

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.