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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London, S.W.1.
7th December 1976.

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

GEORGE CROSS

John CLEMENTS (Deceased), Teacher, Sherrardswood School, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.

Mr. Clements was one of a party of six adults and thirty-seven children who were staying at a ski-resort in Northern Italy on an eight day visit.

At about 4 a.m. on 12th April 1976, smoke was noticed and Mr. Clements was one of those who quickly raised the alarm and ordered the children to go downstairs. A number of children were led to safety through dense smoke by other members of the staff who, having got out of the hotel, then helped further children to escape from a first floor balcony to the ground.

Meanwhile, Mr. Clements had climbed down from a third floor balcony on the West side of the building to a second floor balcony; he then reached the first floor where he organised a number of children into small groups and assisted them to escape by means of a rope he had improvised from knotted sheets. When the room was evacuated Mr. Clements refused to leave the hotel and went back into the building which in a matter of minutes was burning fiercely. He was seen on at least two occasions to go back into the hotel after carrying or dragging people out, and he ignored repeated attempts to restrain him. Mr. Clements was finally overcome by fumes and he died in the fire.

Mr. Clements displayed outstanding gallantry and devotion to duty in circumstances of extreme danger. He showed no regard for his personal safety when he remained in the fiercely burning hotel in his endeavours to save those still trapped by the fire.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
7th December 1976.

THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following awards of the George Medal, the Bar to the Queen's Gallantry Medal and 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 George Medal

Major Geoffrey William BIDDLE, M.B.E., Explosives Officer, Metropolitan Police.

Shortly after midnight on 9th November 1975 a man and his wife, who had been visiting friends, returned to their car which they had left parked nearby. Bearing in mind police warnings to be cautious of explosives attached to stationery vehicles, they looked under their car and saw a duffle bag jammed underneath below the front passenger seat. Without interfering with the bag they called the police.

Major Biddle was summoned to the scene which had been sealed to traffic and pedestrians and after the initial examination it was decided that the residents of nearby houses should be evacuated before the bag was examined in more detail.

There was only a small amount of ground clearance under the car and Major Biddle could see that the tightly wedged object was securely closed by a cord. Being unable to touch the bag he tackled the inspection by lying in the gutter, but because of background noises was unable to decide whether or not the bomb was ticking. He eventually saw by the light of his torch a small piece of plastic covered wiring and came to the conclusion that the device was not only a time bomb, but was also fitted with a sophisticated anti-handling trap. Major Biddle slowly pivoted the device so that

the opening was facing where he was lying in the gutter; this had to be done very gently so that the pressure contact between the bag and the vehicle remained unbroken. When the bag was close enough he managed to cut the cord, open the bag and this enabled him to disarm the device sufficiently to pull it from under the car and render it completely safe.

The bomb would have detonated if the bag had been removed or if the car had been subjected to any movement.

Major Biddle has over a period been involved in defusing other terrorist explosive devices. On 5th January 1974 following a day of terrorist bomb activity, he was called to some premises where the area had been evacuated following the discovery of a suspicious object. The device had been placed among several plastic bags in a badly lit position and was seen to contain a clock, batteries and explosives. Major Biddle defused the bomb by cutting the wiring to the batteries and then removed the detonator. He then managed to reach the clock, the setting of which showed that the device was probably within seconds of exploding at the time it was disarmed.

In the early hours of the following day, 6th January 1974, Major Biddle was called to the front basement of a house where a suitcase had been left on the doorstep; he noticed that the street lighting was extinguished and the area was in darkness. The suitcase was bound tightly with rope and due to a lack of room in which to work, Major Biddle was obliged to move it from its original position. When the case was opened it was found to contain explosives, a battery and a clock. The bomb was made safe by disconnecting the wire to the battery and removing the detonator. Had this bomb exploded considerable damage and injury could have been caused.

Major Biddle also defused a bomb contained in a haversack and left at the rear of some premises on 19th May 1974.

Major Biddle displayed outstanding gallantry and devotion to duty in tackling these highly dangerous devices, often under difficult circumstances.

Major Donald Victor HENDERSON, Explosives Officer, Metropolitan Police.

On Monday, 13th October 1975, shortly after 9 p.m., two women who were walking past a block of flats noticed a black holdall wedged behind railings and against the window of a restaurant on the ground floor. One of the women went to the entrance of the flats and drew the night porter's attention to the bag. The porter immediately telephoned the police.

Two police officers in a patrol car were immediately sent to the scene and examined the hold-all and saw what appeared to be batteries with several sticks of explosives. They at once alerted the Information Room and set about evacuating fifty-five diners from the restaurant and clearing the street. By the time this had been done and the street cordoned, Major Henderson had quickly reached the area.

After a short briefing as to the suspected contents of the bag, Major Henderson immediately went to the device, opened the holdall and inspected the inside. It was at once evident that he was dealing with an extremely large high-explosive bomb which posed a very real danger both to him and the nearby residents who were still in their flats. He decided to attempt to neutralise the device and completed this both quickly and successfully as it turned out. When the timing

device was examined, the modified pocket watch showed that only two minutes to detonation remained.

The device was found to contain 25 lbs. of high explosive with heavy metal coach screws, which on detonation would have been precipitated at high speed through the restaurant window, thereby causing heavy loss of life or serious injury to the diners, twenty of whom were seated at a table immediately inside the window against which the bomb had been planted. Major Henderson's achievement in preserving the device intact was also invaluable.

In defusing this bomb within minutes of its detonation, Major Henderson displayed outstanding gallantry, devotion to duty and a complete disregard for his personal safety.

Awarded the Bar to the Queen's Gallantry Medal

Ryan Kenneth DAVID, Q.G.M., Constable, Metropolitan Police.

In the early hours of 6th December 1975, a young man who was in a depressed state of mind climbed over the railings of a bridge and threatened to leap 57 feet into the road below.

The Police and Fire Brigade were called to the scene and the man was seen standing in the middle of the bridge on the two feet wide unprotected ledge which ran the whole length of the bridge. Several police officers attempted to gain the man's confidence, but with no effect. Constable David climbed over the railings on to the ledge, but the man moved away. Meanwhile, the Fire Brigade had prepared a noose with the intention of dropping it over the man.

The young man apparently noticed the intentions of the rescuers and made to jump from the bridge, but Constable David released his own hold on the bridge, moved quickly forward and seized the youth forcing him backwards against the railings. The man began to struggle violently in an effort to break free and at times his legs were off the ledge. By this time another police officer had climbed down to the ledge and stood behind Constable David holding his clothing. To the onlookers it appeared that the three men would all fall to their death. Finally, with the help of a fireman who had also climbed over the railings and moved up to join them, the youth was manhandled back over the railings to safety despite his continued struggles. By the time the man had been rescued Constable David was completely exhausted by his efforts.

Constable David displayed bravery of a high order and great devotion to duty when he brought about the rescue of this mentally disturbed man.

Awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal

Stuart Michael MCKENZIE, Constable, Nottinghamshire Constabulary.

Anthony John WHITE, Constable, Nottinghamshire Constabulary.

At 10.40 p.m. on 11th December 1975, Constable McKenzie and Constable White who were on patrol in a panda car, saw a man in dark clothing hurrying along the road. The police car was parked just off the road and the two officers decided to question the man.

Constable McKenzie drove the car on to the road, came alongside the man and Constable White then spoke to him through the car window. As the two officers were making notes of the answers to their questions, the man, who was subsequently found to be

wanted by the police for murder and robbery with violence, suddenly produced a sawn-off shotgun and ordered Constable White into the back of the police car. When the Constable had obeyed, the gunman got into the front passenger seat, pushed the muzzle of the gun under Constable McKenzie's left arm and ordered him to drive. On the man's instructions Constable McKenzie drove the car for about four miles, and as they were approaching a road junction, Constable White saw that the gunman's attention was momentarily diverted from Constable McKenzie; seizing his opportunity he grabbed the man round the neck and at the same time attempted to wrest the shotgun from him. The shotgun was discharged and the bullet narrowly missed Constable McKenzie who then violently braked the car. As soon as the car came to a halt Constable McKenzie jumped out, shouted for help and then went to assist Constable White who was still engaged in a desperate struggle inside the car.

Eventually with the assistance of members of the public who unhesitatingly came to their aid, the two officers managed to overpower and handcuff the gunman.

Constable McKenzie and Constable White displayed outstanding courage, tenacity and initiative in effecting the capture of this extremely dangerous and violent criminal.

Denver Craig MONLEY, Constable, Western Australia Police Force.

On the night of 2nd August 1975, Constable Monley, who was on patrol duty with a police Sergeant, was called to a shop which had been burgled.

When the two officers entered the premises the Sergeant was attacked by an intruder and fell to the ground. Constable Monley immediately went to the assistance of his colleague and received a heavy blow in the region of his liver; the burglar broke free and ran into the showroom of the shop. Although Constable Monley realised that he had been stabbed, he unhesitatingly gave chase and in the struggle that followed he received further stab wounds.

The burglar then broke away again and ran from the shop. Despite his wounds and with the knowledge that the man was armed with a knife, Constable Monley continued the pursuit for some distance, but finally collapsed as a result of his injuries. The Constable had sustained two penetrating wounds to the abdomen, an injured liver and was bleeding internally.

Constable Monley displayed devotion to duty and courage of a very high order when, despite his serious injuries, he continued the pursuit of this armed and dangerous man.

Anthony PARRY, Constable, Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

Shortly after 1 a.m. on 30th December 1975, Constable Parry was sent to deal with a complaint about loud music from a flat which was disturbing other tenants living nearby.

He knocked a number of times on the door of the flat, but got no answer. He then pushed the door open, shone his torch and called out; there was still no reply although he could hear music playing. He went into the entrance hall, but then heard footsteps on the outside stairs and went to see who was there. He met a youth dressed in camouflage battle dress, carrying a rifle which he pointed at the officer and ordered him inside the flat. They went into the living

room where the Constable saw the body of a young man who appeared to have been shot and killed.

Constable Parry questioned the gunman although he was still closely threatened by the rifle; he took a couple of steps towards the gunman with the intention of disarming him, but the rifle was then brought up and pointed directly at his head. The Constable could see that the gunman had his finger on the trigger and at the first opportunity he suddenly grabbed the barrel of the gun with his left hand, held on to it and pushed it away. There was a violent struggle during which the youth tried to force the rifle towards the Constable; the rifle was fired and a bullet embedded into the floor; the struggle continued until eventually Constable Parry was able to gain possession of the weapon.

Constable Parry showed courage and devotion to duty of a high degree when, completely ignoring his personal safety, singlehanded he disarmed and detained this dangerous criminal who had already fatally wounded a man.

Samuel George DUDDY, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Francis KELLY, Sergeant, Royal Ulster Constabulary.
Thomas Patrick SHARVIN, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct

Terence ALLISON, Fireman, London Fire Brigade.

David John WILLIAMS, Inspector, Metropolitan Police Force.

For services leading to the rescue of a mentally disturbed youth who threatened to jump from a bridge.

William Joseph ALLPORT, Medical Practitioner, Bateau Bay, New South Wales.

Ross Page MORRISON, Sergeant 1st Class, New South Wales Police Force.

Ernest Ross NIXON, Sergeant 1st Class, New South Wales Police Force.

Rex Kevin REES, Sergeant 3rd Class, New South Wales Police Force.

Graham Edward ROSETTA, Senior Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

Michael Geoffrey Christopher SIMMONS, Senior Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

For services leading to the rescue of two hostages who had been abducted by a man who was under the influence of drugs and armed with a loaded pistol.

Jeffrey ASKEW, Inspector, Hertfordshire Constabulary.
Gordon Howard STICKLAND, Systems Consultant, Ardeley, Hertfordshire.

For services leading to the rescue of two men from a fiercely burning car.

Alan John Henry BARTON, Bank Manager's Assistant, Barclays Bank Ltd., London N.W.1.

Albert Masterton BUNDOCK, Commander, Metropolitan Police Force.

Thomas SMITH, Chief Inspector, Metropolitan Police Force.

For services leading to the arrest of a robber who threatened to blow up a bank.

John McIntosh BEATON, Constable, Northern Constabulary.

Andrew LISTER, Chief Inspector, Northern Constabulary.

For services leading to the arrest of a man armed with a shot gun.

Geoffrey Stanley BREWSTER, Constable, Derbyshire Constabulary.

For confronting and arresting an armed man who had shot and fatally wounded a man.

Frederick Alan BUTCHER, Bank Sub Manager, National Westminster Bank Ltd., Morden, Surrey.

For services leading to the capture of two armed and masked bank raiders.

Raymond John CLEMENT, Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

John Peter SWEENEY, Constable 1st Class, New South Wales Police Force.

For confronting and arresting an armed and dangerous criminal who had fired upon them at close range.

Stephen Frederick CLEMENTS, Constable, Metropolitan Police Force.

Gordon Eric NIGHTINGALE, Constable, Metropolitan Police Force.

For rescuing a mentally disturbed man who threatened to jump from the roof of a four storey building.

Michael William DONNELLY, Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

Terrence Keith MANNING, Constable 1st Class, New South Wales Police Force.

For rescuing a man who was trapped in an overturned and blazing car.

William Harry DURRANT, Chief Inspector, Hampshire Constabulary.

For services leading to the rescue of a prison officer who was held hostage by two armed and dangerous prisoners.

James Joseph GRAHAM, Local Officer Grade 2, Department of Health and Social Security.

For overpowering and detaining a man armed with a knife who had attacked and inflicted serious wounds on a child.

Gordon Stewart HENDERSON, Constable 1st Class, New South Wales Police Force.

For services leading to the arrest of an armed man.

Reverend Ernest HOPKINS, Liverpool.

For tackling and disarming a man who was threatening the life of a small boy.

James Ewan Hunter HOWATSON, Senior Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

Ian Robert LEVEN, Constable 1st Class, New South Wales Police Force.

For attempting to disarm a gunman who was threatening a man with a rifle.

Albert Joseph JARVIS, Inspector, Nottinghamshire Constabulary.

Trevor PARKER, Sergeant, Nottinghamshire Police.

For services leading to the arrest of a man armed with a loaded shot gun.

Roy MORRIS, Miner, Rainworth, Nottinghamshire.

Keith WOOD, Supervising Engineer, Selston, Nottinghamshire.

For assisting the police in the arrest of an armed and dangerous criminal.

Arthur Thomas RYAN, B.E.M., Driver, Dagenham, Essex.

For services in attempting to rescue five unconscious youths from the wreckage of a blazing car following a fatal double road accident.

Richard WILSON, Stager, Glasgow.

For saving two women and a child from a burning building.

Reuben WOOLSEY, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

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