

# Honours and Awards



(DCRO D/DMA 326/53e)



## The Edward Medal

In 1907 the Edward Medal was created by royal warrant to recognise acts of bravery by miners and quarrymen who endangered their lives to rescue fellow workers. It is one of the rarest British gallantry awards. The Edward Medal (Mines) was awarded only 395 times (77 silver and 318 bronze). The award was discontinued in 1971 and living recipients were invited to exchange their medals for the George Cross.

At Murton Colliery, on 26 October 1924, George Wilson and Vincent Elwick rescued two men, F. McNally and John Place, from under a fall of stone. Elwick, an ambulance man, had to remove three of McNally's fingers in order to free his trapped hand. The Murton Lodge minute book records the decision 'to place before the proper authorities the heroic deed of Vincent Elwick whereby the life of F. McNally was saved.' Both Wilson and Elwick received Edward Medals in silver, the highest honour, along with the Order of Industrial Heroism.

### DISTINCTIONS CONFERRED ON MEMBERS OF THE DURHAM AREA UNION.

For meritorious service to the Coal Industry the following members were awarded British Empire Medals during 1953.

On behalf of the membership we offer our very sincere congratulations on the well deserved honours.

#### New Year's Honours List.

Eppleton ... .. Mr. A. Logan.  
Waterhouses ... .. Mr. C. Ellison.

#### Birthday Honours List.

Randolph and Waterhouses ... Mr. J. Bell.  
Medomsley ... .. Mr. W. Walton.

#### AWARDS FOR GALLANTRY.

During 1953, arising out of the accident at Horden Colliery awards for gallantry were conferred upon the following:—

M.B.E.: James Brown, Undermanager, Horden Colliery.  
Bar to B.E.M.: Walter Malt, Ploughman, Horden Colliery.  
B.E.M.: Joseph Lavery, Deputy, Horden Colliery.  
Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct: Thomas Palmer, Head Waggonman, Horden Colliery.

NUM (Durham Area) General Secretary's Annual Report, 1953 (DCRO D/DMA Sam Watson volume 30, page 8)

## The Carnegie Hero Fund

On 26 June 1942, 15 men were working inbye at Murton Colliery when an explosion occurred. Fourteen of the men were killed. The survivor was George Kirby Smith. The accident report states:

'Smith had a providential escape, as he had just arrived at the landing when the explosion occurred. Hearing the landing lad Abbot calling from the outer end of the landing, Smith, with commendable presence of mind, carried this badly burned boy out to safety, although himself suffering from the effects of shock... It is pleasing to record here that Smith has since been awarded a certificate and £15 from the Trustees of the Carnegie Hero Fund.'

*Presentation Function 2-1-60  
in the Welfare Hall.  
The Lodge Officials wish to place on record  
the facts of an outstanding event in the  
history of the Lodge.*

Lumley Lodge Minute Book, June 1958 - June 1960 (DCRO D/DMA Sam Watson volume 302)



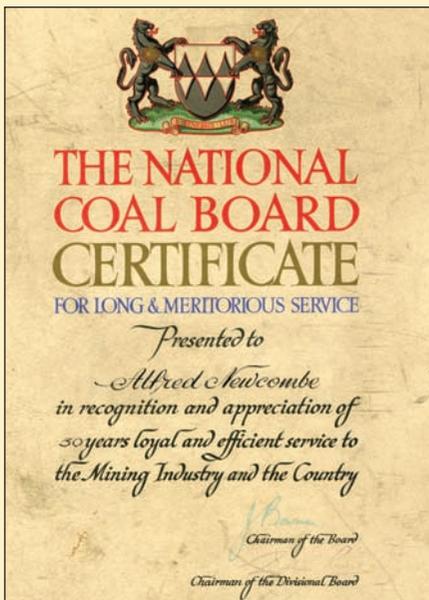
Durham Chronicle, January 1960 (DCRO D/WP 2/97)

## Long Service Awards

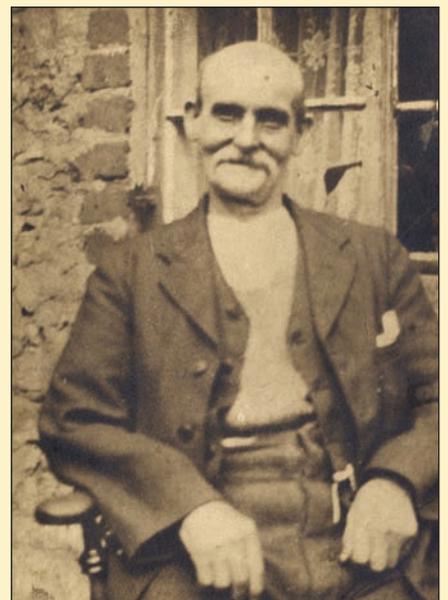
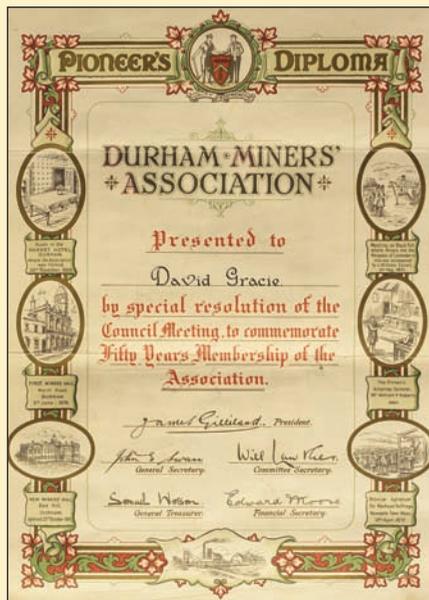
The Pioneer's Diploma was awarded to miners who had been members of the Durham Miners' Association for 50 years. During World War II the issue of certificates was suspended due to paper shortages. When the scheme resumed in 1951 the DMA was inundated with requests from lodges. The annual report for 1953 notes that 3964 diplomas had been issued since 1951.

David Gracie lived at Easington Lane and worked at the Hetton Lyons Colliery. His diploma was issued between 1935 and 1945.

The National Coal Board gave a certificate to miners who had worked for 50 years. In January 1960 thirty retired members of Lumley Lodge were presented with long service awards and the gift of a Clockette clock-radio.



Long service certificate (DCRO D/X 1732) Image courtesy of Janet Hughes



Photograph of David Gracie, courtesy of Janet Hughes