



SUPPLEMENT TO

The London Gazette

of Wednesday, 5th August 1987

Published by Authority

Registered as a Newspaper

THURSDAY, 6TH AUGUST 1987

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1
6th August 1987

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards of 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.

Queen's Gallantry Medal

Arthur William BRADBURY, Airline Purser, British Airways.

Miss Sharon Kathleen FORD (Deceased), Airline Stewardess, British Airways.

Miss Joanna TOFF, Airline Stewardess, British Airways.

Jacqueline Mary, Mrs. URBANSKI (Deceased), Airline Stewardess, British Airways.

Samuel LYTTLE, Fireman, Manchester International Airport Fire Service.

Eric Arthur WESTWOOD, Fireman, Manchester International Airport Fire Service.

On 22nd August 1985 a twin jet aircraft carrying one hundred and thirty one passengers and six crew reached a take-off speed of approximately 120 knots when there was an explosion in the port engine and the take-off was aborted. When the aircraft came to a standstill the port side and rear of the aircraft were on fire. The Captain ordered emergency evacuation from the starboard exits.

Mr. Bradbury and Miss Toff were on duty at the forward end of the aircraft. Mr. Bradbury attempted to open the starboard door but this jammed. Mr. Bradbury opened the port exit a short way, decided that it could for a time be safely used, and inflated the escape chute. Miss Toff began the evacuation of passengers from the port side. Mr. Bradbury returned to the starboard exit, found and rectified the fault, opened the door and inflated the escape chute. Mr. Bradbury and Miss Toff assisted a total of fifty three passengers to evacuate the aircraft through both forward doors, despite the advance of dense toxic smoke from the rear of the cabin.

At the time of the explosion in the port engine Miss Ford and Mrs. Urbanski were on duty at the rear of the aircraft. From their position they had a clear view of the severity of the fire. They reacted quickly, opened the rear starboard door before the Captain gave the order to evacuate, and deployed the emergency chute as the aircraft came to a standstill. The fire became significantly more ferocious and the chute was destroyed making evacuation from the rear exits impossible. Flames engulfed the rear section of the aircraft and passengers sought to move forward, packing the central aisle. Miss Ford and Mrs. Urbanski moved among them endeavouring to bring order and calm. Miss Ford and Mrs. Urbanski died shortly afterwards near their respective posts.

As fire service personnel arrived on the scene the aircraft was burning fiercely. The fire was fed by fuel which poured from ruptured tanks on the port wing. Passengers emerged from the emergency exit over the starboard wing and were standing on the leading edge, their escape via the trailing edge cut off by flames. Despite intense heat and smoke, and the danger of a

flare-up, Firemen Lyttle and Westwood mounted the wing and helped passengers down from the aircraft to colleagues below. Fireman Lyttle attempted to rescue a passenger who had become trapped through the overwing exit, but flames coming from the aircraft forced him to leave. Fireman Westwood went to the aid of a passenger in difficulties at the starboard exit, and safely extracted him. This was the last survivor to be rescued.

Mr. Bradbury, Miss Ford, Miss Toff, and Mrs. Urbanski displayed coolness, outstanding courage and devotion to duty. They remained at their posts and saved many lives. Firemen Lyttle and Westwood also displayed outstanding bravery and disregard for their own safety when they mounted the wing to rescue passengers.

Samuel Wesley Moses BAIRD, Killylea, County Armagh.

Robert BLOOMER, Killylea, County Armagh.

For bravery in rescuing an injured man following an explosion.

David Arthur BEATTIE, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

William Brian CULL, Constable (formerly Reserve Constable), Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Stephen KERR, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For bravery in Northern Ireland.

Barry Leonard BLUNDEN, Window Cleaner, Blackfen, Sidcup, Kent.

On 27th May 1986 the crew of a security vehicle were collecting cash from an Electricity Board Showroom. The security guard had just picked up two bags containing a large amount of money when he was confronted by a man who threatened him with an automatic pistol, grabbed the cash bags and ran towards the door of the premises.

Mr. Blunden was about to enter the Showroom and witnessed the incident. As the gunman pushed past, Mr. Blunden grabbed him and both men fell to the ground outside the premises. During a violent struggle the gunman managed to escape. Mr. Blunden, who received no support from bystanders, gave further chase and caught him. The two men again fell to the ground. The gunman dropped the pistol. Mr. Blunden picked it up and threw it to one side. At this stage a second man, armed with a sawn-off shotgun, went up to Mr. Blunden, pointed the weapon at him, and demanded that he release his accomplice. Mr. Blunden maintained his hold. The second gunman then picked up a cash bag and ran off. The first robber eventually gave up his struggle and Mr. Blunden took him back to the Electricity Board Showroom. As they entered the premises the robber made a final successful effort to escape and ran from the scene.

Mr. Blunden displayed outstanding public spirit and gallantry of a high order when he tackled and sought to detain an armed robber and was undeterred when a second armed man approached him.

Frank Albert DUCKWORTH, Fireman, Tyne and Wear Fire Brigade.

John MAIR, Fireman, Tyne and Wear Fire Brigade.

John THORNBY, Fireman, Tyne and Wear Fire Brigade.

On 18th August 1986 units from Tyne and Wear Fire Brigade were called to an incident where two youths had scaled an Electricity Board pylon and had come into contact with live cables carrying 66,000 volts. One youth was motionless and appeared to be dead; the other was alive and moving.

Arrangements were put in hand for the power to be isolated, but because it would be some time before the pylon was declared safe it was decided to pitch a ladder to the cross member of the pylon below where the youths were lying and attempt to rescue the youth still alive. Firemen Duckworth and Thornby ascended the ladder wearing normal firefighting uniform and rubber gloves. At the same time Fireman Mair, similarly clad and carrying a wooden ceiling hook, (designed to break and bring down plaster ceilings) climbed the pylon. Fireman Thornby at the head of the ladder took the weight of the injured youth on his shoulder while Fireman Duckworth attempted to free his limbs which had become entwined in the cross members of the pylon. At the same time Fireman Mair used the ceiling hook to prevent the youth from touching the live cables. All three were working within inches of the high tension cables. The awkwardness of the working angle twisted Fireman Thornby's shoulder and his place at the head of the ladder was taken by Fireman Duckworth. Taking the weight of the injured youth on his chest and supporting him with his arms, Fireman Duckworth made his way down the ladder supported by colleagues from behind. The youth was removed to hospital but died from his injuries the following day. The body of the second youth was removed after power supplies had been isolated from the pylon.

Firemen Duckworth, Mair and Thornby displayed bravery and determination of a very high order when, without regard for their own safety, they worked within inches of high tension cables in order to bring about the rescue of the youth.

Alan REA, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For bravery in Northern Ireland.

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct

Charles Terence ALLAN, Domestic Appliance Engineer, Sunderland.

For services in attempting to prevent an armed robbery at an off-licence.

Stephen Robert BELL (Deceased), Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Mark John CRUTCHLEY, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For bravery in Northern Ireland.

Daniel Norman BOYD, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Randall Mercer WARD, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For bravery in Northern Ireland.

Royston Mathers BUSHE, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

John Paul HAYES, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Gary MURPHY, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For bravery in Northern Ireland.

James Alexander ELLIOTT, Sergeant, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Mark REID, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Allen ROGERS, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For bravery in Northern Ireland.

William Armistead FRYERS, Constable, Lancashire Constabulary.

Neil Howard SMITH, Constable, Lancashire Constabulary.

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

Norma, Mrs. LINTON, Loughgall, County Armagh.

Miss Louise PRIMROSE, Tynan, County Armagh.

For bravery in assisting the injured following an explosion.

Andrew Fraser MACKENZIE, formerly Constable, Grampian Police.

For services in overpowering and detaining a man armed with three knives who had broken into a hotel and attacked the licensee.

Guy Anthony PRESTON, Fruiterer and Greengrocer, Portslade, Sussex.

For pursuing and detaining an armed criminal following an attempted robbery at a jeweller's shop.

Neil Anthony REECE, Superintendent, West Yorkshire Police.

For services leading to the disarming and arrest of a man who was threatening his estranged wife with a knife and handgun.

Nicholas Phillip SHAW, Constable, Avon and Somerset Constabulary.

For services in evacuating residents from the vicinity of a major gas escape.

John SKINNER, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For tackling and disarming a criminal who had threatened him with a pistol.

Michael Paul WALSHAW, Gardener, Kirklees Leisure Services, Dewsbury.

For services in overpowering and detaining an armed man following a robbery at a building society branch.

PRINTED IN ENGLAND

LONDON
Printed and published by HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE: 1987
Price £1.40p net

ISBN 0 11 661021 2
ISSN 0261-8575