

## James Kipling, E.M.

James Kipling was an assistant manager in a coal mine in India in 1925, when there was a roof collapse. The London Gazette tells the tale.

*Whitehall, March 4, 1926.*

His Majesty The KING has been graciously pleased to award the Edward Medal to James Kipling, James Johnston, and Nani Khan, employed by the Mohpani Colliery of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway, in the following circumstances:—

On January 7th, 1925, in the course of operations at the Mohpani Colliery of the Great Indian Peninsular Railway a very heavy fall of roof took place killing one miner instantaneously and completely burying another named Nanoo Maora. On a report of the accident reaching Mr. Kipling, the Under-Manager of the mine, he immediately proceeded to the scene accompanied by Mr. Johnston, the senior European Overseer, and Nani Khan, a native timber drawer. They crawled through the fall of stone and earth and eventually after fifteen minutes' work succeeded in extricating the entombed man.

The rescue party ran a very grave risk as falls of stone were continually taking place. Indeed, within ten minutes of their extricating Nanoo twenty tons of rock fell on the very spot where he had been lying. Mr. Kipling took the leading part in the work of rescue but he could not have accomplished it alone and there is no doubt that it is to his efforts combined with those of Mr. Johnston and Nani Khan that Nanoo owes his life

His Edward Medal<sup>1</sup> is illustrated below:



James was born at Tow Law in County Durham in 1872, the son of James Kipling, a coal miner, and his wife Anne. In 1901, he was living with his parents at Crook, by now a “master shifter”. He was of the **Shotton** Kipling family group (see ‘Shotton 1911’)

In 1922, a voyage from England to India is recorded:

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<sup>1</sup> The Edward Medal was awarded for bravery in mining and industry. Living holders of it and of the Albert Medal (for saving life on land and sea) were invited to exchange their medals for the George Cross (Britain’s highest award for bravery next to the Victoria Cross) in 1971.

[6/8] 15207/314 30m 9/21v 620 G & S 118 172

P.M. 21.

Name of Ship "KAISAR-I-HIND" 5 Date of Departure 27th October 192

Steamship Line P. & O. S. N. CO. Where Bound Bombay

NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF **BRITISH** PASSENGERS EMBARKED AT THE PORT OF London

(1) Contract Ticket Number	(2) NAMES OF PASSENGERS	(3) Last address in the United Kingdom	(4) CLASS (Whether 1st, 2nd or 3rd)	(5) Port at which Passengers have contracted to land	(6) Profession, Occupation or Calling of Passengers	(7) AGES OF PASSENGERS								(8) Country of Last Permanent Residence*	(9) Country of Intended Future Permanent Residence*			
						Adults of 12 years and upwards		Children		Infants		Between 12 and 18				Under 12		
						Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female			
						Not marked by hand or wife	Not marked by hand or wife											

Keeble Alexander Rubens Hotel, S.W.1.	1	Bombay	Married,	29	1													
Kipling James West Cornforth, Durham	2	"	Mining Engr.	50	1													India

He returned to the UK in 1927 aboard the P&O ship, *China* and died in 1932, aged 60. As far as is known, he did not marry or leave children.