



THIRD SUPPLEMENT TO
The London Gazette
 of Monday, 6th December 1976

Published by Authority

Registered as a Newspaper

TUESDAY, 7TH DECEMBER 1976

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