



SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO

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TUESDAY, 25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 1969

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF  
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.

25th February 1969.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned awards of a Bar to the British Empire Medal and the British Empire Medal and for the publication in the *London Gazette* of the names of those specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for brave conduct.

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

Robert William Fleming THOMPSON, B.E.M.,  
Sergeant, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

A tractor driver was engaged in transferring liquid manure from a manure tank, a concrete structure measuring twelve feet by eight feet by eight feet sunk into the ground with the flat concrete roof at ground level. When preparing to load the tanker the suction pipe fell back into the concrete tank and the driver went down the ladder into the tank to retrieve it. He was overcome by poisonous fumes from the liquid manure and fell into the remaining liquid, which was about two feet deep. The farmer who was nearby also went down into the tank and met a similar fate. The police were informed and Sergeant Thompson called the fire service and requested that they bring breathing apparatus. He took a coil of rope and a garden rake and set off at once for the farm. On his way he was joined by a forester. When they arrived at the scene a man's hat could be seen floating on the surface of the liquid manure. Taking the rake the Sergeant immediately descended the ladder and felt about in the liquid until he managed to engage the rake in the clothing of a body. He then pulled the body to the bottom of the ladder and the forester, kneeling at the manhole, held the end of the rake while Sergeant Thompson tied a rope round one

leg of the body. With the help of a third man the body was pulled out of the tank and on to the grass. The Sergeant then went back into the tank and he eventually located a body several feet away from the bottom of the ladder. He tied a rope around the body and pulled it to the bottom of the ladder. At this stage the Sergeant was working with his head only some two feet above the surface of the liquid and had great difficulty in breathing, was sweating profusely and felt sick and dizzy. In spite of these difficulties he managed to secure the rope sufficiently to enable the body to be pulled up out of the liquid. The fire brigade then arrived and completed the removal. Both the driver and the farmer were found to be dead.

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

Peter William RYLES, Detective Constable,  
Hampshire Constabulary.

A man entered a bookshop and robbed the proprietress of £20 at the point of a gun. At 12.20 a.m. on the following day Detective Constable Ryles and another officer went to a Club and saw there the person responsible for the offence who was known to be still in possession of a gun. Ryles, knowing that he was dealing with a dangerous and armed man, decided to wait for him in the street since any approach he might make towards the man in the Club could lead to innocent people being injured. Ryles walked some 20 yards to a shop doorway. Almost immediately the suspected man left the Club and walked down the road. He stopped in front of Ryles, produced a revolver and pointed it at the officer's chest. The Detective Constable immediately jumped towards him and grappled with him. Two other officers came to his assistance and a violent struggle ensued. During this struggle, a shot was fired which struck Ryles in the leg. The man was eventually overpowered and arrested. Ryles was taken to Hospital and underwent an operation for the removal of the bullet from his right leg.