

the knife from the attacker's grasp, but was unable to prevent him from stabbing Constable Murden in the arm. The Constable was then pulled from beneath the man who stabbed at his colleague in the region of the heart; luckily the blow was deflected by the officer's leather wallet. The Officers managed to pull the man from the bus and were anxious to keep him from coming into contact with other members of the public. They struggled with him as he tried to walk away.

Meanwhile, Constable Talbot was among other police officers who had been alerted and arrived at the scene. He joined Constable Murden and another officer as they tried to get possession of the knife; during the violent struggle that followed the man continued to strike out wildly with the knife, Constable Murden received a second wound and fell to the ground. Constable Talbot continued to take part in the struggle and struck at the man and, as he was distracted, tackled him and attempted to grab his arms. A violent fight followed as the officer managed to pin both the man's arms behind his back; another policeman tried to disarm him, but he struggled, broke Constable Talbot's hold, swung round to face him and deliberately stabbed him in the chest. The police cordon was now broken and the man began to move away, but Constable Talbot turned to tackle and pursue him again. He was only able to go a few yards when he collapsed in the gutter.

The man who had taken advantage of the fact that some of the officers were incapacitated to make good his escape was followed and later arrested after a violent struggle.

Both Constable Murden and Constable Talbot displayed gallantry of a very high order and a total disregard for their own safety when in spite of their wounds they continued to attempt to arrest and disarm this extremely unstable and dangerous man.

Robert PEACOCK, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.  
William Joseph THOMPSON, B.E.M., Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

George Kenneth POWER, Constable, Merseyside Police.

During the late evening of 24th November 1977, a fire believed to have been caused by a small boy, broke out in the upper floor of a house with the result that he and a six month old baby were trapped in separate rooms. A neighbour alerted by the children's mother, succeeded in getting into the boy's bedroom, but was beaten back by the intense heat; she tried twice more to get inside the room only to be driven back. Other unsuccessful attempts to rescue the children unfortunately, although well intentioned, had resulted in broken windows which had increased the intensity of the fire.

By the time Constable Power and another officer arrived at the scene the fire had increased; the floorboards and carpet in the room were burning and thick black smoke billowed out. The fire had spread to the ceiling above the landing, the wooden loft entrance was well alight and they could hear a child screaming. Constable Power, closely followed by his colleague, ran into the house and up the stairs. The officer with Constable Power entered the front room to search for a child but was driven out by the heat and smoke. Constable Power then entered the room and, after feeling his way, found the baby which he handed to the other

officer who took it to safety and then returned to the landing to help her colleague.

Regardless of the now appalling condition in the back room Constable Power entered the room. The fire had been fanned to greater intensity by draught from the broken windows and the heat was fierce. The officer fought his way through the smoke and flames to rescue the now badly burnt child from a bunk bed in the furthest corner of the room. Both officers then left the house with the boy.

Constable Power displayed outstanding courage, determination and a total disregard for his own safety when, in spite of worsening conditions, he rescued both children and succeeded where the rescue attempts of others had failed.

Charles SHRED, Constable, Leicestershire Constabulary.

In the early hours of 1st January 1978, a man, who had earlier been involved in a fight outside a public house, returned to his home, armed himself with a loaded shotgun and then left his house. He fired a shot and wounded a neighbour who attempted to take the gun from him, threatened another man who managed to escape uninjured and then fired two shots at a passing car. By this time the police had been alerted and the man fired a shot at a police vehicle which was searching for him.

Constable Shred, on duty alone in a patrol vehicle, was also alerted. As he approached a garage the gunman appeared and ordered him to leave his car. He obeyed, but was told to get back into his vehicle and to drive away with the man. He managed to communicate with other police who were also in the area and then drove for many miles with the shotgun aimed at the back of his neck until eventually the man ordered him to stop the car and to start walking. The gunman took the Constable's uniform cap and a small amount of money and drove away in the police car.

Constable Shred was soon picked up by another police vehicle which had been trying to catch the gunman. They saw the armed man abandon the police car and get into another car after having forced the three passengers to leave; he ordered the driver at gunpoint to drive him away. At intervals on the ensuing journey the gunman told the car driver to stop and the pursuing police officers together with the man's wife endeavoured to persuade him to surrender. Finally the gunman ordered the driver of the commandeered car to stop and demanded a better vehicle. Since the man had become extremely excited by now and was shouting uncontrollably, it was decided that the best course was to appear to meet his demands and while the necessary arrangements were being made Constable Shred offered himself as a hostage in place of the other driver. This enabled the hostage driver to escape to safety.

The man then got into the back seat of the police car and the Constable drove off at gunpoint. During the journey which followed Constable Shred continually talked to the man and tried to persuade him to hand over his rifle peacefully, but the man refused to give it up. The gunman's behaviour and threats became more and more excitable but the officer continued to speak to him and eventually he became calmer and finally handed the loaded shotgun to the Constable.

Constable Shred displayed outstanding courage throughout the incident. In a very volatile situation he was aware in voluntarily subjecting himself a second time to the gunman of the likelihood that he might be