



SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO

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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