

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