

C 121923.

*Extract from the Instructions issued by the
Secretary of State to H.M. Inspectors of Factories and Workshops.*

EDWARD MEDALS.

148. Any instances of exceptional courage in rescuing or attempting to rescue life that may come to the notice of the staff should be reported through the Chief Inspector to the Secretary of State, so that the question of making an award of the Edward Medal may be considered. The report should be accompanied by such documents and letters and such observations as may appear necessary. The report is to be entirely confidential and the fact of its being made should not be disclosed. Inspectors should carefully avoid expressing any opinion, whether in public or private, in regard to a case in which the question of awarding the medal may have to be considered.

The medal may be awarded to *any British subjects* who endanger their own lives in saving or endeavouring to save the lives of others from perils incurred in connection with Industrial Employment. When it is awarded for acts of such great and exceptional gallantry as to merit a special degree of recognition, it will be styled the Edward Medal in Silver.

No absolute rules applicable to all cases can be laid down, but Inspectors should bear in mind the general rules laid down by the Royal Warrant (printed in Appendix VII) and also

the intimation made to the staff at the time of the institution of the medal that "It is not His Majesty's desire that the medal should be given for rash and injudicious attempts at saving life, however gallant they may be, as, for instance, in cases where those who attempted to rescue have themselves to be rescued by others and thus only aggravate the danger."

Cases in which the Coroner desires that a recommendation should be made should also be forwarded, but the Inspector should invariably state in his report his own opinion and the reasons on which it is based.

In order that the Secretary of State may be in a position to estimate the merits of each case correctly, it is essential that full information should be furnished with regard to all points which bear on the nature and degree of the courage displayed. Such points are, for example, the time during which the rescuer was exposed to danger, the apparent risks which he had reason to apprehend, his promptitude in facing them, the coolness, intelligence and initiative displayed in the measures he took. Any spontaneous expression of opinion by his brother workmen regarding his action should be recorded, and where newspaper reports are furnished, attention should always be drawn to any important omissions or inaccuracies. If the rescuer has been in any way responsible for the circumstances causing the danger, *e.g.*, by negligence, breach of rules or the like, particulars should be given. In all cases where it is possible, a plan or diagram to illustrate the circumstances of the accident should be attached. In submitting reports, multiplication of documents should be avoided as far as possible. It will usually be desirable that, apart from plans and newspaper reports, one complete report only should be sent in by the Inspector, summarizing the relevant facts and briefly stating his own opinion. The report should be made as quickly as possible, so that there may be no avoidable delay in making awards.

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