



SUPPLEMENT TO
The London Gazette
of Friday, 16th February 1979
Published by Authority

Registered as a Newspaper

FRIDAY, 16TH FEBRUARY 1979

HONOURS AND AWARDS

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
16th February 1979.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards of the George Medal and the Queen's Gallantry Medal and for 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

Mervyn BRYANS, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.
David Edward STEWART, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

Bruce Dickson CARLISLE, Sergeant, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

John Brian McVICKER, Sergeant, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Robert Howard MING, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Albert Edward NEILL, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

Awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal

Reverend Prebendary Riou George BENSON, Clun, Craven Arms, Salop.

James Daniel O'SULLIVAN, lately Constable, West Mercia Constabulary.

On 28th July 1977, a young man, whose behaviour had been disturbed for some months, informed his mother that he had taken a dose of weedkiller and left his home carrying a loaded shotgun. He later visited a local shop openly carrying his weapon and then went to the nearby ruins of a castle.

The Police were alerted and Constable O'Sullivan who was on patrol, was sent to the scene where he found the man, who was well known to him, sitting in an opening high in the tower of the ruins and drinking from a flagon of cider. The Constable approached the tower, tried to calm the man, saw he was carrying a single barrelled shotgun under his right arm and cleared the castle grounds of all members of the public. The Constable tried to reason with the man who was handling his weapon recklessly, threatening to shoot anyone who might approach him too closely. After some time the gunman, who still kept his weapon trained on the officer, demanded a hostage; Constable O'Sullivan offered himself and they both left the castle and went towards the Parish Church. At this stage the man asked to see the vicar, the Reverend Prebendary Benson.

Mr. Benson went to the church and tried to talk to the young man to calm him, but after a short while he moved towards the man who became angry and pushed the barrel of the gun against Mr. Benson's chest. Mr. Benson grabbed the gun and was quickly joined by Constable O'Sullivan; during the fierce struggle which ensued as they tried to wrest the gun away, the man pulled the trigger four times and each time the gun's hammer struck the pin of the cartridge, fortunately without firing. At all times they were in great danger of being shot until the gunman was finally overcome and arrested.

Reverend Prebendary Benson and Constable O'Sullivan displayed gallantry of a high order, with a complete disregard for their own safety when they tackled and disarmed the youth whom they both knew to be irrational and in possession of a loaded shotgun.