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TUESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 1979

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF  
 THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.

11th September 1979

(To be dated 10th August 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 and Commendation for Valuable Services in the Air.

*Awarded the George Medal*

Elias Harrison ALLEN, Reserve Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

Brendan William BANNAN, Sergeant, Victoria Police.

*Awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal*

Raymond John MULDER, Police Reservist, Victoria Police.

On 3rd February 1978, two men committed a robbery at a supermarket. The men, who were masked, forced their way into the cash office; as they did so, a cashier shouted into the public address system. One of the criminals held the cashier at gunpoint and the other who was unarmed seized sums of money.

Sergeant Bannan and Police Reservist Mulder who were off duty were shopping separately in the store.

Sergeant Bannan heard the cashier's cries over the address system and made his way to the office: as he reached the doorway one of the robbers held him at gunpoint and made the officer and the cashier face

the wall with their hands above their heads. Unknown to the men, Sergeant Bannan was still in possession of his service revolver and at the first opportunity produced his weapon, announced his identity and ordered them to surrender. The gunman turned and faced the Sergeant and a series of shots were exchanged in a running battle between them as the robbers withdrew with the money. Sergeant Bannan repeatedly called on the men to surrender but the armed criminal continued to fire at him as he pursued them through the store.

Meanwhile Police Reservist Mulder had heard a number of shots fired from the direction of the Cash Office, but he was unaware that Sergeant Bannan was involved in the shooting and, as he cleared customers from the store, he saw an armed man carrying an overnight bag run from the Cash Office towards the main entrance. Mr. Mulder followed the armed raider who turned and pointed the pistol at him from a distance of about 15 feet. He dived at the offender who brushed him aside and the armed man pointed the pistol at him and then ran off. Mr. Mulder kicked at the second offender as he ran past him and succeeded in knocking a bag containing money from his grasp.

Mr. Mulder got to his feet, ran after the two gunmen and was then overtaken by Sergeant Bannan during his pursuit of the men from the store. Mr. Mulder caught up with the Sergeant who had brought down one offender and was wrestling with him on the ground while the other man who was armed pointed his pistol at him. As the Police Reservist approached the armed man pointed his weapon at him and then turned and fled. Sergeant Bannan gave chase while Mr. Mulder subdued the unarmed offender whom the Sergeant had detained.

Sergeant Bannan displayed outstanding gallantry when at very grave risk to himself he persisted in his pursuit of the offenders, in the face of gunfire, as they attempted to escape.

Police Reservist Mulder also displayed bravery of a high order when, despite being threatened by the armed offender, he went to the assistance of Sergeant Bannan.

*Awarded the George Medal*

Brian Ernest Walter PAWLEY, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

At about mid-day on 11th March 1978, Constable Pawley and a colleague approached a man who, they had been given reason to believe, kept firearms at his home. The man admitted the possession of firearms but said that he held certificates that allowed him to do so. He agreed that the officers might search his home.

Up to that time the man had behaved rationally, but when the officers were not satisfied and asked him to accompany them to the Police Station to clear up another charge, he produced a gun and said he would kill them and then himself.

Constable Pawley tried to reason with the man who was pointing his weapon at the head of the other officer; the gunman immediately turned the gun on him from a distance of about 3 feet. Constable Pawley was sufficiently close to see that the weapon was no imitation and continued to reason with the man who once again pointed the gun at the other policeman. Realising from the man's attitude that he meant to carry out his threat and fearing for his colleague's life, Constable Pawley jumped on him and gripped his wrist to push the weapon away. He was not entirely successful and the man who was strong and powerful turned and grappled for the gun; he then moved the gun at arms length until he could point it at the Constable's chest and fired. The officer felt a terrific impact as the bullet passed into his body: he was still holding the man and called to his colleague to go and summon help. As the other officer ran from the room the gunman fired in his direction but missed his target: he then ran past Constable Pawley who struck at him hoping to knock him off balance.

The man was intent on stopping the other policeman and, as Constable Pawley collapsed on the floor, he heard another shot. The Constable was on his hands and knees and had difficulty in breathing. The gunman returned, fired a random shot and then began to reload the gun. Constable Pawley saw an airgun lying close to him on the floor and, convinced that his colleague was at least wounded, he made up his mind that he would make a last effort to ensure that the gunman was incapacitated so that he could be of no danger to anyone else appearing on the scene. Summoning the maximum effort Constable Pawley got to his feet, faced the man who was still in the process of reloading the revolver and took him by surprise. The Constable at once hit him with the air gun, using it as a club, and knocked the gun from the man's hand. During the struggle which followed the man managed to grasp the air gun, but the officer was able to fight him off. As he pushed the gunman away Constable Pawley struck him about the head and neck until the man collapsed: the Constable tried to drag the assailant out of the flat so that it would be safe for anyone to approach. However, he was too weak to do this so he left the room to look for his colleague: as he did so he fell down the stairs, but managed to reach the street and called for help before collapsing on the pavement. Fortunately Constable Pawley's colleague was uninjured, had quickly summoned assistance and appeared on the scene with other

officers who surrounded the premises. When they entered the flat the man was found dead with a self inflicted shot wound to his chest.

Constable Pawley who sustained serious chest and internal injuries displayed courage of an extremely high order. Not only did he suffer a severe wound to save the life of his colleague in the early stages of the occurrence, but after being so wounded he made every effort to assist him to escape. He then put his life at great risk again to ensure that this extremely strong and violent criminal would not present a danger to anyone else who might come to the scene.

*Awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal*

Joseph Alan ANDREWS, Reserve Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Coloumba Michael PRICE, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

Nelson George BIDGWAY, lately Ministry of Defence Police Officer, North Petherton, Somerset.

On 7th July 1978 a man was seen leaving his home carrying a large woodman's axe. He crossed the road and approached a nearby house where a housewife was working in her hallway. The woman took fright and ran out of her house into a neighbouring garden pursued by the axeman who caught her and brutally killed her by battering her about the head with the axe.

He next pursued the woman's son, who had attempted to save his mother, making a frenzied attack on a locked door, but his attention was then diverted by another woman who arrived on the scene. He followed this woman and, as she ran into an alleyway to escape, he attacked her inflicting serious wounds to her head. He then pursued a man and his wife who had gone to the woman's assistance, attacking their door with the axe and, on gaining entry, chased them through their home aiming a blow at the woman which fortunately missed her head and struck her shoulder; he struck her again on the head, although her husband attempted to protect her.

In the meantime Mr. Bidgway heard the cries of the woman and saw the axeman attacking the second victim. Without hesitation he left his home and rushed to the scene; he then realised that the couple were being attacked. Grasping a sweeping broom he ran to the front of the house where the husband, armed with a metal gate, was attempting to protect his wife. Mr. Bidgway diverted the axeman who raised his weapon and turned to attack him; when the man was about 3 feet away he thrust the broom into his face with great force. This rocked the assailant backwards and Mr. Bidgway immediately followed-up by wrapping his arms around the man, forcing him to the ground. The axeman still retained his hold on his weapon, but Mr. Bidgway knelt across his hands so that he was unable to use it and forced his head on to the ground. With the assistance of the man and his wife the axeman was disarmed and restrained until the arrival of the Police.

Mr. Bidgway displayed outstanding bravery and a complete disregard for his own safety when he confronted and overpowered this armed and mentally deranged man knowing that he had already brutally injured one woman.

Mark Henry BOYLE, Constable, Victoria Police.

Francis Joseph MILLS, Constable, Victoria Police.

During the early hours of 25th February 1978, Constable Boyle and Constable Mills were on duty in a Divisional van.

They saw that an old weatherboard dwelling house was on fire and burning fiercely with flames leaping 20 feet into the air. The two Constables notified their Section of the situation and went immediately to the scene where they were told by onlookers that three elderly people, who were handicapped and in poor health, lived there.

The officers tried to gain entry to the house through the front door but were beaten back by the intense heat and smoke from the blaze which by this time was burning across the back of the house and along the passage towards the front door. The Constables broke into the front bedroom and lifted two elderly woman, one of whom was unconscious, out on to the front verandah and then away from the danger of the fire. Both officers re-entered the bedroom and searched in darkness and smoke for the third person and after three attempts finally found an elderly man whom they led from the premises to safety.

Constable Boyle and Constable Mills displayed bravery of a very high order when regardless of their personal safety they rescued these three elderly people who, but for their efforts, would have perished in the fire.

Bryan Errol GROVE, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

On 14th April 1974 Constable Grove, with another officer, was on plain clothes duty in a police observation van. Their vehicle was overtaken by an estate car containing two men and driven in a manner which made the officers suspicious so they decided to keep it under surveillance. They saw the car stop outside an office block where one of the occupants left the vehicle carrying an oxygen cylinder whilst the other man drove away. The man with the cylinder was joined by another who was waiting nearby. The officers noticed that the men were wearing headgear which concealed their features and realised they were about to raid the premises: a call for assistance was sent out. At the same time two more men were seen to join the suspects, who hurled the oxygen cylinder to break open the front doors and then disappeared inside.

Constable Grove left his vehicle and faced the men as they left the building with two attaché cases containing large sums of money stolen from Security Guards. Constable Grove who had armed himself with a metal bar, struck at one of the men carrying a case; as he did so, the man swung the case, striking the officer on the head and knocked him to the ground. He saw three armed men run past and, as he attempted to get up, a fourth man stood over him, pointed a gun and fired. The four men ran off with Constable Grove in pursuit. He was again fired upon and threw himself behind a low wall and, at some time during this action, he was wounded by pellets in his right leg. In spite of his injury, the officer got up and continued the chase; as he came close one of the robbers turned and aimed a gun at him. He took cover behind a van and saw the men run to the car which the Constables had observed earlier, three of them clambered into the vehicle and the man who had aimed the gun struggled to enter the rear door and was pulled in by his accomplices. Constable Grove ran after the car and attempted to get hold of the man by his legs as he was trailed along, but the car was driven away too quickly for him to succeed.

Constable Grove displayed courage and devotion to duty of a very high order when confronted with more than one gun and despite his injuries he tenaciously pursued these four armed and extremely dangerous criminals.

Denis HENAGHAN, Sergeant, Merseyside Police.

During the early hours of 28th November 1977, a fire developed in a dwelling house where two small children were asleep in a first floor front bedroom. The fire brigade was summoned but only emergency fire-fighting facilities were available and two Army pump-fighting appliances, escorted by two police cars, were despatched. The living room, hall and staircase were a blazing inferno when the services arrived at the scene.

Sergeant Henaghan, with a member of the Army team, was joined by another fireman and climbed a ladder to a first floor bedroom window with the intention of rescuing the children and their grandfather, who had earlier made a rescue attempt and was believed to be still in the house. At this stage conditions were extremely hazardous, the door leading to the upstairs landing was jammed as the bedroom ceiling had collapsed. The Sergeant used an axe to break down the door and was confronted with the fiercely burning landing and upper staircase. With Sergeant Hanaghan using a hose to reduce the blaze, they managed to work their way to the head of the stairs where they found a man's body. The landing then collapsed and Sergeant Henaghan fell to the hallway below; fortunately he was uninjured and returned again to the upper floor by the ladder. At this point, however, all personnel were ordered to withdraw because of the dangerous state of the building.

Sergeant Henaghan displayed bravery and devotion to duty of a high order when without regard for his personal safety, he entered the building three times despite the fact that it was burning fiercely and the internal structure was collapsing.

David Bert MARTIN, Inspector, Metropolitan Police.

On 2nd July 1978, Inspector Martin, who was in uniform, was among the police on duty at a theatre where a group of foreign students were holding a political meeting.

The Inspector saw a group of about sixty students marching towards the theatre with the aim of attending the meeting and distributing leaflets. He spoke to the group and while they were talking he heard shouts coming from behind him and saw another group of ten or twelve men, some wearing crash helmets and carrying lengths of wood, coming out of the theatre. The officer turned towards these men and noticed as he did so that they had disposed of their weapons, presumably by passing them back to those behind them. In order to prevent a confrontation between the two groups, he spoke to one of those who had come from the theatre asking them to return to the meeting. Meanwhile the first group of students began to approach those from the theatre and the two factions were by then only a few feet apart. The man who had been asked to return to the meeting reappeared carrying a fire extinguisher from which he sprayed liquid at the rival group. Inspector Martin was now separated from the small group of constables under his command and the two factions were shouting at one another and the hostile atmosphere threatened to turn into an affray. He grasped the man with the fire extinguisher and warned him that he would be arrested for having an offensive weapon in a public place. The man struggled and backed towards the theatre followed by the

Inspector; several others joined in an attempt to free the man and at this point someone shouted a warning that the man was armed. As they struggled Inspector Martin saw the gun; the man eventually broke free and struck the officer with his fist fracturing a bone in his left cheek. While members of the crowd forcibly held the Inspector, who was unable to defend himself or take any other action, the man produced the gun, pointed it at the officer's head and threatened to kill him. The armed man then turned and ran through a swing door; the Inspector managed to break free and pursued him; eventually they again came face to face and the gunman threatened to shoot the officer who tried to reason with him and persuade him to surrender his weapon. The man was by now acting in a hysterical manner: they were no more than three feet apart and the gun was pointing directly at Inspector Martin's face. The Inspector was in no doubt that the man was desperate enough to use the gun but he continued to face him, edging him back towards the main hall where scuffles were still taking place between the police and various groups. The officer then patiently bided his time until he saw the man aim the gun slightly away from him. He seized the opportunity to slam a door back and caught hold of the man's right arm; a violent struggle followed during which the Inspector felt the gun pushed into his back as the man twisted to get free. All the time the man continued to struggle and threaten the officer and two shots were fired. One policeman eventually managed to get to Inspector Martin's assistance and between them were able to restrain and arrest the gunman although they were surrounded by a small group of men who attacked them and tried to set the man free.

Inspector Martin displayed courage and devotion to duty of a very high order when throughout the operation, except for a short period near the end, he was entirely alone at the centre of a hostile situation facing an armed and dangerous gunman.

Leon George SMITH, Captain, Bristow Helicopters Ltd., Aberdeen.

On 1st October 1977 Captain Smith and his co-pilot were returning to base in worsening weather conditions after picking up an injured man from an oil rig.

When their helicopter was about 52 miles from base the Captain noticed a sound which indicated problems with the craft's blade and alerted approach control of the damage. He descended to 100 feet and in the process developed vibration which steadily increased as the airspeed was reduced. It was the Commander's intention to continue the flight at low level, but as the helicopter became progressively more difficult to control, he decided that in order to give the injured passenger in the cabin a better chance of survival it was necessary to alight on the sea before all control was completely lost. Distress signals were transmitted and life jackets donned.

In conditions of strong winds, heavy seas with wave heights of 20 to 30 feet, the Captain brought the helicopter into hover and tried to time the waves. He touched down on the crest of a wave and immediately sank into a trough: seeing the wall of water ahead he ordered the co-pilot to stop the engines and as the aircraft climbed a steep wave it began to roll. The Captain managed to open a side window, although this was submerged. He was able to get out and after a struggle opened the cargo door and evacuated the passenger and the co-pilot although he was unable to deploy the liferaft. Another helicopter, which had

intercepted the call arrived at the scene but had no winch and dropped an inflatable dinghy which hit the water and cartwheeled past the survivors. The co-pilot, who was a strong swimmer, managed to reach and board the dinghy but was prevented by the wind and waves from picking up the Captain and the passenger.

The stricken helicopter was lying broadside to the waves and almost swamped by the heavy seas. Realising that the passenger was in considerable pain and would not survive unless supported, the Captain remained with the man, wrapped his arms around him and clung to a cable on the underside of the fuselage. As his arms tired he managed to raise himself sufficiently out of the water to get hold of a landing gear strut and wedged the passenger between himself and the strut.

Although completely numbed by the cold and semi-conscious, Captain Smith managed to keep afloat, supporting the casualty until a second rescue helicopter equipped with a winch eventually rescued the three survivors 53 minutes after the helicopter had landed in the water.

Captain Smith displayed bravery and devotion to duty of a high order. Although semi-conscious his main concern throughout was the welfare and safety of the severely handicapped passenger who undoubtedly owes his survival to the Captain's refusal to give up in the most appalling conditions of heavy seas and bitter cold.

Ronald John Pryke SPARKS, Security Officer, Irvine Sellers (Mates) Ltd., Bromley.

On 24th September 1977 Mr. Sparks, with two other men, was about to deposit a shop's cash takings in a bank night safe when a young man armed with a loaded pistol demanded the money and at the same time fired a warning shot at the pavement in front of them.

The robber snatched the cash wallet and ran off followed by Mr. Sparks and one of the men. As the pursuit continued the gunman turned and fired another shot past Mr. Sparks' head which caused his companion to take refuge behind a parked car.

Mr. Sparks, however, without any consideration for his own safety, continued to chase the thief and was rapidly closing on him when the assailant turned and fired three more shots at very close range. Two of the shots hit Mr. Sparks in the chest, but he still continued the chase for a few more yards before collapsing on the pavement. The gunman was able to make his escape.

Mr. Sparks displayed courage and devotion to duty of a very high order when he persisted in the pursuit of this dangerous and armed criminal until he finally collapsed as a result of his serious wounds.

Ernest Arthur TROTTER, County Court Tipstaff, Melbourne, State of Victoria.

On 26th January 1978, while a Judge was presiding at an appeal court, a man entered the Courtroom.

The man, who was armed with a loaded sawn-off shotgun, walked through the body of the Court and mounted the Judge's bench. He then took hold of the Judge round the neck, pointed the weapon at his head and threatened to kill him.

Mr. Trotter, having seen the man move into an out of bounds area, walked towards the bench to remove the intruder and, as he went up the steps, the man turned the firearm on him and threatened him. Mr. Trotter lunged at the gunman, grabbing the arm with which the firearm was held, and wrestled with him. During the struggle which ensued, the Judge was able

to extricate himself and moved away to safety. Meanwhile, Mr. Trotter continued to struggle with the gunman until the Police came to his assistance and arrested the man.

Mr. Trotter displayed outstanding courage when he grappled with this mentally disturbed and extremely violent armed assailant.

*Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct*

Samuel Robert ARMSTRONG, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Charles BENNETT, Reserve Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Thomas Enoch HOLLAND, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

John BAKER, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Michael William PRICE, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For services in tackling a gang of armed criminals following a robbery.

David BRADY, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Drummond Gordon MARVIN, Inspector, Metropolitan Police.

For overpowering and detaining an armed and dangerous robber.

Albert Victor CARNEY, Highbury, London N.5.

For services in tackling an armed criminal who was holding an elderly man as a hostage following an attempted robbery.

Geoffrey James DEAR, Assistant Chief Constable, Nottinghamshire Constabulary.

For services leading to the arrest of an armed and mentally deranged man who held his infant son hostage in a barricaded house following a shooting incident.

Thomas James GARDNER, Taxi Driver, Birkenhead, Merseyside.

For services in rescuing a man trapped beneath a burning car.

Andrew John GWILLIAM, Constable, Kent Constabulary.

For services leading to the rescue of a mentally disturbed man who set fire to a house and barricaded himself inside.

James Henry HARPUR, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

Kenneth Hugh JACOBS, Search and Rescue Crewman, British Airways Helicopters.

For services leading to the rescue of the crew of a crippled helicopter in severe weather conditions in the North Sea.

Barry MEASURES, Mate, M.T. "Constance Banks", Small and Company (Lowestoft) Ltd., Suffolk.

For services leading to the rescue of a seaman who fell overboard in severe weather conditions and was in danger of drowning.

Robert William MORGAN, Lately Constable, Gwent Constabulary.

For services in disarming a mentally disturbed man who was armed with a loaded shot gun.

Malcolm Geoffrey NEALE, Constable, Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

For services leading to the disarming and arrest of a violent man who threatened him with a loaded shot gun.

David Munro PHILLIPS, Sergeant, Tayside Police.

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

Ronald Royston REID, Schoolboy, London E.1.

For rescuing a man who had been imprisoned and trapped in a fire deliberately caused by a mentally unbalanced man.

Brian George RICHARDSON, Constable, Sussex Police.

For services leading to the rescue of a woman attempting to commit suicide.

Norman SANDS, Traffic Warden, Keighley, West Yorkshire.

For services leading to the rescue of a number of children who were directly in the path of a dangerously driven car.

Eric Bowyer SCOTT, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For services leading to the arrest of an armed burglar.

Winston SMITH, Constable, West Midlands Police.

Sydney Henry THEAKER, Constable, West Midlands Police.

For services in restraining a mentally disturbed man who was threatening to jump from a twelfth-floor balcony.

Kenneth John WALKER, Department Manager/Security Manager, Harris Cleaning Ltd., Birmingham.

For services in tackling and disarming an armed man during an attempted wages robbery.

Mark William WARD, Constable, Northamptonshire Police.

For services leading to the rescue in sub-zero conditions of a woman who attempted to commit suicide by drowning.

*Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air*

Harry John SPRIGGS, First Officer, Bristow Helicopters Ltd., Aberdeen.

For services during a rescue in the North Sea in extremely severe weather conditions.

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