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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
15th December 1970.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve 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.

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

John Malcolm GRIFFITHS, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Constable Griffiths and another officer were on patrol in a police car when they received a message that suspects were believed to be on premises nearby. The officers drove to the area and Griffiths went to an alleyway running parallel to the rear of the houses whilst the other officer drove to the front. As Constable Griffiths entered the alleyway he saw a man carrying a holdall. The Constable stopped him, told him he was a police officer and produced his warrant card. The man thereupon pulled out a sawn-off double-barrelled shot gun from the bag and threatened the Constable. Griffiths immediately knocked the gun from his hand and the man ran down the alley. The Constable gave chase and the man turned around and threw an open lock-knife at him. The man then took an iron bar from inside his left sleeve and started hitting Griffiths about the chest and stomach with it. A struggle ensued, the man managed to get away with the Constable in pursuit. As Griffiths came up to him he was again violently assaulted with the iron bar but eventually managed to overpower the man and arrest him.

Lieutenant Commander David Herbert JOHNSON, R.N. (Retired), Bookseller, Limpsfield, Surrey.

Edward TURNBULL, Plant Operator, Limpsfield, Surrey.

A man with a long criminal record, broke into a house by forcing the front door. He stole various items of jewellery, silver and porcelain which he placed in a pillow-case. He left the house by the front door carrying the pillow-case and started to walk towards the main road. He was seen by Lt.-Cdr. Johnson and another neighbour, a woman, and they both ran up the road after him. Johnson was able to outpace his companion and he caught up with the burglar, stopped him and asked him what he had been doing in the house. The man threatened Johnson at the same time pulling what appeared to be a small automatic pistol from his jacket pocket. He then turned and ran off followed by Johnson. From time to time the man turned and pointed the gun towards his pursuer who nevertheless continued to follow him. At one point he turned and fired the pistol. The chase continued and Mr. Turnbull then arrived on the scene, and he immediately joined the chase with Lt.-Cdr. Johnson. They continued to follow the man at a distance of 20 to 30 paces despite the fact that he continually turned and levelled the pistol at them. On reaching the main road he pointed the gun towards Mr. Turnbull and fired it. He then ran across the road and tried to enter a car which was momentarily stationary in a line of traffic. He was not successful and as he turned away Turnbull jumped at him. The man turned and fired the gun but Turnbull closed with him and threw him to the ground. Johnson then disarmed him and both men kept him in their custody until the arrival of the police, when he was handed over together with all the property stolen from the house.

Colin Arthur JONES, Constable, Bedfordshire and Luton Constabulary.

Brendan Paschal WALSH, Constable, Bedfordshire and Luton Constabulary.

Following an armed robbery earlier in the day Constables Jones and Walsh were searching an estate requesting owners of the garages to open them up in order that they could be inspected. They were looking for a stolen car. Constable Walsh accompanied one owner to his garage and when the door was open he saw the stolen car which was being reversed out of the garage at a fast speed. He ran towards it and saw three men inside holding revolvers in their hands and a shot was fired. He threw his truncheon at the window of the car and jumped backwards on to the ground. The car was then driven out of the garage block at a fast speed. Jones joined Walsh in the police car and gave chase. The stolen car turned into the entrance of a field, followed by the police car. The three men jumped out of their car and ran away. One man began to run towards the police officers. The other two then came back. They were all holding revolvers and ordered the Constables out of the police car. A shot was fired and the three men got into the police car but it stuck in the mud and they all jumped out. Two of the men ran towards the road and the third stayed by the car. He pointed the revolver at the Constables and threatened to shoot. Walsh and Jones started to walk towards him and he fired the revolver at them. The man walked backwards on to the road, firing the revolver about five times but pointing it downwards. He reached the road, held up a private car and drove off. The two Constables stopped another car and gave chase. They saw the other car at the side of the road and the gunman running across the field. The Constables climbed over the gate and gave chase for about a mile across the fields. Walsh caught up with the gunman, jumped on him and forced him to the ground. Jones then also jumped on top of him and the man was subdued and arrested.

RUSSELL ALMROTT JONES,

Constable,

Metropolitan Police.

Constable Jones was on duty with two other officers in a police car and whilst crossing Waterloo Bridge their attention was drawn to a large crowd looking over the side of the bridge facing up river. The car was stopped and Jones got out and ran to the rail. He looked over and saw a woman struggling in the water. Without hesitation he stripped to his underclothes, climbed on to the parapet, and jumped into the river, a distance of some 50 feet. When he came to the surface he could not see the woman so he dived and felt around in the water until he touched some clothing and then the woman's body. He pulled the woman to him, surfaced and supported her on her back, swimming in small circles. A passing pleasure boat was turned and a life-belt was thrown to Constable Jones. Having tried to put it over the woman's head without success, he placed the rope attached to the life-belt under the woman's arms, thus enabling the people on the boat to pull her aboard. Jones was then helped aboard in a very exhausted and shocked condition. Constable Jones risked injury in jumping into

the water from such a height and was also in danger of being taken below the surface by the eddies and undertows set up by the bridge buttresses. There is no doubt that his gallant action saved the woman's life.

WILLIAM DAVID KELLY,

Detective Senior Constable,
Queensland Police Force.

Police went to a flat to question a man and were confronted by the suspect who was armed with a loaded rifle. He refused to leave and a large force of Police surrounded the flat and diverted the traffic and pedestrians from the area. Requests for the armed man to surrender failed and he fired two shots in the direction of Police and one at a camera man. Detective Kelly, after requesting the armed man at close range to surrender, volunteered to enter the house with the man's wife in an endeavour to persuade him to put down the rifle. This attempt failed, and while in the flat the man kept the rifle trained on the Detective threatening to shoot. Detective Kelly and the man's wife left the flat. Later Detective Kelly again entered the flat unarmed and eventually persuaded the man to surrender the rifle and submit to arrest. Detective Kelly's several acts in the lengthy incident were outstanding.

ARTHUR WILLIAM SCOTT,

Technical Grade II (B & CE),

Ministry of Public Building and Works.

An explosion occurred in the South Rotunda of a large building. A cylinder of propane gas was damaged, the gas escaped and ignited, and the resulting explosion in a confined space caused severe damage to property and injured 15 persons. Mr. Scott was employed as a Clerk of Works on the offices being built over the Rotunda. Though not connected with the work in the Rotunda, when the explosion occurred he entered the building through dense smoke and descended three flights of stairs in complete darkness to find and assist the injured. On the arrival of the Fire Brigade he led them to the source of the explosion and fire and assisted in locating and carrying out a seriously injured man. The firemen were wearing breathing apparatus, but Mr. Scott worked without such protection. Mr. Scott calmly rendered valuable assistance in rescuing personnel, under dangerous and confused conditions, with a complete disregard for his own safety.

RONALD SHACKLOCK,

Constable,
Metropolitan Police.

At about 2 a.m. whilst on duty in the West End of London Constable Shacklock was approached by a man who said he had been robbed by three men who were in a passageway nearby. One of these men was standing in the centre of the passageway and the others were standing against the wall of a building a few feet away. As Constable Shacklock walked towards them one started to back away lifting the front of his overcoat and putting his left hand into his hip pocket. The Officer continued to walk slowly towards the man and when the distance between the two had narrowed to about

three feet the man pulled his left hand out of his hip pocket and pointed a pistol directly at the Officer. Constable Stacklock did not hesitate in the face of this threat but immediately drew his truncheon, jumped at the man and struck him on the left wrist. He then closed with him and held him against a wall while he summoned assistance by using his personal radio. When assistance arrived the man was arrested.

Harold John SNELLING, Station Officer, London Fire Brigade.

Ian Malcolm RICHARDS, Fireman, London Fire Brigade.

The Fire Brigade was called to a fire involving an oil storage tank of about 120,000 gallons capacity, which was in the course of demolition. During the course of the fire-fighting operations a violent explosion occurred resulting in five firemen and one workman being killed. At the time of the explosion Station Officer Snelling and Fireman Richards were standing on a pathway close to the base of the tank. The force of the explosion blew Snelling into an adjacent dyke containing a mixture of oil and water in which he was completely submerged. Fireman Richards was also thrown off the pathway but was able to cling to the dyke wall and was partially immersed in the oily mixture. Fireman Richards called for assistance and a workman threw a length of hose to Snelling, who was able to pull himself out. He then passed the hose to Richards, holding on to the end, whilst Richards climbed back on to the pathway. Snelling was told that a man had fallen into the tank. Although suffering from shock and covered with oil which was affecting their eyes Snelling and Richards climbed the external ladder to the top of the 35-foot high tank. This ladder at the top had broken away from the side of the tank and was in an extremely unsafe condition. They found that the top of the tank had been completely blown off and that a body of a fireman was lying at the bottom of the tank. Snelling instructed Richards to fetch lines and breathing apparatus but without waiting for this equipment himself Snelling climbed down an internal steel ladder into the tank. When Fireman Richards returned with the breathing apparatus the Station Officer was already in the tank and Richards abandoned the apparatus and as quickly as he could joined Snelling inside the tank. The base of the tank was covered by an oily sludge which was two or three feet deep in places, the atmosphere was hot and humid and dangerous fumes were present. The fireman was partially submerged in the sludge. They freed the body from some piping and then carried it to a dry area from which they hoped it could be raised by lines. Unfortunately the man was found to be dead. By now both men were suffering from the effects of the fumes and the Divisional Officer realising that they might be overcome ordered them out of the tank. On reaching the outside air both men collapsed and were taken to hospital. Although both Station Officer Snelling and Fireman Richards were suffering from shock and the effects of the explosion they did not hesitate to climb unsafe ladders and to descend into a fume laden tank to assist their comrade and throughout the operation they acted without regard for their own safety.

William Frank WHEATLEY, Sergeant, Sussex Constabulary.

Christopher Charles COOPER, Constable, Sussex Constabulary.

Following a domestic dispute a youth armed himself with an automatic pistol, threatened to commit suicide, ran off to a copse and hid among the shrubs and trees. Sergeant Wheatley with Constable Cooper and other officers went to the copse. A shot was heard and the Sergeant saw a man waving a pistol about in his right hand. Wheatley drew near to the man and told him to put the gun down but he refused and threatened to kill the Sergeant if he came any nearer. Wheatley continued his approach and when about 10 yards away the man fired the pistol. The officer dived backwards and the man ran off. Constable Cooper then joined the Sergeant and they chased the man across a road. He was still waving the pistol about and threatening the officers. Constable Cooper was about 15 yards from the man when the pistol was fired again. The man then stood with his back to a fence pointing the pistol at Wheatley and Cooper. The officers walked towards him and he again fired the pistol. Wheatley and Cooper then rushed at him, grabbed hold of his hand holding the pistol and took it from him. The man was then secured.

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct

Harold Edwin ARMSTRONG, Constable, Cumbria Constabulary.

For arresting an emotionally disturbed man, armed with a loaded rifle.

Stanley BAKER, Labourer, Southampton.

For services when two men armed with knives attacked another.

Frederick COVILL (deceased), Factory Maintenance Engineer, Braintree, Essex.

David Kenneth SIMONS, Engineering Apprentice, Latchingdon, near Chelmsford, Essex.

Christopher John TOWNSEND, Commis Chef, Tooting, London S.W.17.

For services when a girl was rescued from drowning in a rough sea.

George Henry FURSMAN, Detective Sergeant 1st Class, Queensland Police Force.

For services when a man armed with a loaded rifle resisted arrest.

Brian Thomas HARDY, Sergeant, Lincolnshire Constabulary.

John SIDDALL, Constable, Lincolnshire Constabulary.

For arresting a drunken youth armed with a pistol.

John Howard PARSONS, M.B., Ch.B., Lewis Hospital, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis.

For services as a member of a casualty evacuation mission carried out by helicopter 80 miles north of Stornoway.

Albert Edward PURKIS, M.B., B.S., General Medical Practitioner, Great Burstead, Essex.

George Albert MANNING, Chief Inspector, Essex and Southend-on-Sea Joint Constabulary.

John CLARKE, Inspector, Essex and Southend-on-Sea Joint Constabulary.

For services when dealing with a mentally disturbed man armed with a loaded shotgun.

David SHEPHERD, Constable, Lincolnshire Constabulary.

Barry Nigel STEVENS, Constable, Lincolnshire Constabulary.

For rescuing a girl from the roof of a block of flats.

Oscar Frederick WILSON, Antique Dealer, London S.W.7.

For his efforts to prevent the escape of three men who had committed an armed robbery.

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