

Philip Michael OLDS, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

During the late evening of 23rd December 1980, two masked and armed men entered an off-licence and threatened the staff who were working there. They demanded money and one of the men fired a bullet into the wall. After attempting unsuccessfully to open the till the two gunmen, still masked, ran from the premises. At this point Constable Olds, who was in uniform and on duty in a patrol car, arrived at the scene. He noticed that both men were armed and realised immediately what had taken place at the off-licence. Disregarding his own safety he unhesitatingly drew his truncheon and ran towards the men.

On seeing the Constable one of the gunmen stopped running, turned and walked slowly backwards with his gun pointing towards the officer. Constable Olds instinctively knew this was the more dangerous of the two and concentrated particularly upon him. In spite of the real and obvious danger he continued to move forward towards the armed man with his only means of defence, a truncheon, held in front of him.

As the officer approached, the gunman raised his weapon above his head, adopted a classical shooting stance and took deliberate aim. At this moment they were only about five yards apart but although the officer realised what was likely to happen, he continued to move forward warning the man not to use his weapon. The gunman ignored the warning and fired the gun; the bullet struck Constable Olds below his left shoulder, entered the left lung, severing the spinal chord before lodging in the small of his back. The officer collapsed to the ground and was kicked in the face by one of the men as they both ran away from the scene.

As a result of the injuries he received at this incident, Constable Olds is paralysed from the mid-chest downwards and is confined to a wheel chair.

Constable Olds displayed gallantry and devotion to duty of a high order when, without regard to his own safety and armed only with his truncheon, he faced this callous and desperate criminal.

William Michael PASCOE, Maintenance Carpenter, St. Teath, Cornwall.

Miss Kay Susan POPE, Blisland, Cornwall.

On 9th September 1981, an armed man held up three uniformed security guards who were transferring cash from a bank to their security vehicle. As the gunman fired a warning shot into the air one of the security men turned and was immediately fatally wounded by a further shot. The murderer then grabbed a cash bag and escaped still brandishing his weapon.

Mr. Pascoe and Miss Pope, who were in their stationary cars at the traffic lights, witnessed the shooting and saw the gunman flee from the scene. They both realised the man was armed and dangerous but, notwithstanding, left their respective vehicles and chased after him.

The gunman had by now turned into an alley way and Mr. Pascoe, closely followed by Miss Pope, ran after him pausing only to pick up dustbin lids with which to protect themselves. As the man turned out at the far end of the alley Mr. Pascoe, who had by then discarded his dustbin lid, came up behind him, flung his left arm around the man's throat and tried to wrest the gun from him. During the early part of their struggle the gunman's crash helmet fell off and was immediately picked up by Miss Pope who, holding it by the chin strap, went to Mr. Pascoe's assistance and struck a hard blow at the man's head in an unsuccessful attempt to knock him unconscious. As Mr. Pascoe continued the struggle, Miss Pope again hit the man on his head with the helmet, whereupon, as he turned towards her his gun went off and she was wounded in the thigh.

Mr. Pascoe had now brought the gunman to the ground but continued to wrestle with him until, with the aid of other members of the public who now came to his assistance, he was able to restrain and disarm him.

Mr. Pascoe and Miss Pope both displayed outstanding gallantry and public spirit when, with a complete disregard for their own safety, they pursued and brought about the eventual capture of this armed and dangerous criminal whom they knew had already callously shot and fatally wounded a security officer.

Brian Allen TIGHE, Senior Constable, Queensland Police Force.

On 28th April 1980, following an unsuccessful attempt to rob a bank, an armed intruder entered an office and took a young woman hostage. He held her at gunpoint for more than 15 minutes until the police arrived; for most of this time he held a loaded rifle near or against her neck and head.

Senior Constable Tighe was among the police called to the scene and took part in the search of the building to find where the gunman was holding the hostage. He eventually discovered the room and, as he opened the door, saw the man holding his weapon at the woman's head. Realising the situation was highly tense and dangerous the Constable's main concern was to bring about the hostage's safe release as soon as possible and, with this in view, he obeyed the man's instruction to lay down his own gun. He entered the room unarmed, closed the door and calmly talked to the gunman in the hope that the man would become more reasonable and allow the hostage to leave. After a considerable time he was able to persuade the intruder to put down the loaded rifle and the woman was freed unharmed. When the Senior Constable picked up the rifle after the gunman had relinquished it, the weapon was found to have a hair trigger.

Senior Constable Tighe displayed gallantry of a high order when, without regard for his own safety, he deliberately placed himself in this dangerous situation which, without his cool and calm approach, might have resulted in death or serious injury to the hostage.

Kevin Michael Mark WALSH, Station Officer, Suffolk Fire Service.

On 26th June 1981, a serious fire broke out in the first floor bedroom of a dwelling house. The fire brigade was called and although Station Officer Walsh had officially finished duty, he was standing in as Operational Duty Officer for a colleague. He was, therefore, notified of the incident at his home and as he lived in close proximity, he reached the address within one minute of being called.

On arrival at the scene he was told that two small boys were trapped in the bedroom. The officer was well in advance of the fire appliances and was alone, without the protection of breathing apparatus and well aware from training and experience of the risk involved. Nonetheless, he immediately went upstairs, entering and searching first one room and then another to rescue the children. The fire had taken a firm hold and the heat, smoke and fumes were intense, but ignoring this he crawled into the room and found a child. He returned downstairs, saw the child needed assistance to ventilate the lungs and quickly gave mouth to mouth resuscitation before handing it into the care of a police officer who had also arrived at the house.

He then quickly returned to the room where the situation had deteriorated further due to an increase in smoke and fumes. He again entered by crawling on his stomach and, as the visibility was nil, found the second boy by touch. He managed to carry the child downstairs where he could see it had stopped breathing; he immediately started mouth to mouth resuscitation and the child quickly responded.

Station Officer Walsh displayed gallantry and devotion to duty of a high order when, without the aid of breathing apparatus or the support of other fire appliances, he rescued these children.

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct

Paul Gerald BAKER, Constable, Metropolitan Police

For services in attempting to detain three violent men who deliberately caused him grievous bodily harm when their get-away car drove at speed from the scene of a robbery.

Peter Richard BOAM, Fireman, Lincolnshire Fire Brigade

For services leading to the rescue of a colleague who was stunned by the blast from an explosion during a fierce fire in the oil and paint store of a ship.

Steven George DENNIS, Constable, Metropolitan Police

For services leading to the rescue of an emotionally disturbed man who was struggling to commit suicide by jumping from a builders scaffold to the ground 60 feet below.