

Gazette of the names of those specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for their brave conduct.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

John OAK, Mill Scaler, Albion Steelworks, Briton Ferry, Neath.

During the passage, on power driven rollers, of red hot 70-foot steel bars from the floor of a rolling mill to the cooling shed, one of the bars flew off at a tangent, crashed into a telephone cabin and set it on fire. A workman who was in the cabin was wedged by the bar against the side of the wall. It severed one of his legs and severely burnt his body.

Oak saw the accident happening and without the slightest hesitation dashed to the cabin and tried to pull the man out. Owing to the confined space in the cabin and the intense heat of the red hot bar, Oak failed to secure and maintain a grip on the injured man and was driven back by the flames. Three times Oak tried to enter the cabin and failed but despite the conditions he made a fourth and successful attempt and dragged the man to safety. Oak's clothes were in a very greasy condition and at any moment they might have burst into flames. There was also the risk of coming into contact with the bar which would have caused severe burns.

Oak displayed outstanding courage and by his determination and complete disregard of personal safety saved his fellow workman from being burnt to death.

*Awarded the George Medal:—*

Juan Manuel CRUZ, Chargeman of Labourers, H.M. Dockyard, Gibraltar.

James KEEN, Naval Armament Supply Officer, H.M. Dockyard, Gibraltar.

Michael ORFILA, Police Constable, Gibraltar Police Force.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

Anthony BALLANTINE, Assistant Surgery Attendant, H.M. Dockyard, Gibraltar.

Vicente PISARELLO, Foreman, Garrison Workshops, Gibraltar.

During the unloading of the naval armament vessel "Bedenham" at the Ordnance Wharf, Gibraltar, a small explosion in the ammunition lighter alongside the ship caused an intense fire. Keen at once went to the scene and volunteered to help the Fire Brigade. He took up a post near the burning ship and regardless of the risk gallantly helped in the attempt to extinguish the fire. In a very short time, however, it increased in intensity and a major explosion took place. The ship blew up and Keen was severely injured. He showed devotion to duty of an extremely high order in remaining alongside the burning ammunition ship helping to fight the fire.

At the time of the explosion Police Constable Orfila was on duty about 100 yards away. He immediately ran to the Gun Wharf where the "Bedenham" was unloading, went inside and opened an essential fire valve. He then saw a survivor from the lighter who had been badly injured and helped him to an ambulance. The main

explosion then occurred. Orfila was flung to the ground and the ambulance was wrecked. The Constable managed to get the injured man out of the damaged vehicle and took him to a place of safety. Orfila displayed courage and resourcefulness.

Cruz who was in charge of a party of men working on the "Bedenham", helped an injured man to an ambulance and then returned to the burning ship to give what assistance he could in fire fighting. When the explosion occurred he was injured but returned to duty after first aid treatment. The conduct of Cruz in going to the assistance of the wounded man in the face of great danger and subsequently returning to the fire, was exemplary.

Attendant Ballantine was on duty in the Dockyard Surgery when the first explosion occurred. He went at once to the scene and helped a wounded man from the water close to the fiercely burning lighter. He was injured by the main explosion but continued to treat and evacuate casualties. He displayed gallantry and fortitude in his attention to others despite his own injuries.

Foreman Pisarello was in charge of the R.E.M.E. workshops 200 yards away from "Bedenham". He immediately ordered the fire alarm to be sounded then made sure that his men were at their fire stations. His rapid appreciation of the situation and prompt action, which saved his men from serious injury, were most praiseworthy. When the main explosion occurred he was blown under the chassis of a lorry where he remained unconscious for half an hour. On reviving he returned at once to supervise the fire party in preventing the spread of some small fires nearby.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal (Civil Division):—*

John Cecil DILLON, Sergeant, St Helena Police Force.

A visitor leaving a ship which was 1,000 yards away from the wharf at St. Helena, stepped from the gangway into a small rowing boat. He overbalanced, fell into the water and began to drift towards the open sea. Dillon, who was on duty at the time as ship police officer, immediately leapt into the sea and grasped the man who, unable to swim, struggled with his rescuer. Despite a strong current and the encumbrance of clothes and boots, Dillon supported the man until a rowing boat reached them and they were hauled aboard.

Dillon showed promptitude and bravery in effecting the rescue.

James C. FRENCH, Riveter, Furness Shipbuilding Company, Ltd., Billingham, Co. Durham. (Stockton-on-Tees.)

In the engine room of a new ship under construction a staging three planks wide, had been erected 40 feet above the floor to form working platforms on all four sides. A stage rigger on one of the top platforms of the staging was moving a plank which stretched across the room from one side to the other when it slipped off the edge of the platform. The plank fell and carried him with it but he managed to grasp a similar plank 5 feet below, and hung on by his hands from the