



SUPPLEMENT TO

The London Gazette

of Thursday, 29th June 1995

Published by Authority

Registered as a Newspaper at the Post Office

FRIDAY, 30TH JUNE 1995

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
30th June 1995

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 Bravery:

Awarded the George Medal

David SHELTON (deceased), Under Manager, Bilsthorpe Colliery, British Coal Corporation.

Raymond THOMPSON, Miner, Bilsthorpe Colliery, British Coal Corporation.

On the 18th August 1993 three men were killed and three were trapped by an extensive underground roof fall. The disaster occurred in a tunnel which was being driven 640 metres underground. In a matter of seconds the roof collapsed over a length of some 46 metres in one large block 14 metres high and some 8,000-9,000 tonnes in weight. There was no certainty at the time that this would be the limit of the fall, and further falls could have been expected. Mr. Shelton was working directly beneath the area of roof that fell. Initially the roof dropped by over half a metre accompanied by the loud noise of splitting shoring timbers. Miners who were working with him and had seen the roof drop, started to run outwards towards the mine shaft to safety. As they did so one grabbed Mr. Shelton to drag him with them. He chose however not to escape, and remained under the dropped roof to warn other miners who were working in the tunnel at the coal face. He would have been well aware that at any moment the roof could collapse completely. He was seen to shine his miners lamp towards them to give a recognised warning signal, and was pointing at the roof. Very shortly afterwards the roof fell in, completely burying him. Mr Thompson who was not too far away when the roof collapse occurred, immediately went to the edge of the fall to make an initial assessment of it. He believed there may be survivors and with staff arriving to try to help he voluntarily took the lead in the rescue operations. Realising that it was impossible to get

to anyone trapped under the fall through the fall area itself, he decided to try to gain access by an adjacent old tunnel. This proved to be blocked by metal and wood scrap. After organising his men to clear the working, he placed himself in considerable danger by moving down this access route which only had very restricted headroom. By burrowing his way into an area which was underneath the roof fall, and liable therefore to further collapse, he was able to locate a survivor and bring him to safety. He then returned under the rock fall to identify precisely the point where Mr. Shelton, the mine under manager, lay dead. At the time of the rescue he knew that he was in extreme danger but displayed bravery of a high order by the quality of his leadership and his decisive personal actions to save fellow workers.

Awarded The Queen's Gallantry Medal

William ALLEN, Inspector, Royal Ulster Constabulary.
Barry De Beauvoir MARSH, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.
For Bravery in Northern Ireland.

CHAN LUN-fat, Constable, Royal Hong Kong Police.

On Saturday 19 June 1993, a lone robber armed with a .22 semi-automatic pistol entered a supermarket and pointed his pistol at one of the female shop assistants serving at a check-out counter. He demanded that she open the cash register and hand over the money. When the shop assistant proved to be too frightened to open it, the robber threatened to shoot her. Constable Chan Lun-fat, who was off duty and unarmed, was shopping in the supermarket with an off duty colleague.

Hearing a commotion at the area of the check-out counters, they went to see what was happening. Constable Chan arrived first and, on seeing the robber threatening the cashier with the pistol, tried to calm him. The robber pointed his gun at the officer's head and Constable Chan responded by grabbing the robber's hands in an attempt to disarm him. During the ensuing struggle he shouted that he was a policeman, and the robber was heard to say words to the effect that "the gun was real, and he would shoot the officer if he did not believe him". The struggle continued until the robber was able

to push Constable Chan slightly away and fire one shot, hitting the officer in the left side of his chest, seriously wounding him.

Constable Chan displayed gallantry of a high order, when with total disregard to his own safety he tried, whilst off duty, to disarm an armed robber. During the struggle he was severely wounded.

CHEUNG, Hin-yeung, Constable, Royal Hong Kong Police.

YEUNG, Chi-fai, Sergeant, Royal Hong Kong Police.

On 9 September 1993, Sergeant Yeung led two police car crew members on foot patrol to visit high risk premises, banks and jewellery shops. Whilst patrolling they were instructed by radio to deal with an armed robbery at a bank. As the patrol were a considerable distance away from both the bank and their police vehicle, Sergeant Yeung stopped a taxi to get his crew to the scene of the robbery as quickly as possible. Each officer was armed with a revolver loaded with six rounds. They were aware that they did not have immediate access to the team's shotgun and bullet proof vests which were in their police vehicle, but Sergeant Yeung put the need to intercept the robbers above consideration of personal safety.

At this time Constable Cheung Hin-yeung was also on duty in uniform and was the officer-in-charge of a patrol car with four other officers on board. The patrol car had been earlier tasked to convey prisoner's property to court and was leaving the court area when the radio call of "armed robbery in progress" came in. As soon as his car reached the junction near to the bank, Constable Cheung made the driver park the vehicle across the junction, to block the getaway route of the armed criminals. He left the car and took cover behind a hoarding diagonally opposite the bank. Both Sergeant Yeung and Constable Cheung had thus made a conscious decision to intercept a potentially dangerous armed gang.

Meanwhile, a traffic jam had brought the taxi to a halt, and Sergeant Yeung led his officers to the scene, now about 150 metres away, to look out for suspects and warn the passers-by. As they ran the officers shouted to pedestrians to take cover. Sergeant Yeung directed his men to take up position at a shop next to the entrance to the bank, but before they could do so three robbers rushed out of the bank. Sergeant Yeung was about five metres from the culprits and unable to take cover. As he shouted "Police! Stand there!" one of the robbers produced a pistol and fired at him. There was then an exchange of gunfire between police and the robbers who ran away. Sergeant Yeung was shot in the right cheek and collapsed on the pavement bleeding profusely. The other officers pulled him into a nearby shop and rendered first aid. He remained conscious and though unable to speak continued to give directions to his relatively inexperienced crew by hand signals.

The robbers fled towards the area where Constable Cheung and his crew had taken cover. Constable Cheung saw a man running up to him with a traveller's bag on his left shoulder and a black pistol in the right hand. He was suddenly fired upon twice by this robber but both rounds missed. The robber pointed the pistol at him again and the constable returned one shot, which missed. He then left his position of cover to pursue the robber. When the latter suddenly turned around and again aimed the pistol at him, the constable fired another shot which hit the robber, who fell to the ground. Constable Cheung then moved forward, disarmed and handcuffed him.

Constable Cheung and Sergeant Yeung displayed gallantry of a high order when attempting to arrest a highly dangerous armed gang of bank robbers. They placed themselves in considerable danger when exposed to gunfire from the gang following the bank raid.

Michael Forbes RITTE.

Mr. Michael Forbes Ritte was a customer at a bank and was waiting (with his cousin Christopher) at the customer podium, situated in the centre of the banking hall. An armed robber entered the bank, brandishing a large handgun. He ordered the customers to lie on the floor and reinforced his demand by waving the gun directly at them. Mr. Forbes Ritte complied with his threats by crouching down.

After a short while, the cashier passed the cash to the robber. The robber turned to take the money and transferred the pistol from his right hand to his left hand and as he did so Mr. Michael Forbes Ritte lunged at him, grabbed him around the waist and pushed him into a corner where a ferocious struggle ensued. The robber put the gun to the back of Mr. Forbes Ritte's head and pulled the trigger. The gun was loaded with blanks and one of them was discharged into the back of his head causing a burn injury. He still hung on to the robber until he was joined by his cousin, Mr. Christopher Forbes-Ritte, who wrestled the gun from the robber. The robber continued to struggle with both men and pulled a large kitchen knife from the waistband of

his jeans. Mr. Christopher Forbes-Ritte grabbed hold of the robber's wrist before he could stab him and twisted the knife out of his hand. Both men then held on to the robber who was desperately trying to escape. At this stage a third customer helped to wrestle the robber to the ground. All three men held him down until uniformed police officers arrived and handcuffed him. It was only at this stage that the robber ceased to struggle.

Mr. Michael Forbes Ritte's actions in tackling an armed man showed gallantry of a high order. He continued to attempt to restrain the robber after being joined firstly by his cousin and secondly by a third customer.

David Brian SCOVELL.

Mr. Scovell was a customer at the post office when two men entered wearing crash helmets. One was carrying a crowbar, which he repeatedly smashed against the security glass at the counter, and the other man was carrying a pump-action shotgun. They continually shouted and threatened the counter staff.

Mr. Scovell's presence was concealed from the armed robbers by a shop display stand and, as the two robbers made their escape, he lunged forward and grabbed the man armed with the shotgun. A violent struggle followed and both men fell out of the shop doorway and onto the forecourt of the post office. During the fall Mr. Scovell's hold on the gunman was broken and as he got back to his feet he found himself facing the barrel of the pump-action shotgun. The gunman fired from a distance of about eight feet hitting Mr. Scovell in the chest and throwing him to the ground. As he lay wounded the gunman walked up to him and fired again hitting him in the leg.

Mr. Scovell showed gallantry of a high order when without regard for his own safety he tackled an armed gunman. This act has left him with a permanent serious injury.

Queen's Commendation for Bravery

Paul Louis ADAMS, Road Marker.

Mark BAILEY, Foreman, Road Marker.

For services in rescuing children from a burning vehicle. Just after midnight, a mini-bus travelling on the motorway crashed into the back of a lorry which was parked on the hard shoulder of the motorway. A fire broke out under the bonnet of the mini-bus almost immediately after the impact. Mr Adams was a road marker/driver in the road maintenance team at the junction. He saw the mini bus collide with the stationary maintenance vehicle. Alerting his colleagues, he climbed over the fence and ran down the embankment to the scene accompanied by a work mate, Mr. Mark Bailey. On reaching the vehicle he saw children lying in the different parts of the mini bus. He saw Mark Bailey climb into the back of the mini-bus and start to move the children towards the back doors. He helped Mr. Bailey to lift the first child (a survivor) out of the vehicle. He then climbed into the burning mini-bus with Mark Bailey. He rescued the only other surviving child who was also removed from the burning vehicle. Mr. Adams and Mr. Bailey then moved other children until the heat finally became too intense and both were forced to leave the vehicle for their own safety. After leaving the vehicle Mr Adams continued to assist with the care of the survivors until the emergency services arrived.

David Alexander BELL, Reserve Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For Bravery in Northern Ireland.

James Crerat BILSLAND, Sergeant, Grampian Police.

Keith KNOWLES, Constable, Grampian Police.

Neil Kenneth MACKENZIE, Constable, Grampian Police.

Della Elizabeth THOM, Constable, Grampian Police.

For services in trying to apprehend two armed men. A call had been received by the police from a member of the public that two men had been seen acting suspiciously. Shortly after, Constables Thom and Knowles arrived at the location and spotted two men leaning against railings, with two holdalls on the pavement at their feet. Constable Thom stopped the police car besides them and rolled down the window. When asked where they had come from one of the men replied that they were waiting to be picked up to go to work. Although the two were wearing working type clothes, these looked too clean and new for active workmen and Constable Thom remained suspicious. She radioed her control informing them that she thought she had found the suspects. Constables Thom and

Knowles got out of their car and Constable Thom asked if she could look inside the holdalls. On doing so she saw in one holdall a long black metal tube and a balaclava. She tried to grab hold of one of the suspects who by now had picked up the other holdall. His hand was inside the bag and he held it in a way that made it apparent that it contained a firearm. He pointed the gun in the holdall at her, and shouted to her to back off or he would shoot. Whilst the first suspect brandished his gun, the second suspect then made to run off and Constable Knowles grabbed hold of him. The first man shouted to Constable Knowles to let him go or he would shoot, while still pointing the gun at Constable Thom's chest from a distance of about eight inches. The first man then turned his gun towards Constable Knowles as the second man continued to fight. This second man then struggled free from the T-shirt and jacket which Constable Knowles was holding and ran off with his accomplice. At this point, several shotgun cartridges fell out of the second suspect's pocket. Constable Knowles and Thom ran after the suspects, at the same time radioing to update their control of the situation and request assistance. At this point Constables Bilstrand (the driver) and Mackenzie arrived at the scene in a police vehicle. They also gave chase, and as their car drew level with the suspects Constable Mackenzie jumped from the vehicle to continue to chase on foot. (At this point, Constable Knowles returned to the first location to retrieve the holdall abandoned by Constable Thom, which he believed might contain a second shotgun). Both accused ran past Constable Bilstrand in his car, who had driven his vehicle onto the pavement in an attempt to block their path. Constables Thom and Mackenzie then continued to give chase, and Constable Mackenzie managed to overtake the two suspects, driving them back towards Constable Thom. At this point the first man held up the holdall again, pointed the gun at Constable Thom's chest and told her to "back off" or he would shoot. Both the men then pushed their way past her and ran off. Constable Thom pursued the second man, who was shirtless and unarmed, and saw him intercepted by Constable Knowles who by now had rejoined the chase. He was apprehended and handcuffed. By then Constable Bilstrand had also got out of his vehicle, and joined Constable Mackenzie in the pursuit of the first (armed) man who had stopped and turned to face Constable Mackenzie at a distance of four to five feet pointing the bag at him which still held the gun inside. He shouted to him to get back or he would use it. Constable Bilstrand moved towards the first suspect in an attempt to grab the holdall and protect his colleague. The first suspect turned the gun on Constable Bilstrand; he then ran off holding the holdall with the shotgun inside "at the ready", and flagged down a passing car. The first suspect sat behind the driver of this car, pointed the gun at him and ordered him to drive. The driver jumped from the car leaving the keys in the ignition. The first suspect then got into the driver's seat and drove off at speed. Constables Bilstrand and Mackenzie returned to their vehicle to pursue him, but the stolen car was quickly lost to view.

Bryan Douglas BROWN, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

David SUMMERS, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For services in chasing two armed robbers during which on a number of occasions they were threatened with firearms. The two officers, Constable Brown and Constable Summers, picked up a radio report about three armed robberies, where shots had been fired. A description of a suspect vehicle was issued and it was spotted shortly afterwards by the officers who then gave chase. Soon afterwards the car stopped and a gun was pointed towards the pursuing police car. The chase then continued and as the robbers' car stopped again one of the occupants got out holding a shotgun. He raised it to his shoulder and fired at the pursuit car. The shots hit the windscreen immediately in front of Constable Summer's head and chest but failed to penetrate the laminated screen. The robbers then sped off closely pursued by the police. Their car then crashed and the occupants ran away still in possession of the firearm. The police car mounted the grass verge and continued the chase, seeking to trap the robbers in a garden area until further police arrived. When one of the robbers, now on foot, appeared and pointed his gun at the damaged police car the officers backed away slightly but continued to hem the robbers in the road by driving their car backwards and forwards until reinforcements arrived. All the robbers were then arrested.

Colin BUCKMASTER, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For services in tackling an armed robber and finally arresting him. Constable Buckmaster and a colleague attended the premises of a betting shop following a call from the manager about two men acting suspiciously. He and his colleagues were in plain clothes, unarmed and had no radios. At closing time the two suspects were sighted close to the shop. The officers were warned of this by a customer

leaving and a formal police action was mounted to arrest the suspects outside the shop. Before this could be done, the two suspects entered the shop, one armed with a shotgun and one with a knife. As they threatened those left in the betting shop, Constable Buckmaster tackled the robber with the gun. After a struggle in which the two barrels were fired, one down the side of the constable's legs, he managed to get the gun off the robber. He then chased the robber as he ran from the shop until the robber was arrested with the help of another officer. In the meantime the second robber had dropped his knife and run away, pursued by Constable Buckmaster's plain clothes colleague.

Robert Walter CORDOCK.

For services in rescuing the occupants of a burning car following a crash. Mr Cordock was travelling in his car when he saw another car, coming in the opposite direction. It mounted an embankment, hitting a lamp-post, and rolled partly onto its side and caught fire. He immediately stopped, got out and ran across the partly overturned car, and saw flames coming from underneath. He also saw two casualties—a woman half underneath the car by the passenger door who appeared to be unconscious, and the driver who was trapped inside the car and screaming for help. He pulled the driver by his shoulders but the driver's trouser pocket was caught over the gear-lever. Mr Cordock put his foot on the sill of the car and pulled against it, succeeding in freeing the driver. He also managed to pull the woman free of the car just before it was completely engulfed in flames and the windows exploded. The occupants of the car were treated for fractures, burns and abrasions but recovered with hospital treatment.

Colin John CURTIS, Tanker Driver, Petroleum Distribution Depot.

For services in helping with the removal of a burning petrol tanker to a place of safety. A petrol tanker under the filling gantry exploded at a depot. A Fire Officer who attended saw that, three metres away, there was a second tanker which had been filling at the time of the explosion and contained 30,000 litres of petrol. It was being subjected to severe radiated heat which was causing the tyres to smoke and pressure to build up within the compartments. Jets of pressurised vapour were burning off along the length of the second tanker where vapour balance pipes had been burned away, and from the fill pipe and rear hatch (which was still open). The firefighters were using jets of water to extinguish the fires on top of the tanker and to protect the tanker with a water curtain. The Fire Officer attempted to move the vehicle, as he considered there was an imminent risk of a further major fire or explosion. He found that he was unable to start the vehicle and signalled for help to a group of employees. One of the group, Mr. Curtis, ran to the tanker and explained that before it would start the earthing strap attached to the rear of the cab would have to be disconnected and the fill pipe would have to be removed from the rear tank. Mr. Curtis climbed up behind the cab to disconnect the earthing strap while the Fire Officer removed the fill pipe. Jets of water were continually played onto the tanker to keep everything cool. While disconnecting the earthing strap Mr. Curtis, who was not wearing protective clothing, was subjected to considerable heat and noise from the fire, and water from the jets. Mr. Curtis then drove the tanker away from the fire to a safe location. By immediately understanding and responding to the need to clear the second tanker from the scene, Mr. Curtis removed a major risk to the fire crews and to the surrounding area.

Richard DERBYSHIRE, Surface Worker, Bilsthorpe Colliery, British Coal Corporation.

For services in recovering the body of a colleague in extremely hazardous conditions underground. On the 18 August 1993 three men were killed and three were trapped by an extensive underground roof fall. The disaster occurred in a tunnel which was being driven 640 metres underground. In a matter of seconds the roof collapsed over a length of some 46 metres in one large block 14 metres high and some 8,000-9,000 tonnes in weight. Towards the later stages of the operation to locate and recover the bodies, the last body had to be recovered from underneath the area of the fall. The way was blocked with crushed and broken machinery and initial attempts were made to cut through with hand tools. Progress was very slow however, and permission was sought to use flame cutting equipment to speed up the process. Volunteers were asked for who could use oxy-propane flame cutting equipment to cut through the crushed equipment to the body. Richard Derbyshire was one who volunteered, a surface worker with no underground experience. He had to cut through various metals whilst lying on his side in a working height that was restricted to less than one metre and with only sufficient room for one

person to work at a time. In order to reduce the risk of fire the whole site had to be kept saturated with water. This water accumulated on the floor and in addition to his other difficulties he then had to lie in this water whilst working. Ventilation was also limited and the fumes from the cutting were slow to clear. Mr Derbyshire worked professionally and with a great deal of courage throughout the recovery in an environment which was strange to him. In addition to the risk of further movement of the fall, he was exposed to risks from fire, explosion of methane and fumes from the cutting that he was doing.

Brian Rae DORAN, Temporary Inspector, Greater Manchester Police.

For services in chasing a man armed with a knife and gun. Following an affray during which two shots were discharged and knives produced, police were called. One of the armed men escaped by car, the other tried to run away. Temporary Inspector Doran was in attendance and saw his officers chasing this second man. He then saw the man attempt to enter a vehicle to drive away. Knowing that the man was armed, he drove his police car in front of the escape vehicle, blocking its exit, the man then ran off. Although the suspect was armed with both a knife and a gun, Temporary Inspector Doran did not hesitate to follow the man on foot. He saw the man throw away the knife and then heard the sound of the gun being discharged. He continued to pursue the man and at one point the man stopped and turned and at about 10 yards distance directly threatened him with the gun. The chase continued until they both entered a cul-de-sac and he saw the suspect drop the gun. He immediately moved to retrieve the weapon. However, the suspect having realised that there was no exit from the street also rushed to recover his weapon and succeeded in doing so. Temporary Inspector Doran was again directly threatened but was saved from any further exposure to danger by the arrival of armed colleagues.

Neil FALKINGHAM, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Richard PHIPPS, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For services in chasing and helping to arrest armed robbers during which guns were fired. Police were alerted to an armed robbery at a bank and Constable Phipps and Constable Falkingham, in a nearby unmarked police vehicle, answered the call. As they approached the bank they saw two robbers running towards, and then past, them. Constable Phipps turned his car round and followed. The robbers were seen to get into a two-door white car being driven by another accomplice. As the officers followed and pulled alongside the robber's car, one robber in the rear of the vehicle pointed a gun at them. Constable Phipps temporarily reversed and the white car sped off, pursued immediately afterwards by the officers. As the chase continued the robbers' car collided with concrete bollards and stopped. Constable Phipps drove his police vehicle almost level with the stationary car and the driver got out of the car and pointed a wheelbrace at the officers. The other two robbers also got out of the vehicle, one carrying an automatic handgun and the other a revolver. Both men then pointed their weapons at the police. Constable Phipps, fearing that an attempt would be made to hijack the police vehicle, reversed a short distance away. The three robbers then ran off, the driver pursued on foot by Constable Falkingham, and the other two who ran in the opposite direction pursued by Constable Phipps. Realising they were being chased, the two robbers stopped and pointed their guns at Constable Phipps. One shouted to him to stay where he was and put the radio down. Constable Phipps put the radio down and placed his arms in the air. The two robbers then continued running, but were pursued again by Constable Phipps, who had now been joined by a member of the public. For his part, Constable Falkingham managed to detain the driver of the car. One of the robbers realised this and, having run round again near to his accomplice, stopped and walked towards Constable Falkingham, pointing the gun and shouting, "Let him go, let him go." Constable Falkingham released the driver and then stepped forward. As he did this the robber fired his gun at him and Constable Falkingham dived to the ground to avoid the bullets. Constable Phipps, at this stage, thought his colleague has been shot. The other armed robber then approached Constable Phipps, pointing his gun at him. The robber then fired, causing Constable Phipps also to dive to the ground, and then ran away and escaped. The other two robbers climbed over a fence into nearby gardens, where they were pursued by plain clothes officers and uniformed colleagues, who had now arrived at the scene. The driver was found hidden in undergrowth and was arrested. The two armed robbers were later found and were also arrested.

Christopher Julian FORBES-RITTE.

For services in helping to restrain an armed robber. Mr Christopher Forbes-Ritte was a customer at a bank and was waiting (along with his cousin Michael) at the customer podium, situated in the centre of the banking hall. An armed robber entered the bank, brandishing a large handgun. He ordered the customers to lay on the floor and reinforced his demand by waving the gun directly at them. After a short while, the cashier passed the cash to the robber. The robber turned to take the money and transferred the pistol from his right hand to his left hand and as he did so a customer, Mr Michael Forbes Ritte, lunged at him, grabbed him around the waist and pushed him into a corner where a ferocious struggle ensued. The gun was discharged at the back of Mr Michael Forbes Ritte's head, but it proved to be loaded only with blanks. Mr Forbes Ritte hung on to the robber and was joined by his cousin, Mr Christopher Forbes-Ritte, who wrestled the gun from the robber. The robber continued to struggle with both men and pulled a large kitchen knife from the waistband of his jeans. Mr Christopher Forbes-Ritte grabbed hold of the robber's wrist before he could stab him and twisted the knife out of his hand. Both he and his cousin then held on to the robber who was desperately trying to escape. At this stage a third customer assisted in wrestling the robber to the ground where he was held until the police arrived.

James HEGGIE, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Mrs Patricia WELTON, Manageress, Betting Shop.

For services in helping in the apprehension of an armed man who had threatened them with a gun. The manageress of a betting shop was working behind the counter, alone, when a man entered. He walked up to the counter and produced a silver automatic handgun which he pointed at the head of Mrs Welton, at the same time throwing a carrier bag at her and saying, "fill it up." She then threw the bag back at him and said, "no, you'll have to shoot me." He picked up the carrier bag and left the premises empty handed. His description was immediately circulated to all local police units. Constable Heggie and another constable were patrolling nearby and saw the suspect wearing clothing identical to that in the police description, they therefore stopped him. As they began to question him, he ran off and was pursued by the officers. As he ran he turned and pointed the gun at Constable Heggie who was right behind him. Constable Heggie stopped momentarily but continued the chase. As he closed on him another constable came upon them in his police car. Constable Heggie shouted a warning that the suspect was armed and together they tackled the gunman and brought him to the ground.

Philip Francis HOBBY, Constable, South Wales Constabulary.

For services in trying to rescue people from a burning house. Constable Hobby was on patrol when he saw a large cloud of smoke coming from a house on fire. On arrival at the scene, he saw that the ground floor front room of the house was ablaze and smoke was billowing from the open front door and an upstairs bedroom window. Through the front door window, he could see a body lying on the floor. Two men told him that children were upstairs in the house, and after a radio call for the fire brigade, he entered the house and made his way to the stairs. He managed to climb a few steps but was forced to retreat because of the dense smoke. After retrieving his torch from his vehicle, he made a second attempt to climb the stairs. With the aid of a jumper held over his face, he managed to get three quarters of the way up the stairs but again was forced back by the smoke. Outside the house, onlookers saw a woman standing at the open upstairs bedroom window, and neighbours were shouting to her to jump. Constable Hobby then made a third, unsuccessful, attempt to climb the stairs before having to retreat because of the smoke. Most of the front room was now engulfed in flames, and for his fourth attempt Constable Hobby re-entered the house to rescue the man on the floor in the front room. From the hallway, he could see the man lying on the other side of the door, which was slightly ajar. He reached through the partly open door, took hold of the man and attempted to drag him to safety. After pulling for a few seconds he was no longer able to withstand the intense heat and retreated outside. Shortly after leaving the house, some eight minutes after his first entry, a fireball erupted inside sending flames up the stairs.

Anthony Kenneth William HOCKING, Leading Firefighter, Surrey Fire and Rescue Service.

For services in rescuing an elderly man from a burning room. From his garden Leading Firefighter Hocking saw smoke billowing from the upstairs windows of the house of a very elderly disabled neighbour. He ran to the house, and on opening the front door was

confronted by thick smoke. He noticed that the glow of the fire was in the lounge area to his right and knew that his neighbour was most likely to be found in this room. He crawled on hands and knees across the small hall to the entrance of the lounge from where he could see that his neighbour was badly alight in his armchair in the left hand corner of the room. Mr Hocking withdrew to the front door to take in some fresh air, and then re-entered the hall and made his way back to the lounge. Because of the build up of smoke, he kept as low as possible, and was eventually forced to crawl on his stomach. When he reached the armchair, he managed to lower his neighbour to the floor and after turning him onto his back pulled him backwards out of the house. Outside, he and his wife were able to extinguish the flames on his neighbour's clothes, who was severely burnt and in severe pain. Mr Hocking administered first aid until the arrival of the Fire Brigade and the Ambulance Service.

Michael Stephen HOLDER, Leading Firefighter, Humberside Fire Brigade.

For services in rescuing a casualty in twenty feet of water. A call was received by the Fire Brigade reporting that a man had fallen into a harbour dock. Two fire appliances were mobilised. On arrival, Leading Firefighter Holder was informed by a group of workmen that a man had fallen into the water and sunk below the surface some four or five minutes previously. There was no sign of the casualty, only a lifebelt floating on the surface. Leading Firefighter Holder decided that there was a possibility that the man could still be alive. To attempt a rescue he removed his fire kit, and was provided with a Breathing Apparatus set (one not designed for underwater search and rescue), and had a rescue line tied around him. He was lowered into the water and then swam down the base of the dock wall, a distance of approximately twenty feet. At the bottom of the dock in zero visibility, he began to search for the casualty moving to the right and away from the dock wall. After failing to locate the casualty he attempted, without success, to make his way back to the dock wall. He re-surfaced and swam back to the point where the man had last been sighted. After re-submerging, he swam back down to the base of the dock wall and resumed his search, quickly discovering the casualty on the bottom of the dock. By pulling on the rescue line he indicated to the fire crew that he required assistance, and with one arm holding the casualty was helped back to the surface by his colleagues. Another member of the fire crew was lowered into the water to help keep the casualty afloat. Despite feeling both tired and cold, he removed his Breathing Apparatus face mask and applied artificial respiration to the casualty. The other crew member attached a rescue sling to the casualty and both of them were lifted out of the water by the attending hydraulic platform. Neither Leading Firefighter Holder nor his crew were at the time trained or equipped for underwater rescue.

Brian David MALCOLM.

For services in following two armed bank robbers who threatened him with a gun during the pursuit. Mr Malcolm had halted his lorry at traffic lights when he saw two men, wearing boiler suits and motorcycle crash helmets, enter a bank. Suspecting a robbery was about to take place he positioned his vehicle where he had a clear view into the bank. Seeing that a robbery was taking place he attempted to block the robbers' escape by reversing his lorry towards the door of the bank. Before this could be effected the robbers ran out towards their motorcycle and Mr Malcolm drove his lorry at it, intending to knock it over. Realising this was his intention, one of the robbers turned and fired a sawn-off shotgun at him. The shot was deflected downwards into the lorry's engine compartment and he was uninjured. The robbers then escaped on the motorcycle, pursued by Mr Malcolm in his lorry. With the help of a passer-by he continued his pursuit and found the motorcycle abandoned. On advice from local people he and his helper traced the robbers to the back of a nearby road, where they found them trying to open a back stair door to make their escape. On spotting Mr Malcolm and his helper one robber pulled a shotgun from a holdall, pointed it at them and attempted to fire. The gun failed to discharge but after some fiddling the robber turned the gun towards the door and shot out the lower glass panel. The robber then climbed through the broken window into the common stairwell of the building. Mr Malcolm and the passer-by ran round to the front of the building where they were joined by other men who spread out in an attempt to contain the robbers. By this time police officers had begun to arrive. The robbers however made good their escape by returning to the rear door that they had entered, and seizing the unattended lorry. On hearing his lorry starting up, Mr Malcolm attempted to close the gates leading to the waste ground where the lorry had been parked. The robbers drove straight at him, forcing him to jump aside and preventing him

from closing the gates. In a yet further attempt to stop the van he threw a brick at the windscreen but the lorry sped away.

Timothy PRESSLEY.

For services in attempting to rescue a driver trapped in his car whilst facing an increasingly fierce fire. On hearing a car collision, Mr Pressley told his wife to ring the emergency services and climbed over a six foot high fence and ran down the embankment to the road where two cars had collided and were smoking heavily. The driver of one of the cars appeared to be dead, so he concentrated his efforts on the driver of the second car who was conscious but trapped between his seat and the steering wheel. Flames began to rise from the engine and Mr Pressley tried but failed to open the driver's door which had been damaged in the crash. Whilst trying to open the door he shouted for assistance and the driver of a motorway maintenance van stopped and provided tools. Both men tried to open the car door but were unable to do so. The first car then went up in flames and Mr Pressley ran back to his garden where his wife passed him a crowbar. He made a further attempt to open the second car's door but again failed. Since flames were by now licking this car he and the van driver attempted to part the vehicles by use of the van but this also proved impossible. He again ran up the embankment to the perimeter fence of a golf course, where two fire extinguishers were passed to him. He returned and directed the extinguishers to the footwell of the second car which was the source of the fire. Flames were now licking at the left side of the driver, having spread completely over the engine. The water from the extinguishers had little effect on the flames, and he was forced by the heat to move his arm away from the window, directing the water over the driver's head, face and body. He continued to use the extinguisher until the firefighters who had just arrived turned hoses onto the car. He was subsequently taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation and shock.

Jonathan David ROBERTS (posthumous).

For services in trying to detain a person who had stolen goods from the shop where he worked. While he was working as a young part-time assistant at a shopping superstore, Mr Roberts was told that a man and woman had left the store with trolleys full of goods for which they had not paid. He chased one of them, a taller and more mature man, through a car park at the rear of the shop, and attempted to detain him. In an attempt to escape, the thief punched Mr Roberts with a forceful blow to the face. This caused him to release his grip and as he started to fall was struck in the head by the thief's knees and was kicked and seriously injured. Mr Roberts died as a result of the injuries that he received.

Kenneth Patrick SPINKS.

For services in struggling with an armed robber and restraining him until the police arrived. Mr Spinks, a regular customer at a petrol station, entered the retail section of the premises while a man armed with a handgun was attempting to rob it. The gun had been put away by the robber by the time he entered and the fact that a robbery was taking place was not immediately apparent. However, he quickly realised, from the actions of the cashier and his extreme anxiety and fear, that something was wrong. With commendable public spirit he challenged the robber, and was then alerted to the armed robbery by the cashier. The robber had by then drawn the gun from his pocket. Mr Spinks made a grab for it and a violent struggle followed, during which the robber bit his hand in an attempt to make him release his hold on the gun. Mr Spinks successfully restrained the robber until the police officers arrived, while another person assisted in taking the gun from him.

Frederick William VIEHWEGER.

For services in attempting to foil the getaway of an armed gang who had just robbed a post office. Following an armed robbery at a post office Mr Viehweger was passing by in his car when he saw a man struggling with a gunman. He stopped his car to help, and saw the man being shot. As the robber tried to get away on a motorcycle driven by an accomplice, he attempted to ram them with his car. He managed to hit the right side of the motorcycle before the robbers had a chance to move off. The robbers were catapulted through the plate glass window of the post office, leaving the shotgun lying on the ground. Mr Viehweger's car collided with the nearby post office pillar box. As Mr Viehweger hurried to get out of his car to grab the gun, he tripped and fell to the ground, during which time one of the robbers recovered the weapon, pointed it at Mr Viehweger and threatened him.

Wut Chi-wai, Constable, Royal Hong Kong Police.

For services in helping with the apprehension of armed robbers. Following a robbery on a goldsmith's shop, five robbers armed with semi-automatic pistols and hand grenades encountered police and an exchange of fire took place. Four robbers, one robber had by now been shot, attempted to hijack a public bus. The bus driver resisted and they then approached a taxi behind the bus. The taxi driver was threatened at gunpoint and made to drive the robbers away. After moving approximately 300 metres they were confronted by police officers. Shots were exchanged and in the confusion the taxi driver managed to escape from the taxi which careered into roadworks and came to rest on its side. Further shots were fired from the taxi and two grenades were thrown at the police. They failed to explode. Constable Wut Chi-wai, one of the police officers surrounding the taxi, was directed to fetch CS gas canisters from a nearby police car.

He broke cover to get the cannisters exposing himself to potential gun fire, and returned. He then edged forwards as close as he could to the taxi, under cover of a road divider. In order to get in position to throw the cannisters accurately he had to crawl past one of the unexploded grenades, having been twice warned to be prostrate because of possible grenade explosions. Neither he nor his superior officer were aware then that the pin was still in the grenade, and therefore that the grenade was safe. At this point he had to raise himself from behind cover of a concrete block to throw the CS canister into the car, exposing himself again to potential gunfire. When the first CS canister failed to drive the robbers from the taxi Constable Wut Chi-wai repeated the procedure and threw the second one into the taxi. The robbers at this point gave up and were arrested. Two ladies in the hijacked taxi were released shortly afterwards.