



SUPPLEMENT TO

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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1
15th May 1992

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

Alan James KNAPP, Detective Sergeant, Metropolitan Police

Stephen Andrew THOMAS, Detective Sergeant, Metropolitan Police

On 14 December 1988 at approximately 5.10 p.m. an attempted robbery by four men took place at a post office. Three of the men were seen to be armed as they entered the post office.

Detective Sergeants Knapp and Thomas positioned themselves close enough to observe what was taking place inside. Several customers could be seen lying on the floor while some backed away from the counter area, as the alarm was activated by a member of staff. The officers shouted a warning to members of the public to stay back and take cover. As the two officers drew their service revolvers and donned their high visibility caps, Sergeant Thomas saw an elderly man inadvertently walk into their firing line. As he pushed the man to the ground, three robbers emerged from the office firing indiscriminately at both officers. Sergeants Knapp and Thomas were unable to return fire immediately for fear of injuring members of the public. As the robbers fled the officers then opened fire, each discharging all six rounds of ammunition. As both Sergeants crouched low to reload their weapons, a fourth man emerged firing at the officers in a bid to escape. Sergeant Knapp fell to the ground shot in the hand. Sergeant Thomas ran to warn other police officers as he saw two of the robbers heading in their direction. As he gave chase he felt a sudden pain in his side; he too had been shot. Although now aware of a bullet wound to his leg, he continued his pursuit of the robbers before falling to the ground severely injured.

Detective Sergeants Knapp and Thomas displayed conspicuous gallantry and total disregard for their own safety, during an attempt by four dangerous men to raid a post office, three of whom were

known to be armed. The officers were obliged to take up position without safe cover and being unable to exchange fire immediately with the robbers, for reasons of public safety, exposed themselves to considerable risk, and were shot and severely injured. All four suspects were later arrested and subsequently convicted of a number of serious crimes.

AWARDED THE QUEEN'S GALLANTRY MEDAL

Rodney Mark TAYLOR, Firefighter, South Glamorgan Fire and Rescue Service

On Monday, 8th July 1990 at 8.14 p.m., a fire appliance of the South Glamorgan Fire and Rescue Service responded to a call to attend a road traffic accident. The appliance, carrying the Officer-in-Charge, who sat with the driver, with Fireman Taylor and a colleague seated in the rear, was itself involved in an accident with a car. The appliance overturned trapping the Officer-in-Charge and the driver. The ambulance service was summoned to attend.

Fireman Taylor crawled through to the front of the vehicle to assist his Officer-in-Charge and the driver, while his colleague scrambled out to summon help. On reaching the two men, he found his Officer trapped and suspended by his leg, which was impaled by torn metal, and bleeding profusely. The Officer was also bearing down on the driver, who had suffered severe internal injuries, causing him considerable distress. Despite the cramped conditions, Fireman Taylor managed to relieve some distress to his Officer by crawling beneath him and in a doubled-over position supported the weight of his body upon his back. This also relieved pressure upon the driver who was lying beneath. Shortly after taking up this position, a fire broke out in the cabin caused by damaged electrical wiring. Despite the high risk of fire spread, through fractured fuel lines and severed brake pipes spilling substantial quantities of diesel fuel and brake fluid, Fireman Taylor refused to leave his colleagues. The fire was extinguished as Fireman Taylor continued to support and assist the two men.

During the rescue operation Fireman Taylor made attempts to keep both men from slipping into unconsciousness by continually reassuring and talking to them. After approximately 15 minutes, the injured driver began to have difficulty in breathing and it became apparent he required oxygen. Owing to the restricted space in the cabin, only Fireman Taylor was able to administer it but as he was unable to move from his position of supporting his Officer on all fours, he held the oxygen mask to the driver's face by using only his

teeth. Covered in blood and suffering under the weight and position of his Officer, Fireman Taylor's breathing also became restricted as he too became trapped as a result of his cramped position. He was administered oxygen by ambulance personnel. The rescue operation took approximately 30 minutes before the two injured men and Fireman Taylor were rescued. The Officer made a good recovery but the driver died later in hospital.

Fireman Taylor, with total disregard for his own safety, displayed gallantry of a high order and selfless devotion to duty, when, during the rescue operation of two seriously injured and trapped colleagues in an overturned fire appliance, he assisted both men and remained with them until rescued, refusing to leave when a fire broke out in the cabin. The risk of fire spread was high due to the substantial spillage of diesel fuel and brake fluid resulting from the accident.

QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Peter Linden KEYS, Sergeant, Northern Ireland Airports Constabulary.

For Bravery in Northern Ireland.

Alan James KNAPP, Detective Sergeant, Metropolitan Police.

For services in pursuing an armed robber, following an attempted hold up of a security van. During the chase, the gunman stopped, turned and shot at the officer to escape arrest. Detective Sergeant Knapp later apprehended and arrested the gunman after knocking him off his motorcycle, during a second chase.

Robert Ian MURRAY, Sergeant, Greater Manchester Police.

For services in disarming and arresting a man armed with a handgun, during an attempted robbery at a bank.

Patrick Richard PHELAN, Detective Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For services in pursuing two robbers, one armed with a handgun who turned and threatened the officer, as both men made their escape, following a raid on a post office. Assisted by other police officers, Constable Phelan continued the search, arresting and detaining the men who were found hiding close by.

Miss Helen Maria POPE, Accident and Emergency Sister, Southend General Hospital.

For services in administering first aid to a badly injured motorist, following an accident and before the arrival of the emergency services. The motorist's vehicle was in danger of catching fire and rolling down an embankment.

Matthew Joseph POWELL-BRISTOW, Sergeant, Surrey Constabulary.

Richard John WOOD, Station Officer, Surrey Ambulance Service.
Boienaw RAJKUMAR, Constable, Surrey Constabulary.

For services in rescuing, arresting and detaining a man, following a violent struggle, when he threatened to jump from the roof of a house.

John Michael RYAN, Constable, Northumbria Police.

For services in disarming and arresting a man armed with a rifle who had threatened to shoot the officer.

TAM Ting-kai, Constable, Royal Hong Kong Police Force.

For services in pursuing an armed man following a robbery at a jewellery company. During the chase, the robber turned and fired several shots at Constable Tam who, undeterred continued the chase, returned fire on one occasion and arrested and detained the gunman with the help of other officers.

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