

She dropped straight in front of him but he remained calm and put both his arms tightly around her. A slate beneath his left foot broke but he managed to keep his balance. The slightest wrong movement at this stage would almost certainly have resulted in either or both persons falling to their death. Mr. Redmond continued to place himself in jeopardy by positioning himself between the woman and the edge of the roof and in this manner he eased her across the sloping roof to a nearby flat roof and through a window to safety.

Raymond John SHIRLAW, Superintendent,
Department of Corrective Services, New
South Wales.

A prisoner, in the maximum security block of the Golburn Training Centre, barricaded the entrance of his cell with furniture, armed himself with a portion of the bedstead and threatened to kill any officer who attempted to enter. The prisoner, who was serving a life sentence for murder, had a record of violence, and on a previous occasion had made an abortive attempt to escape. Superintendent Shirlaw went to the cell and attempted to reason with the prisoner but without success. The prisoner at this stage removed the light in his cell, plunging it into almost total darkness, and threatened to kill the Superintendent if he entered. Later the Superintendent again approached the prisoner who finally invited him to enter the cell, but said that he would harm the Superintendent and cut his own throat if any other officers attempted to interfere. The Superintendent, recognising the probability of serious injury to prison officers and the prisoner should an attempt be made to overcome him, disregarded the counsel of his officers and entered the cell, alone and unarmed. Mr. Shirlaw's calm demeanour and obvious determination to master the situation apparently confounded the prisoner who surrendered and was handcuffed.

Maureen, Mrs. SIMPSON, Castleford, Yorkshire.
Terence Michael SLOCOMBE, Constable, West
Yorkshire Constabulary.

A call was received by the Police to the effect that a man was in a house in possession of a gun and that he had two children with him. Police officers went to the scene and found that a mentally disturbed man had lodged himself in an upstairs room with two of his children. He was in possession of a loaded shotgun and ammunition and indicated that unless the officers vacated the house he would harm the children or himself. The officers accordingly withdrew. During the next two hours a number of shots were fired by the man during the course of which damage was caused to a car and a Constable was injured. The man carrying the shotgun then left the house accompanied by his children, making use of them as a form of shield. He then approached a house occupied by Mrs. Simpson and her two children. Mrs. Simpson knew the man personally and was well aware of his mental state. She had also been previously warned by the Police of his activities and advised to lock herself in the house. On reaching the house the man pointed the gun at her through the glasswork of the door and demanded admittance. Mrs. Simpson could readily have taken cover and avoided personal

injury from any shot fired but fearful of the possible consequences to the children if she did not comply, she opened the door. On entering the house the man locked the door and ordered Mrs. Simpson upstairs where together with the four children they occupied the front bedroom, the man taking up a position by the window armed with the gun. For the following 19 hours Mrs. Simpson and the children were held hostage in the house by the man who was in a highly emotional and dangerous state throughout. There is no doubt that at various times during her ordeal Mrs. Simpson could have escaped from the house either alone or with one or more of the children but she refused to accept such opportunities until she was able to collect all the children together and emerge to safety. It was continually apparent to her that the man was under severe mental strain and that in such a condition his reactions to anything untoward which she might do could well have had tragic consequences. In spite of this frightening situation she did all in her power to pacify the man, whilst at the same time watching for an opportunity to make a joint escape. Eventually, Mrs. Simpson was able to persuade the man to talk to Constable Slocombe who was keeping observation in the house opposite. This he agreed to do and Constable Slocombe crossed to the front of the house. He was unarmed and unprotected and was fully aware of the dangers involved. Nevertheless he endeavoured to persuade the man to surrender and release the hostages, but without success. Following this initial meeting Constable Slocombe later talked to the man on at least six occasions. At all times he was standing in a very vulnerable position in the front garden with the shotgun pointed in his direction. The following morning a shot was fired from the rear of the besieged house and a few moments later Mrs. Simpson and all the children were able to run from the front door leaving the gunman alone in the house. Immediately, Slocombe took up a position at the front door facing the besieged house although he could appreciate the man's mental state on realising that his hostages had escaped. The man appeared at the window with the shotgun and Slocombe called to him to give himself up and drop the gun out of the window but he refused to do so. Slocombe continued to talk to the gunman in a quiet, convincing manner and again assured him that if he would drop the gun outside he would go into the house alone and talk to him. Eventually the Officer succeeded in convincing the gunman who dropped the gun outside whereupon Slocombe went forward and met him as he emerged from the house.

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct

Jackson ARMSTRONG, Office Manager, Warrington.

William Martin CULLETON, Works Electrician, Warrington.

Patrick KELLY, Station Officer, Warrington County Borough Fire Brigade.

For rescuing a man overcome by fumes in a degreasing vessel.

Barrie Keith BARNES, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For arresting an armed man who had broken into a house.