

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