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**HONOURS AND AWARDS**

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF  
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.  
26th June 1973.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following awards of the George Medal and the British Empire Medal and for publication in the *London Gazette* of the names of those specially shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for Brave Conduct.

*George Medal*

**Gordon MEREDITH, Sergeant, Warwickshire and Coventry Constabulary.**

Following an alarm call from the premises of a firearms dealer, Sergeant Meredith was among those immediately sent to the scene. Two officers who arrived first found a window had been broken and noticed someone at the back of the shop. One Constable looked closely and saw that the intruder was armed; he called a warning to his colleague who had entered the premises, but the gun was discharged at close range and fatally injured the officer. Sergeant Meredith arrived as the shot was fired and heard that the policeman had been shot. At that moment he saw a man scrambling through the shop window holding a single-barrelled shotgun with the barrel pointing in his direction. As the man stepped out he stumbled and the Sergeant lunged forward and grabbed the barrel; the man, who was in a crouching position, did not completely lose his balance and tried to force the barrel in front of the Sergeant. After a short struggle the gun was discharged and Sergeant Meredith was shot in the thigh; he fell, but kept his hold on the gun and the man scrambled clear and ran off. Other police then chased the man and arrested him. In tackling and disarming a man who he knew to be armed and had already shot and wounded another police officer, Sergeant Meredith showed a complete disregard for his own life and displayed courage in the highest tradition; his action without doubt prevented further injury or loss of life to the other officers present at the scene.

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

**James Francis ALLEN, Driver, Penge, London S.E.20.**

While Mr. Allen and his wife were waiting for a train one evening, another passenger standing nearby was suddenly attacked by a man who stabbed him repeatedly with

a sheath knife. The man appeared to have gone berserk and his victim collapsed, having received nine serious wounds. As soon as Mr. Allen realised what was happening he tried to stop the man and was stabbed in the back and leg. The attacker then ran off chased by Mr. Allen, who closed with the man and was again stabbed several times. Regardless of his wounds Mr. Allen continued the chase and finally leapt upon the man bringing him down to the ground; he then held the man and, with the assistance of other people, took the knife from him, detaining him until the Police arrived. In the knowledge that he was facing a dangerous and vicious criminal who had already inflicted serious injuries to one person, Mr. Allen displayed courage of a very high order when he tackled and disarmed this man.

**Roderick John BARTON, Bus Driver, Fulham, London S.W.6.**

Mr. Barton, with his father and brother, returned home one evening and found that the house had been burgled. He went upstairs, closely followed by his father, to see what property had been stolen and was confronted by two masked men, one of whom was armed. Without hesitation Mr. Barton attacked the gunman and tried to push the gun away, but the man fired twice wounding Mr. Barton in the head; as he staggered back he grabbed the man and together they fell down the stairs. In the confusion which followed the gunman managed to escape, but despite his wounds Mr. Barton quickly tackled the other man and, with the assistance of his father, overpowered him after a violent struggle. Mr. Barton then ran off to join his brother in pursuit of the man with the gun who unfortunately was able to escape. The gun which was recovered the day after the burglary had been fired and an attempt had been made to fire a further round which had jammed in the breech. Mr. Barton behaved with considerable courage faced by a man with a gun and it is considered that his actions involved gallantry and risk of a high order.

**Catherine, Mrs. BLANKLEY, Member, Belfast H.Q. Transport Ambulance and Nursing Division, St. John Ambulance and Brigade.**

**Hayden ELLIOTT, Sergeant, Belfast H.Q. Transport Ambulance and Nursing Division, St. John Ambulance Association and Brigade**  
For gallantry.

**Kim CLABBY, Constable, Metropolitan Police.**

Constable Clabby and another police officer were keeping observation on a car known to be displaying false number plates. When the driver approached the vehicle he was

challenged by both officers, but before he could be questioned he sprayed fluid at them, temporarily blinding them. The fluid had a lesser effect upon Constable Clabby; he quickly recovered, chased the man and gained on him sufficiently to strike him with his truncheon. The man stumbled slightly but continued to run and had gone only a few yards further when he turned and fired a shot at the Constable from a long barrelled pistol. The Constable continued the chase and the man again turned and fired at him and after a short distance fired another two shots; the officer ducked between two cars but in a few seconds again chased the man who, after firing a further shot, got into another car. He at once started the vehicle and drove it at the Constable who jumped aside throwing his truncheon at the windscreen, but unfortunately the blow had no effect and the car made off at high speed. The man was eventually arrested some time later. Constable Clabby displayed great courage and devotion to duty when unarmed and suffering from the effects of the liquid sprayed into his eyes, he continued to chase the gunman who showed no hesitation in using the gun on his pursuer.

George MENEELY, Constable, Belfast Harbour Police.  
For gallantry.

William James NORRIS, Station Officer, Belfast Fire Brigade.  
For gallantry.

David Robert RUMBLE, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Following a report by a motorist that an armed robbery was taking place outside a nearby bank, a police officer near the scene saw a security van being driven towards him. He noticed that the driver was wearing civilian clothes and he immediately broadcast alerting other police units in the area. Constable Rumble who was patrolling nearby in his Panda car quickly collected the officer and pursued the van. Eventually the police car was able to draw alongside the van and with the help of the driver of a commercial van which was moving very slowly ahead, the security van was forced to stop. Two men jumped out of the security van and one of them was carrying a sawn-off shotgun. Constable Rumble ran after this man, who turned and pointed the gun at the officer. The Constable pushed the gun away with his truncheon and the man started running again; the officer caught up with him, hitting him with his truncheon and knocked him to the ground. The officer leapt upon the man and the shotgun fell out of his hand, but it was picked up by another of the robbers who raised it and attempted to strike the Constable who parried the blow and the gun struck his arm. Although he was knocked to his knees the officer gained control of the gun. After ensuring that the gun was unloaded Constable Rumble continued to pursue the first man for some distance and finally caught and arrested him. In tackling a man armed with a shotgun who he knew had also taken part in a violent robbery, Constable Rumble displayed great courage and devotion to duty.

*Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct*

Francis Dwight ATKINSON, Constable, Metropolitan Police.  
For assisting with the arrest of a robber following a bank raid.

Terence BABBIDGE, Sergeant, Metropolitan Police.  
For services in pursuing and arresting an armed man.

Bernard BARRITT, Constable, West Yorkshire Constabulary.  
Brendan FITZPATRICK, Constable, West Yorkshire Constabulary.

For services in rescuing a mentally disturbed man from the roof of a five-storey building.

Ronald Frederick BEAUMONT, Sergeant 3rd Class, New South Wales Police Force.

Raymond William Latin PICKERING, Constable 1st Class, New South Wales Police Force.

For services leading to the arrest of two armed bank robbers.

William Albert COLLINS, Constable, Metropolitan Police.  
Thomas Michael DINSDALE, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For services in arresting an armed man who was causing a disturbance.

Clarence William FOSTER, Bank Manager, Lloyds Bank, Daventry.

Gordon Alexander RICHARDS, Sub-Manager, Lloyds Bank, Daventry.

For disarming and detaining a man who attempted to rob a bank.

Bernard John Benedict JOYSON, Sergeant 3rd Class, New South Wales Police Force.

Ronald LUTTON, Sergeant 3rd Class, New South Wales Police Force.

For attempting to prevent the suicide of an armed and mentally disturbed man.

Leslie KING, Constable, Belfast Harbour Police.  
For gallantry.

David PARE, Fireman, London Fire Brigade.

For rescuing a colleague who had collapsed while descending a turntable ladder at a fire in a chemical warehouse.

Alan John PURKISS, Constable, Hampshire Constabulary.

For services leading to the arrest of a driver of a stolen car.

Gerald THOMAS, Constable, Warwickshire and Coventry Constabulary.

David John WESTWOOD, Constable, Warwickshire and Coventry Constabulary.

For assisting in the arrest of an armed man following the fatal shooting of a policeman.

Home Office, London S.W.1.  
26th June 1973.

The QUEEN has been pleased to award the Queen's Police Medal for Gallantry to the late Constable Peter Charles Guthrie of the Warwickshire and Coventry Constabulary in recognition of his gallantry in the following circumstances:

An alarm call from the premises of a firearm dealer's shop was received in the early hours of one morning by the police in Coventry. Constable Guthrie, who was the first of a number of police officers to arrive, noticed an intruder inside. He climbed into the shop through a broken window and as he did so a colleague called to him that the intruder was armed. Constable Guthrie did not take cover, however, but continued to move towards the man, who discharged the gun into Constable Guthrie's chest at close range. Constable Guthrie died shortly afterwards.

Constable Guthrie's courage and devotion to duty were in the highest traditions of the police service.

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