



SUPPLEMENT TO

# The London Gazette

of Wednesday, 20th March 1991

Published by Authority

*Registered as a Newspaper at the Post Office*

THURSDAY, 21ST MARCH 1991

## CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1

21st March 1991

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:

### *Awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal*

David FOSTER, Constable, Sussex Police.

On 1st September 1990 at approximately 8.45 p.m., Constable Foster, on duty alone in a patrol car, received a message that three people were causing a serious disturbance near a cliff top 150-200 feet above sea level. Constable Foster responded to the call and drove immediately to the scene.

Upon arrival, Constable Foster found two men and a woman, who appeared to be heavily intoxicated, engaged in a violent argument. As he approached the group in an attempt to calm them down, one of the men became excited and agitated. He ran towards a wire fence that runs parallel with the cliff top. He jumped over the fence and ran some 50 yards along the narrow parapet, which in some places is only 3 feet wide. Constable Foster ran to his assistance fearful that the man would lose his balance and fall over the cliff. The officer was immediately obstructed by the second man who tried to prevent the Constable from restraining his friend. The officer struggled free and ran towards the first man, at the same time calling for further assistance over his radio. Constable Foster

climbed through the fence, took hold of the man who immediately became hysterical and violent; both men became engaged in a struggle perilously close to the cliff's edge. The man broke free, turned and ran again along the narrow parapet. As Constable Foster pursued him, he was again grabbed from behind by the second man. Using force to break free, Constable Foster persistently pursued the first man. On reaching him he found him in an hysterical and distressed state sitting with his legs hanging over the edge of the cliff and threatening to jump. The officer was once again joined by the second man, followed by the woman. At this point the first man began to slide over the parapet and as he dropped over the edge, Constable Foster managed to grab his left arm, at the same time struggling to anchor himself sufficiently to prevent them both falling. The officer felt the man slipping from his grasp and called on the second man to help him as they were both in imminent danger of going over the edge. The second man responded and took his friend's right arm, whereupon the man's friend began to kick and struggle violently, while the officer clung desperately to the wire fence. Too heavy to be pulled back, the man was held in this precarious position, as the Constable's grip grew weaker. This continued for a further 5 minutes until two other police officers arrived to assist the Constable. The man became even more violent as the three officers tried to restrain him. At the same time, they were continually harassed and obstructed by the second man who was finally restrained by a member of the public. The officers pulled the first man to the edge of the wire fence but were unable to pull him clear because of his violent behaviour. While waiting for an ambulance to arrive the officers managed, with great difficulty, to restrain the man. Four more police officers arrived and with the

additional help of the ambulance crew, the man's legs were tied together and his wrists were handcuffed before he could be pulled to safety away from the fence and conveyed to hospital for treatment.

Constable Foster, without regard for his own safety, displayed conspicuous gallantry when trying to rescue a violent and intoxicated man from the edge of a high cliff, while being continually obstructed and harassed by the man's friend.

Gunther Louis KITTELMANN, Night Watchman,  
Dieckmann Building Company.

For Bravery in West Germany.

Darren SMITH (deceased), lately of Caerphilly, South Wales.

At approximately 10.45 p.m. on 29th December 1989, a fire broke out on the ground floor of a two-storey maisonette. The occupant, a mother of two children, trapped in a bedroom on the first floor, shouted for help. The fire brigade was summoned.

Darren Smith, who was in a nearby flat, heard the woman cry for help. He, together with a neighbour, attempted to break into the flat through the front door. After several attempts Mr. Smith managed to force open the door, while the neighbour gained access through a rear kitchen window. By this time, the mother had climbed out of the bedroom window and hung from the ledge as smoke and hot gases quickly entered the room. She fell onto the concrete below as she grasped a nearby television aerial that gave way.

Mr. Smith and the neighbour went up the stairs to search for the children, but became separated in the dense smoke. The neighbour, unable to withstand the heat and smoke, came out for fresh air. He re-entered the maisonette but only managed to reach the first floor landing where he heard Mr. Smith calling. The thick acrid smoke made it impossible for the neighbour to continue the search and he was forced to leave the burning flat. The fire, now out of control, developed quite rapidly making it impossible for the neighbour to re-enter. The fire brigade arrived and, wearing breathing apparatus, two firemen located the body of Mr. Smith in the mother's bedroom and the two children in an adjacent room. The two children died later in hospital. The fire was brought under control at approximately 12.30 a.m.

Darren Smith, with total disregard for his own safety, displayed bravery of a high order in attempting to rescue a mother and her two children from their blazing and smoke-laden maisonette, losing his life in the attempt.

Christopher Robert THOULESS, Scientific Adviser,  
Kenya Wildlife Service.

On 17th October 1990, Christopher Thouless, a British zoologist, was participating in an elephant darting operation on the Laikipia Plateau in Kenya, a project funded by the Zoological Society of London. Among the small party was an Assistant to the Director of the Zoological Society of London. She was to assist Dr. Thouless in fitting a radio collar to a suitable elephant.

The party was supported by an aircraft whose role was to spot a suitable herd, radio its position and guide the ground party to the elephants. The aircraft spotted

what appeared to be a suitable herd and the ground party made their approach on foot some 700 yards from their vehicles. Among the herd were a number of small babies and it was decided, therefore, not to disturb them. The party quietly retreated but suddenly the wind changed and the herd picked up their scent. The elephants became extremely agitated and the party, some 300 yards away from their vehicles, ran for cover. One elephant in particular, identified later as the matriarch, singled out the Assistant and began to charge after her, with head down, trunk out and screaming. As the elephant gained on the woman, she swerved sideways to avoid the elephant's charge but fell on the slippery ground. Before she could get up, the elephant tried to kneel on her but she rolled herself into a ball and escaped being crushed. The elephant made a second attempt to crush the Assistant. That too failed but she gored through the woman's hip and calf with her tusks before rolling her up in her trunk. The elephant carried the woman high into the air before throwing her to the ground where she began to crush her with her forehead, while the rest of the herd were screaming and bellowing in close proximity.

During the attack, Dr. Thouless came to the woman's rescue. He ran towards the animal shouting and throwing stones and when this had no effect on the animal, he physically beat her about the head with his fists which diverted the elephant's concentration. The Ranger with the party, picking his moment carefully, fired his rifle over the animal's head. As the elephant backed off, Dr. Thouless picked up the Assistant and carried her to safety. She was conveyed to hospital where she underwent surgery.

Dr. Thouless displayed selfless determination and conspicuous bravery when, placing his own life in jeopardy, he saved a woman from probable death during repeated attacks by a wild rampaging elephant.

#### *Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct*

David Edward CRAKER, Constable, Sussex Police.

Mark Anthony TAYLOR, Constable, Sussex Police.

For services in assisting a fellow officer to rescue and restrain an irrational and violent man from the edge of a cliff 150-200 feet above sea level, while being obstructed and harassed by the man's friend.

John Eric GAUNT, Sergeant, Suffolk Constabulary.

For services in attempting to contain and defuse a serious incident by breaking cover to converse with a disturbed man armed with a shotgun who had discharged the weapon several times. The man later surrendered to the police.

Graham HARRIS, Constable, Sussex Police.

For services in chasing an armed man, who fired his weapon twice at the officer, before he was apprehended and arrested.

Richard Samuel IRWIN, Reserve Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

James Allen MOORE, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For Bravery in Northern Ireland.

Trevor John PICKERING, Stevedore, Peacehaven, East Sussex.

For services in restraining an irrational man who was continually obstructing police officers from rescuing his friend from the edge of a cliff 150-200 feet above sea level.

**LONDON : HMSO**  
**Printed in the United Kingdom and Published by HMSO**  
**Price £1.55 net**

**ISSN 0374-3721**

**ISBN 0-11-662481-7**



**9 780116 624819**