



SUPPLEMENT TO

The London Gazette

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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
24th June 1977.

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

John ALLPORT, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

On Friday 21st November 1975, a patrol car received a message that a car had been stolen locally. Later they saw the car and followed it until it stopped. However, as they left their vehicle to question the occupants, the car drove off at high speed and a chase developed. The police car was sounding its siren so that those in the stolen car were in no doubt that they were being pursued by the Police. The stolen car turned back along the route and as it did, the rear window was smashed and a shotgun was fired at the police car, then a second and third burst all of which struck the car, but fortunately no-one was hurt.

Constable Allport, who was off duty and travelling in his private car with his two children, was overtaken at high speed by the two vehicles. He immediately took up the chase and followed the cars. Shortly afterwards the stolen car approached a left-hand bend near the entrance of an R.A.F. station where it struck a vehicle coming in the opposite direction, went out of control, swerved across the road, colliding with the railings of the camp. Constable Allport stopped his car close to the rear of the stolen car to prevent it being driven away. He saw three men scramble out of the vehicle and chased one of them into the grounds of the R.A.F. station where he caught and held him. As he and the man struggled on the ground a second man armed with a sawn-off shotgun ordered the officer to release his prisoner; the Constable refused and the

gunman shot him in the lower part of his legs. Despite his wounds Constable Allport still held on to the man, but eventually the man struggled free and escaped.

Constable Allport displayed outstanding courage and devotion to duty when he attempted to arrest one of these armed and dangerous criminals.

Joseph Martin Henry BEECROFT, Sergeant 2nd Class, New South Wales Police.

Gerard Francis BUCHTMANN, Captain, Nepean Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Ernest Branwell PEDERSEN, Police Medical Officer, Denistone, New South Wales.

Mervyn Charles THOMAS, Registrar, Prince Henry Hospital, Little Bay, New South Wales.

Miss Margaret Joyce WARBY, Sister, Parramatta District Hospital, Parramatta, New South Wales.

Daryl Raymond WILLIAMS, Inspector 2nd Class, New South Wales Police.

On the morning of 18th January 1977, there was a major rail disaster at Granville, a suburb of Sydney. The disaster happened when a crowded passenger train left the rails near the station. The locomotive struck the supporting stanchions of an overhead four-lane road bridge which collapsed on to the train, badly crushing some of the carriages. Eighty people were killed and many more injured. Eleven passengers were trapped alive under the collapsed concrete and steel slab of the bridge. These people were rescued during the course of the day by members of the New South Wales Police Rescue Squad and other volunteers.

In his capacity as the Police Department's Liaison and Emergency Officer, Inspector Williams supervised and co-ordinated all personnel involved in the enormous rescue operation. With a complete disregard for his own safety he made a number of detailed inspections during the course of the rescue operation beneath the giant collapsed slab of the bridge which actually subsided a further five centimetres on two occasions.