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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE
ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

23rd January 1973.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned award.

Awarded the George Medal.

Miss Mary Elizabeth Gibbs, School Teacher, Faraday Primary School, Faraday, via Castlemaine, Victoria.

Two armed men entered the school and informed Miss Gibbs that they intended to abduct her and the children for a ransom of \$1 million from the Government of Victoria. The teacher and children were placed in the back of a van which was parked in a thick forest and the kidnappers remained in the front seat of the van all that night. The children were tired, hungry and cold and Miss Gibbs tended to their needs all through the night. Just before dawn the men departed in an attempt to collect the ransom money and Miss Gibbs, assisted by the children, began to kick at the back door of the van in an attempt to escape. After some time the door gave way sufficiently for them to escape and Miss Gibbs led the children through dense bushland until she found a road. She was forced to lead the children off the road each time she heard a car approaching in case the kidnappers had returned; they were found the following morning and taken to safety. Throughout this time Miss Gibbs displayed courage, coolness and initiative of a high order and kept the children's morale high by her example and leadership.

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