



SUPPLEMENT TO

# The London Gazette

of Thursday, 14th August 1975

**Published by Authority**

---

*Registered as a Newspaper*

---

FRIDAY, 15<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 1975

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF  
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.  
15th August 1975.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to make the undermentioned award:

**GEORGE CROSS**

James KENNEDY (Deceased), Security Officer, British Rail Engineering Ltd., Glasgow.

In the early hours of the morning six armed men attacked Security Guards who were moving the British Rail Engineering Works' pay-roll from the Administrative Block to various pay-out points within the complex. During the attack two security guards were slightly wounded by shots from a sawn-off shotgun. The robbers then headed towards the main exit of the Works.

Mr. Kennedy, who was the security officer on duty at the main gate, heard the shots and knowing that the criminals were armed stood in the gateway in an attempt to prevent their escape. He tackled the first man and prevented him leaving the yard. The intruder was then released by his companions who attacked Mr. Kennedy and stunned him by hitting him about the head with the barrels of their shotguns.

At this point the raiders climbed into a van which one of the gang had driven into position. Mr. Kennedy recovered consciousness and, undeterred by his injuries, made another attempt to prevent the criminals' escape by running towards the front passenger door of the van. He was killed by two shots fired from the front passenger seat. The seven criminals involved in this murder were later caught and sentenced.

It was subsequently revealed that, in addition to the fatal injuries, Mr. Kennedy had received two deeply lacerated wounds to the skull during the earlier attack. In themselves these would have been sufficient to deter most people from running further risk of injury.

Mr. Kennedy displayed exceptional gallantry and devotion to duty in circumstances of extreme danger. He showed no regard for his personal safety in the face of armed and ruthless criminals.

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF  
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.  
15th August 1975.

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

*Awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal*

Leslie Richard BARTLEY, Constable First Class, Water Police Section, Queensland Police Force.

On the morning of 14 January, 1974, a Queensland Police Force Water Launch caught fire when on patrol. Efforts to put out the fire in the burning engine room were unsuccessful. The port side fuel tank was boiling and an explosion was feared imminent.

A fuel injector line had broken causing fuel to be sprayed continually over the engine. Constable Bartley entered the engine room, which was filled with dense smoke, crawled along the bottom of the boat in a very confined space and managed to shut off the fuel taps to the engine.

Constable Bartley's courageous action in highly dangerous conditions and without regard to his own safety undoubtedly saved the launch from almost certain destruction and its crew from possible death or serious injury.

William Thomas FROHMULLER, Constable First Class, Queensland Police Force.

John Leonard GRAHAM, G.M., Senior Constable, Queensland Police Force.

Gordon Lawrence HOFFMAN, Constable, Queensland Police Force.

Anthony David LACON, Constable, Queensland Police Force.

Edwin Vivian O'DEA, Senior Sergeant, Queensland Police Force.

John William Abbot PRESTON, Sergeant Second Class, Queensland Police Force.

Ian Kenneth ROGERS, Constable, Queensland Police Force.

In the early hours of 1 January 1975 smoke and flames were seen coming from an hotel where more than 30 people were known to be accommodated. The hotel was situated next to the Police Station and police personnel immediately went to the scene and unhesitatingly entered the burning building by ladders and stairs to rescue the occupants of the two storey building. The whole of the ground floor area was ablaze, filled with dense black smoke and several explosions were heard.

Senior Sergeant O'Dea, Constable Frohmuller and Sergeant Preston climbed a fire escape ladder to the top section of the hotel. Senior Sergeant O'Dea forced open a window and entered the hotel. By this time the upstairs section had caught fire, but in spite of the intense heat and smoke he went on rousing and warning the guests, until finally a sudden sheet of flame scorched his clothes and forced him to leave and jump to the ground below.

Constable Frohmuller also broke a window and gained entry. The dense smoke made vision and breathing extremely difficult, so the Constable crawled along the floor. He broke down a locked door and dragged a man to safety; he continued to enter rooms and remove the occupants until he eventually collapsed and was pulled to safety. After a few minutes he recovered and assisted a fireman to operate a hose until the fire was brought under control.

Sergeant Preston also roused guests and assisted their escape until he found it impossible to penetrate any further because of the intense heat. Although he was severely affected by smoke he managed to sound an alarm by banging a chair against a wall. He remained in the hotel until he was told that all the guests were saved.

Constable Graham entered at the rear of the building and managed to save several guests. He also broke down the door of a locked room and rescued the occupant and, in the process sustained a severe injury to his arm from broken glass.

Constable Lacon, who was prevented by a large explosion from following Senior Sergeant O'Dea and the other police officers, also went to the rear of the building where he met Constable Graham who was guiding a guest from the building. Seeing that Constable Graham was bleeding profusely from his wound, Constable Lacon entered the hotel, but almost immediately lost his bearings because of the blinding smoke and poisonous fumes. By crawling at floor level he managed to climb through an open window on to an awning where he assisted two women to the ground. He once more went into the building and heard cries for help and succeeded in rescuing two more guests.

By this time he became ill from the fumes and heat and was assisted out by Constable Rogers who had earlier assisted in the rescue of the two women from the awning. Constable Rogers then climbed back into the hotel by way of a ladder and with other police made a search to ensure that all the occupants had left.

Constable Hoffman had entered the hotel by means of a wooden staircase, roused several guests and led them to safety. He then noticed that the gas supply to the kitchen was in danger of exploding and disconnected the system. He also managed to warn the hotel proprietor and his wife of their danger.

The conditions under which the rescue work was carried out was highly dangerous because of the dense smoke, fumes from burning plastic materials and the intense heat. If it had not been for the outstanding courage of these police officers, who displayed a complete disregard for their personal safety and great devotion to duty, there is every possibility that the guests in the burning hotel would have died.

John Phillips NORRIS, Medical Practitioner, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

At about 4 p.m. on 30 July 1974 Dr. Norris was called to a caravan where a patient of his, a Social Services worker, had visited a man with a long history of mental illness. The man had bound the Social Services worker and tied him to the floor with his head under a substantial and well constructed guillotine capable of being activated from a distant corner of the caravan by means of a cord.

When Dr. Norris arrived at the scene he was invited into the caravan where he saw the Social Service worker. The doctor was then threatened with a gun and when he tried to get possession of the weapon, he was felled to the ground and stunned. He too was gagged, blindfolded and tied to the ground.

The man, after repeatedly rattling the rifle bolt and dropping cartridges into the shotgun, removed Dr. Norris' blindfold to demonstrate the plight of the Social Worker and how easily he could drop the guillotine blade from a distance. He also continued to threaten the lives of both the doctor and the Social Worker.

Eventually by the early evening the Police were contacted and one of the senior officers who arrived at the caravan managed to establish useful contact with the deranged man and was able to gain his confidence to the extent that his attitude relaxed somewhat, although he remained edgy and suspicious.

At about 10 a.m. the following morning the man said that he was prepared to allow Dr. Norris to leave the caravan, but the doctor refused to go without the Social Worker. The police officer, the doctor and the man then had a further lengthy discussion and finally the doctor and the officer were allowed to talk to each other away from the caravan, allegedly about a medical matter. The police officer told the doctor, who agreed, that an attempt must be made to overpower the man. They both resumed their discussion with the man until the officer was able to seize the man with assistance from behind by Dr. Norris. The man was pulled to the caravan door where, with the assistance of other police officers, he was overcome and arrested.

Later it was found that the caravan had been carefully prepared for this incident, with bolts for securing the hostages, bars at the windows and a raised look-out had been cut in the roof. A loaded rifle, an air rifle and quantity of ammunition was also found and the caravan was fitted underneath with an explosive device primed to explode.

Dr. Norris displayed courage of a very high order during the 18 hours he spent in close proximity to a man displaying maniacal tendencies, refusing to leave the caravan when given the opportunity and, despite his injuries from his initial attempt to disarm the man, actively assisted the police in the man's arrest.

*Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct*

Ronald Jack ADDISON, Inspector, Suffolk Constabulary.

Roy CLARK, Sergeant, Suffolk Constabulary.

Eric Harold KELL, Manager, Midland Bank Ltd., Newmarket, Suffolk.

Stanley Ronald MULLENDER, Solicitor's Managing Clerk, Sawston, Cambridgeshire.

Michael WALTON, Constable, Suffolk Constabulary.

For pursuing and capturing a man who had threatened to blow up and rob a bank.

William Roadman GEMMELL, Plate Layer, British Rail, Glasgow.

For services leading to the arrest of a youth armed with a knife who had murdered a man following a disturbance at a railway station.

Ian Douglas HALL, Constable, Lincolnshire Constabulary.

For services leading to the arrest of a man armed with a sawn-off shot gun who attempted to rob a bank.

John Edward HERRON, Constable, Durham Constabulary.

For services leading to the arrest of a man who had robbed a shop and stolen a shotgun.

Dennis Alfred HOBAN, Chief Superintendent, West Yorkshire Metropolitan Police.

For services in dealing with an explosive device which had been placed in a crowded store.

Harry HULL, Chief Superintendent, Wiltshire Constabulary.

For services leading to the arrest of an armed and mentally disturbed man.

Wallace Raymond PICK, Constable, Leicestershire Constabulary.

For services in preventing serious injury to a school-girl when a car skidded out of control on to a pedestrian crossing.

LONDON

Printed and published by HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE: 1975

Price 18p net

PRINTED IN ENGLAND

ISBN 0 11 656660 4

