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THURSDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER 1973

State Intelligence

HONOURS AND AWARDS

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1
6th September 1973.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's New Zealand Ministers, to approve the award of the George Medal to the undermentioned:

(To be dated 25th August 1973)

Richard John Reeves, of Lower Hutt, displayed outstanding courage and selfless disregard of his own safety in going to the rescue, under extremely hazardous conditions, of Mervyn Joseph Farrington, the driver of a passenger bus which plunged into the Rangitikei River when the road bridge near Bulls collapsed. The river, at the time, was some twelve to fifteen feet above normal and running at about 25 knots.

On 15th June 1973, Mr. Farrington was driving his empty bus across the bridge when a section of it suddenly collapsed and the bus fell into the river, which was in heavy flood at the time. Mr. Reeves, who had been driving in the opposite direction and had pulled up because of the collapse of the bridge, saw that the bus was partly submerged and drifting towards the centre of the river, and that the driver was apparently unconscious in the cab.

Mr. Reeves immediately went down to the river bank and after seeing that the driver of the bus, Mr. Farrington, was trapped in the cab, stripped to his underwear and jumped into the swollen river. He first had to pull himself through debris and then had to swim for it. When he reached the bus he found that it was gradually sinking and that Mr. Farrington had not been able to extricate himself as his foot was caught. Mr. Reeves managed to

grasp Mr. Farrington by his waist belt and with some help from Mr. Farrington wrenched him free just as the bus sank under water. When this happened Mr. Reeves asked Mr. Farrington if there were any other persons in the bus and he said "No".

Mr. Farrington had sustained serious injuries in the accident and Mr. Reeves supported him in the water until the current carried them both downstream to an area piled up with debris. With the help of others who had by this time gathered at the river bank, both Mr. Farrington and Mr. Reeves were hauled to safety.

Mr. Farrington was admitted to the Palmerston North Hospital with injuries consisting of a fractured left ankle, cuts and bruises to his face, and a fractured vertebra.

TREASURY

COUNTER-INFLATION ACT 1973

The Treasury have given consent to the declaration by the following companies of dividends of the total amounts specified for the financial years ending on the specified dates:

Grand Central Investment Holdings Ltd., London E.C.4.	£97,863	31.12.72
Warren Tea Holdings Ltd., London E.C.3.	£114,059	31.12.72
Staplegreen Insurance Holdings Ltd., London E.C.3.	£767,118	31. 3.73
Negretti & Zambra Ltd., London N.W.10.	£64,655	31. 3.73
General Engineering Co. (Radcliffe) Ltd., Manchester	£59,800	31. 3.73
Reynards (Excavations) Ltd., London W.1.	£4,938	30.11.73