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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE
 ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

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

7th October 1969.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for the following awards of 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.

To be an Additional Member of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, for Gallantry.

Francis Joseph LORRIGAN, Chief Officer, Carlisle Fire Brigade.

Awarded the British Empire Medal for Gallantry, Civil Division

Joseph SEWELL, Station Officer, Carlisle Fire Brigade.

In response to a fire call, a water tender with a crew of one Sub-Officer and four firemen, and Station Officer Sewell were sent to railway sidings where a railway van containing ammunition was on fire. Three members of the crew man-handled a nearby ballast wagon up the line to within 30 ft. of the burning van to provide cover for the fire-fighters while others prepared to set the pump into a pond 300 yards away. Chief Officer Lorrigan arrived at the scene and shortly after there was an explosion and shells, shrapnel and debris were flung over a wide area. Due to the violence of the explosion the van was lifted into the air and fell back across the rails. Chief Officer Lorrigan with the assistance of the crew, ran out two hoses from the open water using the dip of the embankment as a screen. During this action a second explosion occurred but due to the cover afforded by the embankment no one was injured. The hose was taken up the embankment across the

main lines and behind the ballast wagon. The Chief Officer manned one hose and Station Officer Sewell the other from behind the ballast wagon until the hoses were lashed to it. It was then discovered that a live shell had dropped on to the ballast wagon which was being used as a screen. The Chief Officer ordered all personnel to retreat to a safe area 300 yards away adjacent to the pond. As the men were taking up their positions there was a third explosion and a further seven explosions took place at 4-6 minute intervals. The two jets of water finally extinguished the burning debris and cooled the ammunition in the van, preventing further explosions. Chief Fire Officer Lorrigan and Station Officer Sewell showed courage, fortitude and tenacity in extremely dangerous conditions.

Awarded the British Empire Medal for Gallantry, Civil Division

Harry FIELDHOUSE, Prison Officer, Department of Corrections, New South Wales.

A fire broke out in the cell of a prisoner in the Observation Ward of the Central Industrial Prison, Long Bay. The fire and smoke in the cell would most certainly have resulted in the death of the prisoner had he not been rescued. Prison Officer Fieldhouse, in company with a second officer, went to the cell and when the observation port was open flames projected through the port and scorched the faces of the officers. The cell door was thrown open and it was seen that the cell was not only smoke-filled but the lining was blazing with fire. The prisoner had placed his mattress in an upright position across the doorway and this was burning furiously. Fieldhouse seized the burning mattress, dragged it into the corridor and thus cleared the doorway. He then entered the flaming, smoke-filled cell where visibility was almost nil and by touch searched for and found the now unconscious prisoner lying in the far corner. He dragged the helpless prisoner through the door of the cell into the corridor

where, overcome by smoke and heat, he collapsed. Prison Officer Fieldhouse placed his own life in jeopardy to save that of the prisoner.

Gordon Ambrose Herbert HARDING, Transport Driver, Southampton.

Mr. Harding, driver of a Diesel Tanker, was discharging Propane Gas into static tanks near the kitchen buildings at an Army Aviation Centre when a pipe on the tanker burst. Harding called to the staff working nearby to vacate the area as quickly as possible whilst he closed the discharging valve on the vehicle. The liquid gas meanwhile sprayed out and was ignited by a gas stove in the nearby kitchen. The kitchen buildings and the tanker immediately caught fire. Mr. Harding and a cook working in the kitchen were enveloped in the flames but Harding continued in his endeavours to extinguish the fire on the vehicle using the extinguishers carried on the tanker, but without success. Although by this time suffering from 1st and 2nd degree burns to the face, neck and forearms, Mr. Harding with complete disregard of his own safety re-entered the vehicle and drove approximately 100 yards to a position where Fire Brigade vehicles, which had then arrived on the scene, had easier access to extinguish the flames. The fire occurred approximately 40 yards from the main road where school children were waiting at a bus stop.

Daniel Joseph McINTYRE, Cash in Transit Supervisor, Hounslow, Middlesex.

An armoured van was delivering cash in two boxes which were secured to the waist of one of the crew and this man, together with an office porter and Mr. McIntyre, the Sergeant in charge of the crew, entered the lift to be carried to the third floor where the cash was to be delivered. On their arrival at this floor Sergeant McIntyre left the lift first to see that no unauthorised person was loitering in the corridor and, satisfied that all was in order, he called to the two men to follow him. Suddenly, three masked men armed with pick-axe handles and a sawn-off shot gun, who had been hiding in a nearby room, appeared and attacked the Security Officers. Sergeant McIntyre received a heavy blow on the head by one of the men wielding a pick-axe handle, which knocked off his protective helmet causing him to fall semi-conscious back into the lift. McIntyre although dazed, regained his feet and saw two of the robbers, one armed with the shot gun, attacking his colleague and wrestling the cash boxes from his body. Sergeant McIntyre undeterred, attacked the robber nearest to him, striking the man with his truncheon. At this stage two of the attackers managed to gain possession of the cash boxes and started running down the stairs leading to the street. They were followed by the third man with Sergeant McIntyre in pursuit, still striking the man with his truncheon. The robber armed with the shot gun seeing this, turned, pointed the gun at the Sergeant and fired. Sergeant McIntyre was not wounded and immediately resumed his chase, striking one of the three robbers at least two blows on the head. This spirited action forced the bandits to drop one of the cash boxes which contained the bulk of the cash, and they finally reached the ground floor and made off in a waiting car. As the car was drawing away Sergeant McIntyre made one

final effort and threw his truncheon at the vehicle, hitting the rear offside door.

Brian John Kendrick ORGAN, Constable, Gloucestershire Constabulary.

Albin Brian SMITH, Constable, Gloucestershire Constabulary.

Constables Organ and Smith were on motor patrol duty when they received a message that an armed man who had been tampering with parking meters had made off in a car. The two officers saw the car and chased it until it stopped in the middle of a road. Constable Organ, who was driving the patrol car, slowed down and stopped level with the rear of the car. The driver got out of the car and stood in the roadway facing the police car. In his left hand he held a long barrelled pistol-type gun which he aimed at Organ and fired. Constable Smith attempted to leave the car but the gunman fired three more shots at the Constables and then got back into his car and drove off. The two Constables continued the chase until the other car stopped again. The man left his car, fired two more shots at the officers and ran into some fields. Organ and Smith pursued the man across the fields, during which time more shots were fired at them. Constable Smith got within 15 ft. of the gunman who fired at him and wounded him in the arm. Despite his wound Smith, accompanied by Organ, continued to follow the man across another field into a lane. Here the gunman stopped a car and forced the driver to drive him away. Other patrol cars then took up the chase.

Terence Frederick Charles PERCIVAL, Temporary Garden Labourer, Ministry of Public Building and Works.

Two helicopters, taking part in a Royal Engineers' demonstration, collided in mid-air while one was taking off and the other landing. Both crashed, one on fire. Mr. Percival, who was working in the playing field where the collision occurred, ran straight to the scene and began to extricate the occupants of the burning helicopter from the wreckage. He was joined by two soldiers and the occupants of the helicopter were removed and their burning clothing extinguished. Mr. Percival was in danger not only of being severely burnt but also from the possible explosion of the helicopter's fuel tanks.

David Frederick SADLER, Constable, Birmingham City Police.

Baden Henry SKITT, Constable, Birmingham City Police.

At about midnight Constable Skitt, who was on duty in a police car, saw a grey van which had been involved in a non-stop accident and moved forward to intercept it. His approach was noticed and the vehicle drove off. Skitt followed the van which was driven at a fast speed with the lights switched off. After about a hundred yards Skitt saw a man lean out of the near-side door of the van and fire at him with a revolver. He saw the flash from the gun and heard the shot. After the cars had travelled another hundred yards the man again leaned out of the car and fired another shot at the Constable. The bullet hit the bonnet of the car causing a dent in the metal. Undeterred, Skitt continued the chase and a third shot was fired at him, but the bullet missed the car. Within

the next five hundred yards two further shots were fired one of which hit the roof of the car above the Constable's head. At this stage Constable Sadler, driving another car, joined the chase. The van travelled along the centre of the carriageway with Skitt close behind, followed by Sadler in his car. Another police car joined the chase, travelling in the opposite direction and the driver deliberately drove his vehicle into the van. There was a violent collision and both vehicles stopped. One of the occupants of the van jumped out with a revolver in his right hand and ran off. Sadler jumped out of his car, ran after the gunman flung himself at him and, with a rugby tackle, brought him to the ground, hitting the ground very heavily himself. The man then pointed the gun at Sadler but two other Constables were close at hand and one kicked the revolver out of the man's hand before he had time to fire. The three constables tried to pin the gunman on the ground but he was extremely violent and they had the greatest difficulty in holding him down. Constable Skitt joined them and the man was eventually handcuffed and arrested.

William John WILCOX, Senior Constable,
Queensland Police Force.

Two intruders, one armed with a rifle, entered the residential section of a mixed business demanding cigarettes. The armed man, without any cause, pointed the rifle at the chest of the proprietor of the store and shot him dead. Senior Constable Wilcox, while being advised of the presence of an armed man at the store, heard the shot and ran to the store. A red and white car was seen to leave at high speed. Wilcox, accompanied by a Police Cadet, son of the murdered man, set off in pursuit. The wanted vehicle was found stopped at a deserted area on the bush road. Wilcox instructed the Cadet to illuminate the area with the headlights and then leave for assistance. Alone and unarmed Wilcox approached the five persons in the car, three of whom he knew to have lengthy criminal records,

and succeeded in holding them until other assistance and Police arrived. One of the arrested men was later convicted of wilful murder. Senior Constable Wilcox's resolute determination to apprehend the murderer and his associates, although he himself was unarmed, demonstrated courage and devotion to duty.

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct

James BULLEN, Sub-Officer, Carlisle Fire Brigade.

Brian HODGSON, Fireman, Carlisle Fire Brigade.

Lawrence MONK, Fireman, Carlisle Fire Brigade.

John Donald SOUTHWELL, Fireman, Carlisle Fire Brigade.

Joseph UNDERWOOD, Fireman, Carlisle Fire Brigade.

For services when a fire broke out in a railway van containing explosives.

David Quentin EARL, Constable, Birmingham City Police.

Leslie Walter HARROD, Constable, Birmingham City Police.

Lionel Gordon LAYTON, Constable, Birmingham City Police.

For services when an armed man attempted to avoid arrest.

John James KING, Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

For arresting a man armed with a loaded rifle.

Ian Maxwell LANE, Detective Senior Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

For arresting a man armed with a loaded rifle.

Dudley Charles PRATT, Detective Chief Inspector, Sussex Constabulary.

For services when a man threatened to jump from the top of a high cliff.

John Vere SMALLWOOD, Constable, Northampton and County Constabulary.

For arresting a youth armed with a loaded shot gun.

