



# The London Gazette

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TUESDAY, 13 JANUARY, 1948

*Whitehall, December 19, 1947.*

The KING has been pleased to award the Edward Medal to David Brown in recognition of his gallantry in the following circumstances:—

An explosion occurred in the Burngrange Shale Mine, West Calder, Midlothian, at about 8 p.m. on Friday, 10th January, 1947, when 53 persons were at work underground in the district. Firedamp was ignited by an open acetylene cap lamp and the initial explosion started fires which spread rapidly. David Brown, the Overman, descended the pit and proceeded with a fireman to explore the narrow workings where men were trapped. Though they encountered smoke for a time it was not sufficiently dense to prevent progress but as they passed the junction of another heading increasing smoke compelled their withdrawal. After waiting a few minutes Brown made another attempt, alone, to get inbye. He actually got in to No. 3 Dookhead, where he shouted but got no response. He saw no signs of the inbye men nor of their lights, and he was forced to withdraw again. On his way outbye, he again met the fireman, who said he had been trying to improve the atmospheric conditions in the inbye section by a partial opening of some brattice screen doors, but this step was of no avail. The atmospheric conditions were getting worse all the time, due to the spreading of the fires, the extent and seriousness of which even then were not generally realized. Brown, however, did realize the seriousness of the position in relation to the trapped men and immediately sent word explaining the position to the manager who was dealing with fires elsewhere, asking for all possible assistance and making it quite clear that there was no hope of undertaking further exploratory work without the use of rescue teams wearing self-contained breathing apparatus. He then set out to discover for himself where all the smoke was coming from.

Although the National Fire Service was never intended for fire-fighting underground in mines, nevertheless, a team at once volunteered for this duty. Two members of the team donned their one-hour Proto-Breathing Apparatus. Underground, they met the overman, Brown, who pleaded for the use of the two sets of Proto-Apparatus, so that he and another trained member of the Burngrange Mines Rescue Team could make another attempt to get into the workings beyond No. 3 Dook. Using the one-hour apparatus borrowed from the N.F.S. Brown and his companion made an unsuccessful attempt to rescue the trapped men. At 11.15 p.m. under the captaincy of Brown a fresh team wearing goggles and using a life-line again attempted to reach the men but were forced to return as the temperature was very high and the smoke so dense that their lights could not be seen. There had been a fall of stone and sounds of strata movement were heard. A further attempt along another level led to the discovery of another fire and it became certain that there was no hope of saving the men

until this was under control. The work of fire-fighting continued for four days and it was not until the night of 13th/14th January, that it was considered practicable to send a rescue team beyond the fire area. With one exception the bodies of all the 15 men who lost their lives by the effect of afterdamp and fumes were in No. 3 Dook.

The Right Honourable James Chuter Ede, one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, in virtue of the powers conferred on him by section 53 of the Explosives Act, 1875, has appointed Frank Stephen Dabbs, Esq. to be an Inspector under the said Act.

Home Office,  
Whitehall, S.W.1.  
23rd December, 1947.

## LONDON HACKNEY CARRIAGES ACT, 1850.

### CAB STANDINGS.

Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of Section 4 of the London Hackney Carriages Act, 1850, the Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis has issued Orders, dated 9th December, 1947, appointing the following Cab Standings: a Standing for eight hackney carriages at Wood Street, Kingston, Surrey; a Standing for ten hackney carriages at St. John's Way and Boothby Road, Upper Holloway; a Standing for two hackney carriages at Bulstrode Avenue, Hounslow, Middlesex. He has also made Regulations regarding these Standings.

The Order and Regulations, dated 3rd December, 1946, with regard to a Standing for nine hackney carriages at Wood Street, Kingston, Surrey, the Order and Regulations, dated 29th May, 1935, with regard to a Standing for twelve hackney carriages at St. John's Way and Boothby Road, Upper Holloway, and the Order and Regulations, dated 4th January, 1907, with regard to a Standing for three hackney carriages at Air Street and Glasshouse Street, W.1., are revoked.

Copies of the Orders may be inspected at the Metropolitan Police Office, New Scotland Yard, S.W.1.

Colonial Office, The Church House, S.W.1.  
23rd December, 1947.

The KING has been pleased to give directions for the appointment of Stewart Henry Perowne, Esq., to be a Member of the Legislative Council of the Island of Barbados.

Colonial Office, The Church House, S.W.1.  
19th December, 1947.

The KING has been pleased to appoint Geoffrey Francis Taylor Colby, Esquire, C.M.G., to be Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Nyasaland Protectorate.