

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