

Garth Beresford COLLIER, Sales Representative, Kedron, Queensland.

Mr. Collier had halted his car in a line of traffic in a Brisbane city street when his attention was attracted by the screams of a woman whose bag had been snatched as she emerged from a nearby bank. Collier saw a man running along the street and immediately gave chase in his car. He caught up with the suspected bag snatcher in another street, alighted from his vehicle and called upon the man to stop. The latter ordered him away, saying that he was armed and would shoot. When Collier moved towards him the man fled with Collier in close pursuit. Catching up with the fugitive, Collier was again warned by him to keep away, otherwise he would be killed. Collier closed with the suspect who had a pistol in his hand. As the two men grappled the pistol was fired, the bullet passing between Collier's thumb and forefinger. A passerby then helped Collier to disarm and overpower the violently resisting man.

Donald Malcolm COWAN, Salesman, Great Lever, Bolton.

A fire broke out in the two downstairs rooms of a four roomed house. Three young children were in one of the rooms. The occupant of the upper rooms noticed smoke rising from the lower floor and on going downstairs found the two rooms were ablaze. She rushed outside, saw Mr. Cowan who was driving a lorry past the house, and told him what had happened. He immediately entered through the front door of the house but was beaten back by the flames which were coming from the living room into the small passage. Cowan quickly drove his lorry to the rear of the house, smashed the rear gate and door and gained entrance into the kitchen, which was filled with smoke. There Cowan found a young child lying on the floor and took it out into the yard. He rushed back again and crawled into the living room which was burning fiercely. He discovered another child lying on the floor inside the room, and dragged this child to the door where he handed it to another man. After taking this second child to safety, both men attempted to return to the living room, but by this time the heat was terrific. A wall collapsed, the windows broke and it became impossible to enter the room. After the Fire Brigade had extinguished the fire, the youngest child, aged 1 year, was found dead lying on a chair in the living room.

John Michael LAURENCE, Decorator, London W.C.2.

Police were called to a Gas Holder Station at Kennington Oval, where a boy had climbed to the top of the largest gas holder and was threatening to jump. The boy was sitting on the uppermost girder about 130 feet above the ground. The gas holder was filled almost to capacity and its top was 15 feet higher than the girder on which the boy was sitting. Mr. Laurence, realising the danger, made his way to the steel ladder running up the side of the gas holder and climbed to the top from where he saw the boy hanging on by one hand to the lattice work of a girder. Laurence walked along a narrow horizontal girder which projects from the top of the dome and lowered himself to the girder to which the boy was clinging. The boy was by then holding on by one hand with his

legs dangling below. Laurence stretched himself full-length along the girder and with one hand managed to reach down and grasp the boy's arm. Meanwhile a London Fire Brigade turntable ladder was put into position and extended but it was found to be some fifty feet too short. Fire Brigade Officers therefore climbed to the top of the gas holder and two of them got on to the girder and were able to support Mr. Laurence while he passed ropes around the boy. To do this he had to have both arms free and he gripped the girder with his legs. The boy was swung across the ten feet gap between the girder and the gas holder where Fire Brigade Officers then lowered him to the ground by a line. He was found to be unconscious and was taken to hospital. Mr. Laurence spent some twenty-five minutes in a precarious position on the girder.

Henry Thomas James LAWSON, Labourer, Banana, Queensland.

William Robert McCLINTOCK, Sergeant, 2nd Class, Queensland Police Force.

Alfred WILLETT, Senior Constable, Queensland Police Force.

At a farm near Biloela, Queensland, an inebriated employee stole his employer's rifle and menaced him with it. The man was disarmed but obtained another firearm, with which he opened fire. His employer although wounded in the leg, managed to notify the Police. Sergeant McClintock, Senior Constable Willett and a Constable commenced a search for the offender and at a nearby camp they were told that the armed man had been there and had stated that he would shoot any police who came near him. The wanted man had been seen carrying a rifle and was thought to be hiding behind a log near the creek. McClintock and Willett, who were armed with revolvers, commenced to search the area, moving across open ground to do so. Lawson, an occupant of the camp, and a Constable remained nearby. Suddenly shots were fired at the two police who were in the open and McClintock was hit in the face. Helped by Willett, the Sergeant began to crawl away. In the meantime, shots were fired at Lawson, who returned the fire with a shotgun. When Lawson saw the man moving towards McClintock and Willett, he fired his shotgun at him, forcing the man to retire behind cover, whilst the wounded man moved further away. Lawson continued to fire at the place where the gunman had taken cover and remained in the area whilst the police took the wounded Sergeant to hospital. The man eventually made his way to the huts and took his own life.

Joseph James LEE, Constable, Liverpool City Police.

In the early hours of the morning a seaman fell from the Georges Landing Stage at a point near to the Seacombe Ferry berth, and was swept by the force of the ebbing tide beneath the Princess Landing Stage. He could not swim, but managed to grasp the Staging and shout for help. The cries were heard by Constable Lee and a Sergeant and two other men. Lee removed part of his clothing for immediate action and with one of the others made his way to a point just south of the Floating Roadway and climbed down onto a Pontoon. By the beam of a hand torch directed between the water and the under part of the Stage, they saw the man hanging on to the Stage with both hands. Constable Lee