



SUPPLEMENT TO

# The London Gazette

of Thursday, 11th August 1983

*Published by Authority*

*Registered as a Newspaper*

FRIDAY, 12TH AUGUST 1983

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF  
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.  
12th August 1983.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards of the Bar to the George Medal, the George Medal and the Queen's Gallantry Medal and for the publication in the *London Gazette* of the names of those shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for Brave Conduct.

*Awarded the Bar to the George Medal*

**Peter Edwin Spencer GURNEY, M.B.E., G.M.,**  
Explosives Officer, Metropolitan Police.

On 26th October 1981 an anonymous telephone call warned that three bombs were due to go off in a busy shopping thoroughfare.

One of the bombs exploded, instantly killing the Explosives Officer who was attempting to defuse it. Mr. Gurney had arrived at the scene shortly afterwards, examined the damage to the premises and seen the badly injured body of his colleague. Almost immediately he was summoned to a large store nearby where another device had been discovered in the toilets. With the knowledge that an explosives expert had already been killed, he went at once to the site where, at very close quarters, he examined the bomb which had been placed on the top of a cistern. Knowing the nature of his dead colleague's injuries and the method he normally employed, Mr. Gurney concluded there was a strong possibility that the charge contained a further initiating system.

There was no doubt that little time remained

before the timing device set off the detonating sequence and, in addition, it was more than likely that the bomb contained an anti-handling device. In the face of all these risks Mr. Gurney successfully neutralised the device approximately fifty-four minutes after it had been placed in position. It was subsequently found that the bomb's mechanism functioned perfectly.

Mr. Gurney displayed outstanding gallantry, devotion to duty and a complete disregard for his personal safety when, in the knowledge that his colleague had lost his life shortly before in similar circumstances, he successfully tackled this highly dangerous device.

*Awarded the George Medal*

**David Beresford BROWNING, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.**

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

**Kenneth Robert HOWORTH (Deceased), Explosives Officer, Metropolitan Police.**

On 26th October 1981 an anonymous telephone warning was received that three bombs had been placed at various points in a crowded shopping area and would explode within half an hour.

Approximately twenty-five minutes later the police found two suspicious packages in the basement toilets of a restaurant. The building and nearby shops were immediately evacuated, by which time Mr. Howorth, who was the officer tasked to deal with the device, arrived at the scene.

By now, about fifty-four minutes had elapsed between the original telephone call and Mr. Howorth entering the restaurant. From the brief description given by the police officers at the site, it is clear