



MEDAL: Edinburgh Gallantry and Long Service of the Association of Professional Fire Brigade Officers:

Lieutenant Swanson

“On the occasion of a fire at 38 Candlemaker Row at 10:11pm 25th February 1919 Lieut. Swanson was directed to effect rescues from windows with ladders and life-lines. He, with engineer Cory, ascended to the fourth floor and removed four persons by life-swing sling and gear from a window, the opening of which measured only 1ft.10in. by 2ft.4in.”

Bar; “A call was received to a fire at No176 Causewayside at 11:45am, on Tuesday 12th April 1932, No7 Engine and No.1 Escape with a crew of 13 men attended. On the arrival of the engines the fire was of an alarming nature and smoke was belching forth from a window on the third floor, here a man could be discerned lying over the window gasping for air. Whilst the crew under Stn. O. Brodie were getting a line of hose into the operation, second officer Simon Swanson ran up three flights of stairs to the burning kitchen where several civilians were using extinguishers and trying to reach the man Alexander Orr, trapped in the front room.

Mr Swanson crawled through the fire and smoke and found Orr in a state of collapse. Mr Swanson lifted Orr, 71 years of age, over his back and carried him to safety. He was removed by Police ambulance to the Royal Infirmary suffering from shock and burns. Had it not been for the prompt action of second officer Swanson in all probability the man would have jumped from the window or succumbed. Recommended a Bar be added to Mr Swanson’s Brigade Medal for valour”.

Medals presented by Mrs M Thompson, Edinburgh

