



SUPPLEMENT TO

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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1
25th May 1989

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

Colin James TOWNSLEY (deceased), Station Officer,
London Fire and Civil Defence Authority.

On Wednesday, 18th November 1987, at approximately 7.30 p.m. a fire was reported at King's Cross Underground Station on an escalator connecting the Underground ticket hall to the Piccadilly Line platforms. At 7.36 p.m., units from the London Fire Brigade were summoned to attend the fire.

A team of fire officers, led by Station Officer Townsley, arrived at 7.42 p.m. There was no sign of fire at street level and the fire officers entered the station to make an initial investigation. The fire was observed about one-third of the way down the right-hand side escalator. Station Officer Townsley immediately ordered his firemen to return to the fire appliance to equip themselves with breathing apparatus sets and a fire hose. To safeguard the public, Station Officer Townsley remained near the top of the escalators. At approximately 7.45 p.m., there was a sudden and dramatic increase in temperature, a build-up of dense acrid smoke, and fire flashed over the concourse

ceiling. Within seconds the concourse was plunged into total darkness. Panic ensued as passengers rushed for the exit points. Station Officer Townsley remained within the booking hall area to assist as best he could those seeking to escape until he was overcome by toxic fumes. He was found lying on the floor close to a badly burned woman. He was taken by ambulance to hospital where he was certified dead on arrival.

Station Officer Townsley, with total disregard for his own safety, had remained within the concourse without breathing apparatus to assist passengers to escape until he was overcome by intense smoke and heat. He displayed selfless devotion to duty and gallantry of a high order when faced with conditions of extreme danger.

Awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal

Robert Edward MOULTON, Fireman, London Fire and Civil Defence Authority.

Fireman Moulton, together with two colleagues, was instructed by his Station Officer, when the fire had been located, to return to the fire appliance, which was parked near a subway entrance to equip himself with breathing apparatus and a fire hose. Whilst he was engaged in running out several hose lines and rigging himself in breathing apparatus, dense, acrid smoke began to pour from the subway entrance. On entering the subway, Fireman Moulton and his two colleagues were confronted by a surge of intense heat and smoke. They were forced to penetrate the subway crawling on their stomachs under cover of a jet's spray. They managed to recover a badly burned woman and carry her back to street level where they tried to revive her without success. Fireman Moulton and his colleagues then re-entered the subway. Again, they were forced to crawl on their stomachs because of the heat. Moving