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FRIDAY, 8TH OCTOBER 1971

## State Intelligence

### HONOURS AND AWARDS

#### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

8th October 1971.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's Australian Ministers, to approve the award of the British Empire Medal for Gallantry (Civil Division) to the undermentioned:

(To be dated 7th October 1971)

Constable Jeffrey Graham BROWN, of Barton, Australian Capital Territory.

On the night of 26th January 1971, unusually heavy rain associated with a near stationary thunder storm caused a dramatic flash flood in the Woden Valley area of Canberra in the Australian Capital Territory. A causeway at the intersection of three major roadways adjacent to residential and office areas was subjected to particularly heavy flooding. The roadway had flooded to a depth of a few inches only on a few previous occasions. People rescued at the causeway on 26th January stated that the water rose to their armpits. The flooded area extended for some 200 yards. This already dangerous situation was further complicated by the debris in the stream and its swift rate of flow, estimated at 22 miles per hour and the continuous heavy rain. A total of seven people lost their lives through drowning in the floodwaters. Of these, five were swept away from the causeway, which was the scene of a rescue of two persons who had tried to rescue those drowned and were themselves swept off the roadway, but managed to cling to a light pole some 50 yards from the edge of the floodwaters.

Constable Brown, who arrived at the scene at approximately 8.30 p.m., was aware that several people had been swept away, but immediately entered the waters with another policeman to arrange the rescue of the two persons. Constable Brown went to the assistance of one of the rescuers but in so doing lost his footing and was swept away

by the torrent. He managed to make his way to the bank, after being carried for about 500 yards, and was assisted from the floodwaters by an ambulance officer.

Despite this experience, Constable Brown returned to the scene of the rescue to assist in its completion.

The actions of Constable Brown were performed under difficult and dangerous conditions and deserve high commendation. His courage and fortitude in returning to the rescue operations after being swept away by the floodwaters were of a high order.

#### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

8th October 1971.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's Australian Ministers, to award the Imperial Service Medal to the following officers, upon their retirement.

#### COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

(to be dated 7th October 1971)

Charles Douglas Davidson ALEXANDER, Senior Technical Officer Grade I, Fourth Division, Transmission Planning, Bearer Utilisation No. 3, Engineering Division, Postmaster-General's Department, New South Wales.

Albert Mainsbridge ANTHONY, Postmaster Grade III, Third Division, Postmaster-General's Department, Rosebud, Victoria.

William Trevor ARNOLD, Mail Officer, Fourth Division, Postmaster-General's Department, Launceston, Tasmania.

William BATESON, Postal Officer Grade III, Fourth Division, Postmaster-General's Department, Newcastle, New South Wales.

Colbert James Coslett BEARD, Clerk Grade III, Technical Services, Australian Broadcasting Commission.

Charles Clifton BENNELL, Senior Telecommunications Technical Officer Grade III, Fourth Division, Engineering Division, Postmaster-General's Department, Victoria.