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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
18th October 1977.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following awards of the George 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

Henry DOWSWELL, Inspector, Metropolitan Police.
Murtach Phillip McVEIGH, Sergeant, Metropolitan Police.
John Francis PURNELL, Inspector, Metropolitan Police.

Awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal

Andrew Stephen CLAUDEN, Constable, Metropolitan Police.
Barry Charles COURT, Constable, Metropolitan Police.
Robert FENTON, Constable, Metropolitan Police.
Stephen Phillip KNIGHT, Constable, Metropolitan Police.
Phillip William MANSFIELD, Sergeant, Metropolitan Police.

On 6th December 1975, several shots were fired from a passing car into a restaurant and Inspector Purnell and Sergeant McVeigh, who were unarmed and on plain clothes duty in the vicinity, went quickly towards the scene. They saw the suspect car and as Sergeant McVeigh broadcast a report, Inspector Purnell hailed a passing taxi and asked the driver to follow the vehicle. A chase followed and as the taxi got close to the car it turned into a side turning, began to slow and then stopped. The Inspector told

the taxi driver to stop about 20 yards from the car and both officers got out. The driver saw four men running away pursued by the two officers; he heard shots and stopped his cab to broadcast a description of what was taking place to police through the cab radio system.

After leaving the taxi the officers had seen the men first walk and then run up the road. As the men ran they fired shots at both the officers who pursued them for some distance. At one point the gunmen dropped a bag and as Inspector Purnell ran past the bag he saw that it contained weapons. Police cars then began to appear; the men fired at them and then turned round and ran back towards Inspector Purnell and Sergeant McVeigh. The gunmen split into two pairs and as they approached, Inspector Purnell armed himself with a gun barrel from the bag; both officers then had to take cover as the men were shooting as they ran. Three men were seen to run down some steps into a side street and the fourth took another direction. Having instructed Sergeant McVeigh to broadcast details over his radio, Inspector Purnell followed the direction which the single running man had taken. He chased the man for some way but he eluded him, managed to join up with the other three gunmen and they entered a block of flats where they forced their way into a flat and held the occupants hostage.

Meanwhile the first police vehicle to arrive at the scene was a transit van driven by Constable Court with Constables Knight and Claiden among the passengers. They had been alerted by radio of the incident and saw the suspects running along the road pursued by Inspector Purnell and Sergeant McVeigh. Constable Court drove his vehicle past the men, stopping about 5 yards in front of them to cut off their escape. As soon as the van stopped Constable Court heard a bang and knew that one of the men was shooting at him. At the same time Constables Knight and

Claiden, who were armed, left the van and began to return the fire. Constable Court realised that bullets were entering his van and for the safety of the remaining unarmed officers who were still in the vehicle and had taken cover on the floor he began to move away to avoid injury to them; as he did this he could see the men running away, but firing their weapons at Constables Knight and Claiden who were pursuing them. As they gave chase the two officers saw the gunmen fire on a second police vehicle when it arrived at the scene.

In the second vehicle were Inspector Dowswell, Sergeant Mansfield and Constable Fenton who were in plain clothes and unarmed. They had received a radio message of the incident and heard shots being fired as they approached. When they arrived they saw the four men standing by a gate. The siren of the police car was sounding and the men broke up into two pairs, ran past the car firing at it as they went. Inspector Dowswell, Sergeant Mansfield and Constable Fenton all left the car and pursued the men until they reached the top of the steps where the gunmen had turned off, one of the gunmen deliberately stopped and fired a shot at them. Inspector Dowswell then ran on and with Constable Knight continued to follow three of the men until they entered the block of flats.

All the officers involved in this incident displayed outstanding bravery and devotion to duty when they faced these armed and ruthless terrorists who did not hesitate to use their weapons.

Awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal

Alan Michael GRANT, Manager, National Westminster Bank, Guildford.

On 2nd December 1976 a man who had an appointment to see the Manager arrived at the bank and was taken to Mr. Grant's office. Mr. Grant noticed that the man had placed an attaché case on his desk; the man then opened the case and Mr. Grant saw that there was a battery and some wires and concluded that the caller was in possession of a bomb and intended to hold up the bank. He immediately activated the alarm and the man made a rush for the office door. Mr. Grant quickly closed with him and saw that he was now holding a sawn-off shotgun which he had taken from his coat pocket. During the struggle Mr Grant received three heavy blows on the head from the shotgun causing deep wounds before the gunman broke free and made for the street.

A Post Office Technician who was working on the bank switchboard heard the disturbance and saw the gunman hitting Mr. Grant who was lying on the floor and tackled him, pushing him against the bank counter. The gunman quickly regained his balance and ran for the door with the man and Mr. Grant who, despite his injuries had managed to get to his feet, in pursuit. They caught up with the gunman as he reached the outer door and a further struggle ensued between the three men. The gunman then escaped down the street and they continued to follow him.

Two more members of the public heard Mr. Grant shout, saw the pursuit and came to his assistance. The four men with help from other passers-by managed to restrain the gunman until the arrival of the police.

Mr. Grant displayed outstanding bravery and determination in his efforts to detain his assailant and his action directly resulted in the arrest of an armed and dangerous man.

Robert Anthony SANKEY, Constable, Warwickshire Constabulary.

At 11.25 p.m. on 9th October 1976, Constable Sankey with two other police officers went to a public house where a young man had locked himself in a motor car with a loaded shotgun and was threatening to shoot himself. They saw the man sitting in the car while his father, who had deflated the front tyres of the car, was trying to persuade him to leave the vehicle.

Constable Sankey told all the onlookers to keep at a distance and talked to the man through the car window. The man threatened to shoot Constable Sankey and his colleagues and pointed the shotgun through the windscreen of the car.

Attempts were made to persuade the gunman to give up his weapon, but these were unsuccessful. The young man's father had asked their local vicar to talk to his son and he and Constable Sankey approached the car where the man was still sitting with the shotgun aimed at them. Their efforts were unsuccessful and they were forced to return to the police car. The man then started his car engine and drove away; the car shot forward, hit the minister and knocked him to the ground. Fortunately he was not seriously injured.

The car was then pursued by police cars, the first one being driven by Constable Sankey in immediate pursuit. Because the front tyres of the car were fully deflated it was driven erratically, veered on to a grass verge and then stopped. Constable Sankey drove past it and stopped at an angle across the road. After some time, during which Constable Sankey stopped traffic coming in the other direction, the car driven by the armed man left the grass verge and continued towards the rear of Constable Sankey's car. It stopped and a shot was fired towards the Constable who heard the pellets hit the police car. Constable Sankey then decided to drive ahead of the man's car which continued to travel erratically behind him. On a number of occasions the car left the road, but the Constable maintained his vehicle ahead. They continued for some distance until they reached a canal bridge when the armed man's car stopped and the Constable stopped too. The man then left his vehicle and fired a shot towards Constable Sankey and the other police cars which had followed. The man then made his way towards the canal and was lost to view. He was later arrested by other police when he surrendered his weapon after swimming across the canal.

In facing this armed and mentally unbalanced man Constable Sankey displayed outstanding bravery, devotion to duty and a complete disregard for his own safety.

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct

Stuart Graham BASFORD, Constable, South Yorkshire Police.

Robert James CHARTERS, Constable, South Yorkshire Police.

Thomas STEPHENSON, Constable, South Yorkshire Police.

For services leading to the arrest of an armed man.

Nicholas Christian Hunter BATH, Constable, Kent County Constabulary.

For rescuing an unconscious girl who was trapped in a burning house.

Ian Michael CHADBURN, Constable, Metropolitan Police.
 James William HACKETT, Cab Driver, Romford, Essex.
 James Robert WELLS, Inspector, Metropolitan Police.
 Peter James WILSON, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For services leading to the arrest of four terrorists.

Thomas Lusty COULTER, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

John Richardson COWAN, Sergeant, Dumfries and Galloway Constabulary.

For services leading to the rescue of a mentally disturbed woman who had attempted to commit suicide by drowning.

Anthony James Paul CUMMINGS, Departmental Head, Kinch and Lack, Guildford, Surrey.

David Graham SOMNER, Sales Assistant, Dorking, Surrey.

Peter Geoffrey WILLIAMSON, Telecommunications Technician, Guildford, The Post Office.

For tackling a man, armed with a sawn-off shotgun, who had attempted to rob a bank.

Martin Charles DAY, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For services leading to the rescue of a mentally sick man from a high bridge which spanned a busy main road.

William Bryn ELLIS, Constable, South Wales Police.
 John Donaldson WEMYSS, Constable, South Wales Police.

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

Edward Kevin GRANT, Telephonist, Post Office.

For overpowering and detaining a youth armed with a knife who had attacked and murdered a man.

Gordon Robert HILL, Van Driver, Harrow, Middlesex.

For attempting to prevent the getaway of four armed men who had robbed a jeweller's shop.

Reverend Peter Lewis JACKSON, Napton-on-the-Hill, Warwickshire.

For his services in assisting the police in their efforts to prevent an armed man from committing suicide.

LAM Sai-Kit Simon, Constable, Royal Hong Kong Police Force.

Miu, Wa-Keung, Constable, Royal Hong Kong Police Force.

For services in intercepting and arresting an armed robber who had twice fired at them in an effort to escape.

Lo Wing-Tai, Constable, Royal Hong Kong Police Force.

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

Robert William Alexander McINTOSH, Constable, City of London Police.

For preventing an attempted suicide in the River Thames.

Robert Gerald PERRY, Constable, Sussex Police Force.
 Michael SCHOFIELD, Constable, Sussex Police Force.

For saving the life of a youth who attempted to commit suicide by drowning.

Harold Gary ROBERTS, Sub Officer, Salop Fire Brigade.

For services leading to the rescue of a man who was trapped in his partly submerged canoe in a dangerous and fast flowing river.

Philip Edward ROBERTS, Inspector, Kent County Constabulary.

For disarming and arresting an emotionally disturbed man.

David SANDIFORD, Die Casting Operator, Strebor Die-casting Company Ltd.

For services leading to the rescue of a colleague whose clothing was enveloped in flames following an industrial accident.

David Michael Godfrey WARDLE, Constable, West Midlands Police.

For services leading to the rescue of a mentally unbalanced girl who was threatening to jump from a ledge above a busy railway line.

Stanley Eustace WILLIAMS, Inspector of Police, Turks and Caicos Islands.

For services leading to the prevention of an armed robbery.

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