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**HONOURS AND AWARDS**

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE  
 ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.  
 20th February 1973.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following awards of the George Medal, the Bar to the British Empire Medal, 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 George Medal*

James Hogg BRUCE, Inspector, Royal Hong Kong Police Force.  
 Chor CHOI, Fireman, Fire Services Department, Hong Kong.

Inspector Bruce was off duty when he saw dense smoke from the vicinity of Aberdeen Harbour, Hong Kong. He immediately drove to the Police Marine Base where he met other officers and saw the Jumbo Floating Restaurant burning fiercely. Acting on his own initiative he requested nearby civilian boat crews to proceed to the vicinity to assist rescue operations. He then commandeered a speed boat and with other police officers travelled towards the blazing restaurant; at 50 yards the intense heat prevented further approach, but he saw there were some 15 people clinging to the hull of the restaurant who were in danger of drowning or succumbing to heat. Without hesitation, braving the heat and flying debris caused by internal explosions, he and other officers swam towards the side of the restaurant. When he reached the hull he saw a man and a woman holding the underpart of the vessel, the woman sank but he succeeded in bringing her to the surface and the man, who was panic stricken, grabbed him by the neck and he had to tow both of them for some yards before another police officer took charge of the woman. The man continued to struggle violently and Inspector Bruce had to wrestle with him, but managed eventually to tow him to a rescue sampan. The Inspector returned twice to the restaurant and rescued three more men and he was making a fourth attempt to reach another survivor in a junk when a large explosion took place in the restaurant and caused the junk to change course and the man was eventually pulled to safety by other rescuers. Inspector Bruce then returned to his sampan and with other officers conducted a search in the vicinity of the restaurant and satisfied himself that rescue operations had been completed. Fireman Chor Choi was in a small boat

and whilst approaching the restaurant assisted in rescuing three people from the sea. When the boat broke down, without hesitation, he stripped off his clothing and dived into the water. Despite intense radiated heat and numerous explosions he swam to the side of the burning vessel and with the assistance of another fireman succeeded in rescuing three people who were hanging on to the hull. Fireman Choi subsequently again swam to the burning vessel and with the aid of a life-buoy rescued two more people by towing them to a nearby boat. Later, during search operations he assisted in the rescue of a police constable from the water. Inspector Bruce and Fireman Choi displayed gallantry of a very high order in carrying out these rescues in conditions where the heat was so intense that an approach to the restaurant in a wooden boat was hazardous and to swim in the heat area was a tremendous test of courage and endurance.

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

Joseph Hervé AGLAR, B.E.M., Constable, Mauritius Police Force.

A life raft with the crew of a stricken ship on board was overturned several times by very heavy seas throwing the men into the water. The survivors struggled to the shore and a number of police waded into the water to aid them. Some of the crew, however were caught in a deep channel about half a mile out with a fast running current; two of them were in difficulties and were being swept away. Constable Aglar went into the sea almost fully clothed and managed to swim to the drowning men. He caught hold of them and at one point it seemed that all three would be swept away; however, with incredible determination and strength the Constable succeeded in swimming with the two semi-conscious sailors and managed to drag them into shallower water and then eventually to the shore. Constable Aglar, although in a state of exhaustion at the end of this operation, insisted on continuing to help with the rescue; and did so for a further hour until given a direct order to stop. It was only by the personal courage, initiative, skill and endurance of Constable Aglar that the two men's lives were saved.

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

Ross Butchart BALFOUR, Constable, British Airports Authority Constabulary.

Constable Balfour was called to an incident at London Airport where three youths, one of whom appeared to have a gun, were causing a disturbance. On arrival at the scene the Constable was told that the youth with the