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TUESDAY, 21st DECEMBER 1971

## CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

21st December 1971

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 additional Members of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for Gallantry:*

Norman LORD, Deputy Chief Officer, Port Emergency Service, Melbourne Harbour Trust, Melbourne, State of Victoria.

Trevor Robert NIXON, General Manager, Southern Zone, John Holland (Constructions) Pty. Ltd., Melbourne, State of Victoria.

On 15th October 1970 a section of the West Gate Bridge which was under construction at Melbourne Harbour collapsed suddenly. Initially a work-party of some sixty-seven persons were reported to be involved in the disaster. Deputy Chief Officer Lord was responsible for organising and co-ordinating most of the services engaged in the rescue operations. Throughout the rescue operations he supervised the work of four divers under his control, and continually moved through the various compartments inside the wreckage, despite the fact that a fire was burning and there was imminent danger of a serious explosion. In supervising the rescue of the injured and recovery of the dead, Deputy Chief Officer Lord, without regard for his own safety, displayed outstanding qualities of leadership as well as personal bravery of a high order. Mr. Nixon went at once to the site following the collapse; despite the fact that he had a broken

leg set in plaster, he played an active part in the rescue of the injured under very hazardous conditions. From the time of the accident, he took control of the rescue operation and organised the various company, government and voluntary segments of support into an effective working rescue unit. He demonstrated outstanding qualities of leadership, organisation, motivation, persistence, courage and human concern.

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

Elaine, Mrs. ARMSTRONG, Member, Ormond Mobile Nursing Section, St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Donald Paul COOK, Emergency Service Officer, Port Emergency Service, Melbourne Harbour Trust, Melbourne, State of Victoria.

Barry Reginald GORSUCH, Emergency Serviceman, Port Emergency Service, Melbourne Harbour Trust, Melbourne, State of Victoria.

Royston KILFORD, Emergency Serviceman, Port Emergency Service, Melbourne Harbour Trust, Melbourne, State of Victoria.

Frederick Thomas ROWE, Third Officer, Port Emergency Service, Melbourne Harbour Trust, Melbourne, State of Victoria.

Alan SPARKS, Private, Ringwood-Nunawading Rescue Squad, St. John Ambulance Brigade.

Gus STROMBERG, Leading Hand Rigger, John Holland (Constructions) Pty. Ltd., Melbourne, State of Victoria, Australia.

Following the collapse of a section of the West Gate Bridge, Melbourne Harbour, Mrs. Armstrong displayed exceptional devotion in alleviating the pain and suffering of many victims of the disaster. She worked without rest for eight hours and displayed courage and devotion to duty in a period of danger and extreme stress. Messrs. Cook, Gorsuch, Kilford and Rowe in their capacity as divers were required to search the compartments inside the wreckage for casualties. The only means of entrance were through torn

portions of the steel fabric and access between compartments was through bulkheads. A fire was burning at the time, live electric cables within the wreckage had been damaged and there was imminent danger of a serious explosion. In working for long periods under such hazardous conditions, they displayed personal bravery of a high order, without regard for their own safety. Mr. Sparks worked tirelessly in a confined space for many hours in great discomfort and at considerable risk to extricate a casualty trapped under a mass of wreckage. He displayed courage and devotion to duty of a high order. At the time of the disaster Mr. Stromberg was working in the west truss alongside the collapsed span. One of his first actions was, accompanied by some of his crew, to wade into the slimy mud on the North side of the collapsed span and carry out men who had been thrown over the side. He then worked through the afternoon and evening assisting in the retrieval of the dead and injured. He displayed conspicuous courage, fortitude and devotion to duty under very hazardous conditions.

**Terence John BISHOP**, Senior Constable, Queensland Police Force.

Senior Constable Bishop was called late one evening by two neighbours to the home of a shearer whose wife had seen him loading a .22 auto-loading rifle. The man had threatened to harm the Senior Constable and the man's wife had fetched the neighbours who had unhesitatingly gone to the man's home to calm him; he became more belligerent, fired the rifle and wounded one of them. The other neighbour then went to the police residence and fetched Senior Constable Bishop who went unarmed to intervene. He saw the man with the rifle which was pointed at him and moved towards him talking to him. After some time the officer persuaded the man to give up his weapon which was found to be loaded with eight live bullets in it. Senior Constable Bishop deliberately confronted the man unarmed as he considered that the sight of a firearm might aggravate the situation and his action showed efficiency, devotion to duty and courage of the highest order.

**Peter John BOWCOCK**, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

**Robert Graham DENCH**, Constable Metropolitan Police.

Constable Bowcock who was patrolling in a Panda car saw a car being driven recklessly. While both vehicles were held up at the traffic lights the officer left his car to speak to the driver of the other vehicle. The man drove off against the red light and the constable gave chase. The driver later abandoned the vehicle and, with Constable Bowcock in pursuit, ran across fields and wasteland to the River Brent into which he finally jumped to hide in a sewer outlet. He crouched some five yards inside the pipe and when the officer called to him he disappeared from sight further down the pipe. At this stage Constable Dench arrived with other officers including a dog handler with a dog which, being sent into the sewer, came out again and refused to go back. Meanwhile a manhole had been discovered and opened to reveal an inspection chamber in which the man's hat was seen to float. Constables Bowcock and Dench immediately entered the inspection chamber with a search lamp and made their way over a four feet deep mud trap and along

the slimy sewer pipe for a distance of 75 yards and came upon the man lying unconscious face downwards in water. Although they were choking with fumes and sewer gas, they succeeded in rolling the man on to his back and dragged him back along the pipe to the manhole entrance where another officer lifted him out and administered artificial respiration. But for the courage displayed by Constables Bowcock and Dench the man would have died through inhalation of water and marsh gas fumes.

**Jack Henry BROWN**, Assistant Divisional Officer, City of Portsmouth Fire Brigade.

**Roy Edward GEER**, Temporary Sub-Officer, City of Portsmouth Fire Brigade.

**Geoffrey READMAN**, Fireman, City of Portsmouth Fire Brigade.

Following a call for assistance to the Portsmouth City Fire Brigade, Assistant Divisional Officer Brown, with others went by naval tug to the m.v. *Pacific Glory* where there had been an explosion. After fighting the fire for about half-an-hour Assistant Divisional Officer Brown decided to attempt to board the *Pacific Glory* to search for missing crew members. All members of the party volunteered and Temporary Sub-Officer Geer and Fireman Readman were selected to accompany him. Assistant Divisional Officer Brown was the first to board the vessel and when he was satisfied that it was safe to continue he called the two volunteers aboard. Boarding the vessel was extremely difficult and hazardous as the deck of the *Pacific Glory* was 30 feet above the deck of the tug with a 10 to 15 feet sea-swell which caused considerable movement of both vessels. When all three men were aboard a search for survivors was carried out in all parts which at that time were approachable, this necessitated passing over the top of the cargo tank which was on fire and also the tops of other cargo tanks, the plates of which were hot, buckled and showing signs of internal pressure. There was a large fire burning in and around the ship and the risk of further explosion was considerable. It is considered that the fire was tackled with great tenacity and that Assistant Divisional Officer Brown showed great courage, leadership and devotion to duty in the way in which he boarded the *Pacific Glory* and organised fire-fighting on the ship. He was ably supported by Temporary Sub-Officer Geer and Fireman Readman, who both volunteered to board the ship in spite of the difficult and very hazardous conditions.

**Peter Edward BUTCHER**, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

As the result of a message that the occupants of a Rover car had been concerned in a shooting incident, Constable Butcher and two other policemen went in a police car to Parliament Square to keep observation. The Rover car was seen travelling south at great speed; the police car gave chase for some distance and the Rover was finally forced to stop by another police car which blocked its path. Constable Butcher immediately ran to the nearside door of the Rover and, as he opened the car door, he saw the passenger holding an automatic pistol. Without hesitation the officer grabbed the man's arm and in the struggle that followed the man threatened to shoot and attempted to point the gun at the officer. Undeterred Constable Butcher struck the man's hand several

times, knocking the gun away, eventually he managed to pin the man's arms down and the pistol dropped to the floor. With the assistance of other officers the man who was struggling violently, was taken from the car and handcuffed. The pistol was found to be loaded and cocked, with five rounds in the magazine and one in the breech. It was entirely due to the exemplary courage of Constable Butcher who, seeing a revolver in the hands of the man, knowingly exposed himself to grave danger in bringing about this arrest.

Raymond Terence CLEVERDON, Leading Fireman, London Fire Brigade.

Thomas Leonard RICHARDS, Fireman, London Fire Brigade.

William George WILLIS, Fireman, London Fire Brigade.

The Brigade was called to a fire at an hotel in Kensington Gardens Square on 11th May 1971. Leading Fireman Cleverdon who was in charge of the first turntable to arrive, ordered the ladder to be placed at the rear of the building where he had been told people were trapped. With assistance from Fireman Richards he rescued a man and a woman who were trapped in a fourth floor room. Having heard cries from a third floor window during the rescue Leading Fireman Cleverdon returned up the extended ladder to the third floor, but a building projection prevented the ladder from reaching the window and the officer guided the ladder to the flat roof of the projection where he stepped off and found he was separated from the window, at which a man was standing, by a sloping parapet 2 foot wide with a drop below the window of 55 feet. It was learned that the man's wife was in the room unconscious. Leading Fireman Cleverdon climbed across the parapet, but realised that if he climbed into the room, from which fierce heat and smoke were emerging, it would be impossible to climb back with the man to the flat roof. He was joined by Fireman Richards and they leaned across the parapet and by grasping one of the man's arms hauled him to safety. Conditions were rapidly deteriorating and Leading Fireman Cleverdon attempted to get back in the room, but the earlier rescue work had sapped his strength so Fireman Richards went in alone and located the woman. He tried to drag her to safety but the heat was too great. By now fire was coming from the windows below and the fire in the room overlooking the roof was threatening to break the windows, a jet of water was directed on to both officers to protect them from the fire. They were joined by Fireman Willis in breathing apparatus who managed to lower himself into the room; he crossed the room but was driven back by flames when he tried to close the door, he found the woman and dragged her to the window and on to the roof. He was also by now almost exhausted and the lives of the four persons on the roof were preserved only by the water jet from the ground. Fireman Richards carried the woman down the ladder and the other two followed. It was later revealed that the only staircase to this part of the hotel was destroyed and the four people could not have been rescued other than by the method used. The unconscious woman was admitted to hospital. Without thought for their own personal safety these officers displayed great courage and tenacity in extremely punishing conditions to carry out their daring rescue.

Brian Louis GREENWOOD, Station Officer, Cornwall Fire Brigade.

On 6th August 1971 a cloudburst in Truro caused the level of the two rivers flowing through the city to rise. The situation was worsened by the tidal Truro river being in full flood at the time. Before the downpour four employees of the South Western Electricity Board and two employees of the Cornwall River Authority were assisting in work adjacent to the entrance of the River Kenwyn tunnel which carries water from an open section of leats under the city and eventually discharges into the Truro River. The rain caused the level of water to rise sharply, its velocity was probably greater than usual because of the engineering work being carried out. The two River Board Authority men were washed down the tunnel where the Electricity Board men were already working, and because of the flood water could not get back to the tunnel entrance. A call for assistance was made to the fire brigade. Station Officer Greenwood and another officer who were visiting the flood areas were also directed to the incident. The Station Officer was the first on the scene and with the barest information took a 100 foot line, removed his fire boots and descended into the leat serving the tunnel. He was not sure of the conditions prevailing in the tunnel, its route or the location of the men, but partly swimming and wading he struggled through very fast flowing water, which varied between 4 feet 6 inches and 5 feet 6 inches in depth, into the tunnel. Before he reached the men he had fully extended the line and was unable to indicate that he needed more. In spite of the surging water he detached himself from his line, fastened it to a fixing on the tunnel and went forward some distance to reach the men, he then assisted each man to a slightly safer position and, attached to the lifeline which now extended to 250 feet, Station Officer Greenwood and the rescued men were hauled against the water flow up to the tunnel entrance and assisted up the ladder. On three occasions during the rescue the officer had to remove his lifeline to put it on the trapped men to move them to safer positions. Station Officer Greenwood showed the utmost devotion to duty, a complete disregard for his personal safety and acted courageously in extremely hazardous and dangerous conditions in effecting the rescue of the six men.

Colin John LIVETT, Leading Fireman (Temporary Sub-Officer), London Fire Brigade.

Temporary Sub-Officer Livett was called to a fire at a private hotel in the early hours of 29th June 1971. Fire fighting operations were already in progress at the front of the building so Temporary Sub-Officer Livett with two firemen went to check the back of the building where the fire had spread to rooms on the second and fourth floors. The adjoining buildings both had projecting sections; the second floor of each projection being an open verandah with pillars supporting the floor above. On climbing up to the verandah with the two firemen Sub-Officer Livett was told by three members of the Fire Brigade and a civilian on the opposite verandah that a man was trapped at a third floor window at the rear of the main building and that the room directly below him was alight. Before the arrival of the Fire Brigade a builder's ladder had been pitched almost horizontally from the verandah to the corner formed by the walls of the projection

and the main building; the head of the ladder was partly jammed against some drainpipes and partly resting against the window-ledge of the burning room. Another builder's ladder was pitched vertically from the horizontal ladder to the window where the man was trapped, but because of the fire and heat emerging from the window immediately below and the precarious way in which the ladders were pitched he refused to come down. Sub-Officer Livett slid across to the other verandah by means of an extension ladder pitched across the 10 foot gap between the two verandahs supported by only one string on his side and counter-weighted by two firemen on the other about 25 feet above the ground. He then walked out again on to the extension ladder and at full stretch he engaged a hook ladder on to the window-sill of the third floor room and though still some 8 feet away from the face of the main building he gripped the hook ladder and stepped off the extension ladder supported only by the hook and landed squarely on the face of the building. Temporary Sub-Officer Livett then climbed up the hook ladder to reach the room and was exposed to the fierce heat from the window below; a jet of water was aimed immediately below him to cut off the heat. He called to the man to climb out on to the hook ladder; the man was barefoot and on feeling the heat tried to climb back into the room, but Temporary Sub-Officer Livett caught him and held him on to the ladder and started to climb down. It was impossible to regain the comparative safety of the extension ladder and he got the rescued man on to the builder's ladders and, assisted by another fireman, the man was passed round Temporary Sub-Officer Livett's body and the three of them straddled their way to safety. During the final stage of the rescue the ladder tipped and Temporary Sub-Officer Livett fell on to his back and suffered burns. The rescued man was detained in hospital. It was revealed later that no other escape route was possible, and the rescue was affected only by the combination of Temporary Sub-Officer Livett's technical skill, ingenuity, courage and complete disregard for his own safety.

Peter John MARSH, Inspector, Metropolitan Police.

In answer to a call for assistance by a constable, Inspector Marsh, with two police officers, went to a house where a man who was in a very excitable state was believed to have a pistol and a bomb. While one of his men attempted to enter the back of the house Inspector Marsh tried to talk to the man who had appeared at the ground floor bay window which he broke with the barrel of a Luger pistol, threatening to shoot the Inspector and his men if they did not go away. Inspector Marsh ordered the others to move away while he reasoned with the man who, however, broke more of the window glass and picked up a parcel which he said was a bomb when the police officers made a further attempt to come nearer. The Inspector then offered to shake hands with the man in the hope of pulling him through the window, but was unable to get a firm enough grip; finally, however, the arrival of a police motor cyclist diverted the man's attention and the Inspector was able to break a side window, disarm the man and snatch the parcel, he then kicked the front door open and arrested the man. The gun was later found to be unloaded, but a clip containing two bullets was later found in the house: and the parcel did not

contain a bomb. Inspector Marsh had every reason to believe that the gun was loaded and that the parcel contained a bomb; in acting as he did he displayed courage, coolness, resourcefulness and a complete disregard for his own safety.

Ronald Frederick PARKE, Leading Fireman, Sydenham, London, S.E.26.

On 17th June 1971, Mr. Parke was crossing Vauxhall Bridge when he saw a young woman climb over the parapet on to an iron ladder leading to the jetty of one of the central buttresses. Mr. Parke asked a passerby to call the police and taking off his jacket went down to the jetty where the woman was kneeling. He was unable to restrain her and in spite of his pleas, she jumped into the river; Mr. Parke immediately removed his shoes and jumped in after her. The river was at ebb tide, with strong undercurrents and the water was very rough, but Mr. Parke managed to reach the woman and, in spite of her struggles, grasped her by her clothing and attempted to reach the small beach by Tintagel House. Because of the very strong tidal current he was carried past and decided to make for the Fire Brigade pontoon further along the river; though the strong cross-current and choppy water made it difficult for him to keep the woman from going under he retained his grip and had almost reached the pontoon when the Fire Brigade launch came out to him. Lifebelts were thrown and he managed to get one over the woman's head. When pulled from the water he had swum with the woman some 800 yards and was very exhausted. They were both taken to hospital. It is certain that without Mr. Parke's immediate acceptance of very grave personal risk, the woman would have drowned and in his determination to save her life he showed courage of a very high order.

Rodney Andrew PHILLIPS, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

While patrolling in a police car, Constable Phillips received a message that there was a search for two suspected criminals in the vicinity. As he drove to the area he saw a man running towards him and from the information he had received he concluded that this was one of the men. He called to the man to stop, but when the man ignored him and ran past he gave chase and although unable to overtake the man he managed to strike his left shoulder. The man turned and Constable Phillips then saw the gun in his hand. The officer immediately struck at the gun with his truncheon, but the man avoided the blow and ran off. In the chase that followed the constable managed to strike the man again so that he fell, but he rose and threatened to shoot; although Constable Phillips' truncheon was by now broken and he was dazed by a blow from the butt of the gun, the officer continued to give chase and grappled with his assailant. During the struggle which ensued the officer was repeatedly struck about the face, but he did not lose his hold until other police officers arrived at the scene to restrain and arrest the man. Subsequent examination revealed that the weapon was unloaded. Constable Phillips showed outstanding courage in tackling this man who he believed to be armed and who might have been a very dangerous criminal.

John Dilwyn PRICE, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Constable Price went with another officer to premises in Camden Passage, N.1, where the occupier had reported that an intruder had tried to break in. The occupier's son had seen a neighbour climb over a back fence and make off towards his house. The Constables who were on the roof of the house where the attempted burglary had taken place saw a man climbing over a roof towards the end of the block of buildings; so Constable Price went down to the street where he was joined by two other policemen. Together they went to the neighbour's house which they found open; the house was in darkness and while Constable Price went for a torch the other two officers entered and saw a man standing quite still in the dark passage, he said he was the owner and went upstairs threatening to shoot them. Constable Price returned and, while the other officers searched the first floor, went to the second floor and found a man with a shot gun; the man again threatened to shoot, the officer stepped forward, knocked the barrel away and tried to seize it but was struck violently over the head with the weapon. Despite his head injury, which later required stitches, Constable Price grappled with the man, seized the gun and managed to force him back and press the barrel release on the stock. At this point the other two officers arrived and restrained and arrested the man. Constable Price showed a complete disregard for his own safety when he tackled the man and in spite of his injuries restrained him until eventually arrested.

*Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct*

Michael ARGUMENT, Constable, Northumberland Constabulary.

For services when arresting a man with a loaded firearm.

Michael John BALDWIN, Constable, lately Metropolitan Police.

For preventing a mentally deranged woman from committing suicide.

Miss Kathleen BARRY, Nursing Sister, Hurstwood Park Hospital, Haywards Heath, Sussex.

For rescuing a patient from a fire.

Rex John BEAVER, Licensed Private Inquiry Agent, Concord, New South Wales.

For tackling and restraining an armed man.

Richard Arthur CUTLER, Sydney, New South Wales.

For tackling and disarming an armed intruder.

Peter DINSDALE, Constable, Kent County Constabulary.

For attempting to detain four armed men who had robbed a bank.

Terence Arthur DODD, Process Operator, Burroughs Welcome Co., Temple Hill, Dartford, Kent.

For rescuing a fellow employee following an explosion and a fire.

James Ernest GOULBOURNE, Forecourt Attendant Bootle, Lancashire.

For services in rescuing two men who were overcome by fumes in a sewer shaft.

Graham Charles HICKSON, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Andrew John LEVENS, Fireman, London Fire Brigade.

Leslie William PHILLIPS, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For services when preventing a threatened suicide.

Alan John JORDAN, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For services in controlling a fight between a group of youths.

Stewart Findlay LEASK, Constable, Birmingham City Police.

William John STRETTON, Constable, Birmingham City Police.

For services when arresting a man armed with a knife.

Alexander LEISHMAN, Constable, City of Glasgow Police.

Alexander HARPER, Constable, City of Glasgow Police.

For services when arresting a man armed with a knife.

Hamish MACINNES, B.E.M., Mountain Rescue Worker, Glencoe, Argyll.

George Alexander WHILLANS, B.E.M., Sergeant, Argyll Police Rescue Team, Argyll County Police.

For services to mountain rescue.

Sylvia, Mrs. MORGAN, Housewife, Billingham, Teesside.

For services in going to the aid of a girl trapped by the rising tide.

John O'REILLY, Inspector, Hertfordshire Constabulary.

For services when arresting an armed man.

Leonard William PATTISON, Constable, Sussex Constabulary.

Peter Cundale SPANTON, Leading Ambulance Man, Brighton, Sussex.

Michael Eric WEBB, Constable, Sussex Constabulary.

Ian Stanley WILSON, Constable, Sussex Constabulary.

For services when attempting a sea-rescue.

Francis Michael PEARCE, Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

Nicholas David WALKER, Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

For arresting and disarming a dangerous man.

Anthony John SEPRINI, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For services when arresting and restraining a man who had a firearm.

Bernard George STARTUP, Constable, Hampshire Constabulary.

For services when arresting a man who was armed with a knife.

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