a struggle ensued during which a shot was fired from the weapon. The man broke away and the Constable then released the dog which made straight for the gunman who savagely kicked its head and stunned it. The man then ran away. Constable Hornsby gave chase and again tackled the gunman who finally broke away and made good his escape. Information was passed to the Port of Bristol Authority Police and later Sergeant Tucker saw the man and challenged him, whereupon he drew a sawn-off shotgun from beneath his raincoat, pointed it at Sergeant Tucker and threatened to shoot him. He then ran off across some waste ground to the railway line, climbed a wire fence and took up a position near some bushes. Sergeant Tucker followed him and when he was approximately thirty yards away the man levelled his gun at the officer and commanded him to stay where he was. The officer continued to advance and endeavoured to reason with him and after some time the Sergeant thought he was going to surrender. At that point, however, some other police officers appeared on the scene whereupon the man put the gun to his head and took his own life by shooting himself through the right temple.

Queens Commendation for brave conduct

Arthur Harold BUCKNALL, Constable, Wolverhampton Police Force (Wednesfield).

For services when arresting a youth armed with a knife.

William Coutts DOUGLAS, Mate, H.M. Boom Defence Vessel Barfoot (Rosyth).

For attempting to rescue a seaman from drowning.

KIEBE s/o Ndana, Gunbearer, Kenya.

For services when a hunter was being savaged by a wounded lion.

Lawrence Whitfield MAJOR, Sergeant of Police, Nassau, Bahamas.

Paul Rupert THOMPSON, Detective Sergeant of Police, Nassau, Bahamas.

For services during a police action to effect the arrest of an armed and dangerous criminal.

Stanley Joseph James MANSBRIDGE, Builder and Decorator, Shaftesbury, Dorset.

For rescuing two elderly women from a burning house.

Meirion WILLIAMS, Postman Driver, General Post Office (Machynlleth, Montgomeryshire).

For services when helping the police to arrest an armed and dangerous criminal.

Donald ZHOBA, Dip Attendant, Muchenami Dip Tank, Chibi Region, Southern Rhodesia.

For rescuing a child from a crocodile.

Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air

Charles Russell CHRISP, Pilot, Ludlow Jute Company, Calcutta.

For services when helping in the rescue of the navigator of a Royal Air Force aircraft which crashed in the jungle of the Ganges Delta, East Pakistan.

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