

*Awarded the George Medal :*

Peter Alan WOODMORE, Detective Sergeant, Metropolitan Police. (Shepperton.)

Michael James WHEELHOUSE, Constable, Metropolitan Police. (London S.E.25.)

*Awarded the British Empire Medal for Gallantry (Civil Division) :*

Derek Edwin BIRKHEAD, Constable, Metropolitan Police. (London S.W.20.)

Arthur William PORTER, Sergeant, Metropolitan Police. (London S.W.19.)

Roger Keith OLIVER, Detective Constable, Metropolitan Police. (London S.W.18.)

An escaped and dangerous criminal was travelling to London in a stolen car. Police cars and motor cyclists were alerted and warned that the man was in possession of a pistol. The stolen car was seen and pursued at various places, but succeeded in evading the police until about 10 p.m., when it was seen at Parliament Square. A police motor cyclist immediately gave chase and was shortly afterwards joined by Constable Wheelhouse, also on a motor cycle. In the vicinity of the Tate Gallery, Wheelhouse tried to force the car to stop by driving alongside its offside, but the car was driven across the crown of the road, forcing the motor cycle into the oncoming traffic, and then accelerated along the Embankment. The speed of the stolen car reached the region of 90 m.p.h., but the two officers kept in close pursuit and were joined by another motor cyclist and a police car in which were Sergeant Porter and Constable Oliver. The stolen car continued along the Embankment where Constable Birkhead in another police car unsuccessfully tried to intercept it and joined the chase. The car met some congestion arising from an accident, and the roadway was blocked by a private car. The stolen car was immediately reversed violently back and tried to ram a way through the traffic. The police car driven by Birkhead manoeuvred behind it and the driver of the private car quickly summing up the situation, drove his car against the nearside of the stolen car, forcing it to stop. Opening the door of the private car, the driver pressed his feet against the nearside door of the stolen car to prevent anyone getting out on that side. Constable Wheelhouse, followed by the two other Officers, had already run to the offside of the car and tried to force the door open while the car was still manoeuvring backwards and forwards, but as the car was forced to stop, the driver fired through the closed window, the bullet embedding itself in Wheelhouse's right elbow. The criminal jumped from the car, turned and fired again, and then ran off, pursued by the officers on foot. After some 60 yards, the man fired again at the pursuing officers, shattering the rear window of a parked car. At the head of the pursuit, Sergeant Porter and Constables Oliver and Birkhead rounded a corner to see the criminal climbing a low wall, whereupon he jumped down and fired at the officers as they continued to chase him. Gaining access to a large garden, which was in darkness, the man climbed into the basement area of a house. A police dog which had been brought to the scene was released into the basement area and, having located the criminal, it barked, whereupon it was shot through the heart and killed instantly. Police Officers and civilians kept the man penned in the area by

throwing milk bottles and other objects for some 15 to 20 minutes, during which time several shots were fired. The criminal then climbed on the roof of an outhouse, just below a window at which two Constables had taken up their positions, and from which they struck at him with a truncheon and a torch. The blows caused the man to stagger and at this stage a number of officers ran towards him, but he quickly recovered and fired two shots, one of which struck a Constable. The officers were forced to retire, but the criminal was trapped on the roof, with a six foot high railing to scale if he wished to reach the footway. He tried and he fell into an adjoining area on the other side of the roof. Sergeant Woodmore, climbing on to the railings, called on him to surrender and, as the man turned on him, gun in hand, the Sergeant dived about ten feet down on to him, crashing him to the ground. The Sergeant grabbed the gun and other officers immediately followed and succeeded in overcoming the man, who fought furiously.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal for Gallantry (Civil Division) :*

Eric OXLEY, Station Officer, Barnsley Fire Brigade.

A turntable ladder under the command of Station Officer Oxley was sent to an incident where a man had climbed a high-voltage electricity pylon and was threatening suicide by electrocution or by throwing himself to the ground. Rough ground around the pylon made use of the turntable ladder impracticable but Oxley decided to scale the pylon to persuade the man to descend. The only illumination available was from flare lamps, and the situation was confused by the shouting of people on the ground to the man on the pylon. As the Station Officer approached him the man became increasingly aggressive but Oxley continued to edge slowly upwards, calming and reassuring the man as he did so. He eventually persuaded the man to descend to a 40 foot ladder which had been pitched over the barbed wire guard where another Officer was waiting to assist the man to the ground. The man was then taken to hospital. Station Officer Oxley displayed great courage in carrying out this difficult rescue and particularly so in that he was fully aware that if the man had touched the conductors both of them would have been electrocuted.

*Queen's Commendation for brave conduct :*

Richard William BOWEN, Constable, Metropolitan Police. (London W.C.1.)

For rescuing a mentally disturbed woman who was in danger of falling from a roof top.

Geoffrey William BRECKELL, Sergeant, Surrey Constabulary. (Redhill.)

Albert Arthur NEWMAN, Constable, Surrey Constabulary. (Redhill.)

William SPENCER, Detective Constable, Surrey Constabulary. (Merstham.)

For services when a mentally deranged boy threatened to throw himself from the roof of a cinema.

Roger Victor CROSS, Constable, Metropolitan Police. (Hampton, Middlesex.)

John Michael WETHERELL, Constable, Metropolitan Police. (London S.W.3.)