

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