



SUPPLEMENT TO

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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