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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
 OF KNIGHTHOOD.**

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
 18th February, 1958.*

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, and for the following awards of the British Empire Medal.

To be an Additional Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for Gallantry:—

David Henry JOHNSTON, District Inspector, Royal Ulster Constabulary, Dungannon, County Tyrone.

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

William James DICKSON, Sergeant, Royal Ulster Constabulary, Caledon, County Tyrone.

District Inspector Johnston, together with Sergeant Dickson, four Constables and two Special Constables, set off to investigate a reported obstruction across a road over a bridge. There were two trees lying across the road, one at each end of the bridge. In the centre of the bridge was a wooden butter box with a piece of safety fuse, which had apparently burned out, protruding from a hole in the side of it. The District Inspector ordered his party back from the obstruction and posted sentries in case of ambush. He and Sergeant Dickson then examined the box. Their suspicions were aroused and from what they saw they were convinced it was some form of anti-personnel device. The rest of the party took cover while Johnston and Dickson lifted the box and carried it into a nearby field, so that the road could be re-opened to traffic. One of the Constables then threw a large rock at the box from behind cover

and it burst open but there was no explosion. Sergeant Dickson and District Inspector Johnston thereupon immediately went up to the box and the Sergeant began to remove the contents. There were twenty-five sticks of gelignite and twenty-four stones (intended to do the work of shrapnel). An electric detonator had been inserted in one of the sticks of gelignite. At the bottom of the box was the exploding device. Had the box not been lifted very carefully an electrical circuit would have been completed and the gelignite exploded with inevitably fatal consequences for anyone nearby. Both District Inspector Johnston and Sergeant Dickson showed great courage and a very high sense of duty in dealing with what they rightly considered to be an extremely dangerous explosive device. The District Inspector displayed initiative and high qualities of leadership in directing the whole operation while at the same time playing a major part in the physical handling of the bomb and Sergeant Dickson showed great personal courage in actually dismantling the device and rendering it harmless.

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

John Rees THOMAS, Preventive Officer, Board of Customs and Excise, Birkenhead.

George Elrick THOMSON, Assistant Preventive Officer, Board of Customs and Excise, Birkenhead. (Cheshire.)

Mr. Thomson and another Assistant Preventive Officer were engaged in rummaging duties on board a steamship at Bidston Dock, Birkenhead. During their routine search for contraband they opened an inspection cover in the top of an unused and unlighted compartment about 10 feet deep. Thomson's colleague lowered himself on to a ladder inside the compartment but the air

was foul and he collapsed into the water which was covering the bottom. Seeing the man in a dazed condition, lying on his back in about two feet of water, Thomson immediately descended and took hold of him. Owing to the lack of oxygen Thomson soon began to lose control of himself, but he continued, even when semi-conscious, to keep the other man's head above water. Three other persons made attempts to rescue the Officers but they were forced by the bad air to withdraw from the compartment before they could take effective action.

A rope was lowered to Thomson but by this time he was not sufficiently conscious to be able to tie it around his companion. Thomas then arrived and appreciating the critical condition of both men, immediately tied a rope around his own waist and went down into the compartment. He was able to hand out Thomson, by then unconscious, and before he himself lost consciousness to pass a rope around the other Officer. Both were then pulled out of the compartment. Thomson and Thomas recovered. The other Officer died of asphyxia.

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