



SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO

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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE
ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

18th December 1973.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the undermentioned appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, and to approve the awards of the George Medal and the British Empire Medal for Gallantry (Civil Division) 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 :

Major Geoffrey William Biddle, Explosives Officer,
Metropolitan Police Office.

Captain Richard Vernon Hawkins, Explosives Officer,
Metropolitan Police Office.

Peter Edwin Spencer Gurney, G.M., Explosives Officer,
Metropolitan Police Office.

Following a report that a suspicious car was parked near two buildings which had wide areas of glass in their walls and housed large numbers of staff, Major Biddle and Mr. Gurney went to the scene.

Quickly realising the gravity of the situation they managed to get into the car and immediately recognised the smell of explosives. They saw a cord protruding from beneath the passenger seat which they knew was a detonating cord and this was traced to the rear seat which was lifted and found to be packed with explosives. They now realised they were dealing with a very large bomb and ensured that the immediate area was evacuated and that staff in the surrounding buildings were warned before they began the dangerous task of rendering the device safe. The officers found the initiatory system of the bomb in a wooden box

under the front seat; Mr. Gurney severed the detonating cord and together they removed the back seat containing the explosives as far as possible from the initiatory system. They suspected that there might be a second such system and immediately unpacked the seat squab and separated the bags of explosives to reduce the effects of any explosion. Finding no second system, they returned to the car where they cut the lead connecting a detonator to the wooden box. When the box was opened it was found to contain a device based on an alarm clock which would have exploded the bomb at 3 p.m. The car was then searched for further explosives and none being found, it was declared safe.

During the morning Major Biddle and Mr. Gurney with other colleagues were extremely busy attending to further suspect car bombs; these turned out to be false alarms.

At about 2 p.m. that afternoon an anonymous call to a newspaper warned that further car bombs had been planted and Mr. Gurney with Captain Hawkins went to deal with one of them. From the earlier events of the day they realised that the time for the detonation of any further bombs might be perilously close and they immediately approached the car and gained access. Again they were met by the distinctive smell of explosives and rapidly located a detonating cord in a position like the one found previously. The bomb was similar to the earlier one and having cut the detonating cord they removed the rear seat squab. Captain Hawkins carefully dismantled the explosive charge and made certain it contained no secondary means of detonation while Mr. Gurney made the initiatory device safe; this was again found to be based on an alarm clock and would have caused the bomb to explode at about 2.50 p.m. Together the officers searched the car for any further explosives and finally declared it safe.

Major Biddle, Captain Hawkins and Mr. Gurney were all involved in exceptional risks and displayed courage of a very high order and in successfully dismantling these bombs they undoubtedly saved a large

number of people from very serious injury or even death.

George Medal

Stanley Michael Bailey Hailwood, M.B.E., Racing Motorist.

During the third lap of the South African Grand Prix several competitors collided and the car driven by Mr. Hailwood was stopped and then badly hit by another car driven by a Swiss driver. The car which collided with Mr. Hailwood was also severely damaged, the fuel tank on one side being split open, and both cars caught fire. Realising the Swiss driver was unconscious Mr. Hailwood leapt from his car and, in spite of his injuries, ran to the assistance of the other man whose vehicle was completely enveloped in flames. Although by now Mr. Hailwood's petrol soaked clothing was on fire, he ignored his own safety and the intensity of the flames until he successfully released the driver of the other car.

Mr. Hailwood displayed a very high degree of gallantry and it is entirely due to his courageous action that the driver of the other car survived.

David Charles Purley, Racing Motorist.

At the Dutch Grand Prix a car driven by a young English driver ran off the circuit during the seventh lap. It collided with a safety barrier and bounced from one side of the track to the other with the result that the car was inverted and one side of the vehicle, including a fuel tank, was ripped away and the car was immediately engulfed in flames. Mr. Purley was in a following car and he immediately stopped when he saw the accident and ran to the driver's assistance. Completely ignoring the personal risk he endeavoured, single-handed, to push the overturned car back on to its wheels and so save the driver.

Unfortunately in spite of repeated attempts Mr. Purley was unable alone to rescue the driver who died in the burning wreckage of his car.

Mr. Purley displayed courage of a very high order and a complete disregard for his own safety in his gallant attempt to rescue the trapped man.

Peter Slimon, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Constable Slimon noticed that a traffic blockage had been caused by a van parked at an angle across a road and as he went to deal with the obstruction he realised that the alarm signal from a nearby bank was ringing. He immediately ran across the road and as he reached the bank a number of bystanders warned him that there were armed robbers inside. The Constable was on his way to a protection post and therefore armed, he drew his revolver from his pocket.

At the threshold of the bank he saw a man with a shotgun which was aimed at a number of people. Constable Slimon acted in accordance with regulations and shouted "I am armed", whereupon the man called a warning to his accomplices and turned towards the officer who raised his revolver. At the same time the Constable saw another of the raiders at the far end of the bank aim a shotgun at him and in self-defence Constable Slimon fired his revolver at the man at precisely the same time as he discharged the shotgun at the officer. The Constable who was wounded in both hands and arms and in the chest was thrown from the doorway to the footway by the blast, but he struggled to his feet and although his left arm was useless and bleeding profusely he kept

the revolver in his injured right hand and again moved towards the bank door. Three men ran out of the bank at this moment each carrying a small case and one had a pistol pointing in the Constable's direction; the officer fired one shot at this man, but was unable to fire again as he was rapidly losing the use of his right hand.

Although badly wounded and incapable of using his revolver Constable Slimon courageously pursued the robbers and saw them escape in a van.

At this point other police officers arrived and the Constable was taken to hospital where he was treated for gunshot wounds and detained. Two of the thieves were wounded, one fatally.

In facing these armed and desperate men who showed no hesitation in shooting at him, Constable Slimon displayed outstanding resolution, devotion to duty and courage of a very high order.

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

Albert Harold Kenneth Balfour, Sergeant, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry.

Oliver John Hamill, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry.

Peter Joseph Heverin, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry.

William Victor Irvine, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

George McCaughey, Auxiliary Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry.

William Edward Semple, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

George Richard Victor Wright, Reserve Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry.

Malcolm Lester Trudgett, Constable 1st Class, New South Wales Police Force.

Following the theft of rifles from a general store, the police arrested a man with the stolen weapons in his possession. The man was taken to the police station and Constable Trudgett, who was alone in the station at the time, took him to a cell. The man turned suddenly and viciously attacked the officer who, although in great pain, quickly placed his right arm around the prisoner's neck and pinioned his head.

During the ensuing struggle, Constable Trudgett succeeded in switching on the Police radio transmitter and called for assistance. At this juncture, however, the man gained possession of the Constable's Service pistol and threatened to shoot the officer if he did not release his hold.

When the Constable refused, the man fired a shot which injured the officer in the calf of his left leg. The Constable once more managed to call for assistance. The struggle continued and the prisoner again fired the Service pistol, this time fracturing the officer's

left leg and causing him to fall to the floor; after firing a third shot which harmlessly struck a wall the man tried to escape. The man was later shot and killed as he attempted to escape from the police station.

Constable Trudgett although disarmed and seriously injured displayed great courage and tenacity in his endeavours to foil the prisoner's escape bid, releasing his hold on the man only when struck by the second shot.

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct

Jessie, Mrs. Burns, Housewife, Dalston, London E.8.

For attempting to prevent the escape of a gang of thieves following an armed robbery.

John Andrew Byers, Constable 1st Class, New South Wales Police Force.

For disarming and arresting a mentally disturbed man.

Kenneth Edward Dale, Chief Inspector, York and North-East Yorkshire Police.

William John Hammond, Sergeant, York and North-East Yorkshire Police.

For arresting an armed man who had kidnapped and attacked his former wife.

Louis Elman, Company Director, De Lane Lea Ltd., London W.1.

Terence Michael O'Brien, Security Officer, De Lane Lea Ltd., London W.1.

Brian Charles Beebee Short, Accountant, De Lane Lea Ltd., London W.1.

Roger Henry Watts, Studio Manager, De Lane Lea Ltd., London W.1.

For disarming and detaining an armed criminal who had attempted a wage robbery.

Richard George Hipkiss, Sergeant, Hampshire Constabulary.

For arresting a man who was threatening to use a firearm to resist arrest.

Charles Frank Holleyman, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For services leading to the arrest of a driver who had caused him bodily harm by dangerous driving.

Adrian McGill (Deceased), Sub-Officer, Glasgow Fire Brigade.

For attempting to rescue a woman from a blazing tenement block.

Douglas Alan Price, Sales Executive, London W.7.

For going to the assistance of a neighbour who was attacked by armed burglars.

Neville Robert Whalan, Constable 1st Class, New South Wales Police Force.

Carl John Young, Nightwatchman, Dubbo, New South Wales.

For preventing the escape of an armed criminal who had shot and wounded a policeman.

William John Walton, Senior Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

For services in preventing an armed and mentally disturbed youth from committing suicide.

Clifford Jenkin Wilcox, Collier, Gorseinon.

For protecting a woman who was threatened by a man armed with a sawn-off shotgun.

Alexander Strachan Willox, Station Officer, H.M. Coastguard, Peterhead, Aberdeenshire.

For services leading to the rescue of five schoolboy canoeists who were blown off course in dangerous sea conditions.

