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Honours and Awards

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

21st November 2000

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following award of the George 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.

George Medal

Eliza WARD (deceased). Civilian.

For her actions in saving the life of a woman who had been stabbed by a man armed with a knife, despite being fatally wounded herself.

Eliza Ward was working as a manager at a restaurant in Belfast. On Thursday, 17th July 1997, at 9 p.m., the owner of the restaurant arrived and Miss Ward told her that the washing machine on the first floor had flooded water and that a member of staff, the kitchen porter, had gone to clear it up. The owner then went upstairs, and found the kitchen porter sitting in a darkened room, smoking a cigarette. She asked him to follow her to the laundry area to inspect the washing machine, where she saw the floor was still flooded with water. He followed her into the room and stood behind her as she bent down to see how much water was left in the machine. Suddenly she felt a severe pain shoot up her legs and collapsed onto the floor. She thought that she had been electrocuted and grabbed onto the kitchen porter's legs, pleading for help.

At this moment, Miss Ward entered the room after following the owner upstairs. The owner heard Miss Ward scream, and opened her eyes. From where she now lay, face down on the floor, she could see a pool of blood beside her. She realised that she had been stabbed in the back, and that the knife was still in her body.

Miss Ward immediately confronted the kitchen porter and grabbed hold of him in an attempt to restrain him. A violent struggle then took place between them, during which he managed to remove the knife from the owner's back and stab Miss Ward with it. Despite this, she maintained her restraining hold on him and he stabbed her again. He then managed to get away from Miss Ward and ran from the room by a rear exit just as another member of staff entered through another doorway. Miss Ward shouted to the member of staff to get help, and followed him downstairs as he did so. It was at this point that she collapsed from her injuries, a fatal stab wound to her chest. Despite the efforts of the emergency services she slipped into unconsciousness and died later in hospital. The owner of the restaurant, who suffered serious injury, later recovered. The kitchen porter was later arrested.

Queen's Commendation for Bravery

Stephen John BROWN. Civilian.

For his actions in attempting to prevent an armed robbery of money from a security van.

On Tuesday, 11th November 1997, at 9.30 p.m., Stephen Brown and another security guard were refilling cash machines at a building society in Hertford Town Centre. When they had completed their task, the other guard returned to the security van whilst Mr. Brown locked the

front door to the premises. As he did so, he was approached by two armed men wearing black balaclava masks and pushed to the ground from behind. One of the men hauled Mr. Brown to his feet, forced the barrel of a handgun into his face and pushed him against the side of the security van. The armed men then issued threats for the guards to hand over cash boxes from the van. They were given two boxes containing a total of £28,000 and then the armed men ran off on foot, brandishing their guns at a number of pedestrians in the vicinity.

One of the security guards followed the men in the security van, whilst Mr. Brown followed them on foot. The two men reached their car and attempted to drive away from the area, but the security van driver effectively blocked their escape, forcing them to crash and trapping their vehicle in a dead end street. The two men left the vehicle and ran off. Mr. Brown chased one of the men and had almost caught up with him when the armed man turned and fired a shot at him at point blank range. Mr. Brown stopped as the first man ran off, but saw the other man run towards him from behind. Mr. Brown moved to kick at him but the second man avoided the blow and ran off. Mr. Brown collapsed on the pavement, having sustained a serious gunshot wound to his shoulder.

The two armed men made a successful escape, but were later arrested.

Scott MCKENNA. Civilian.

For actions in saving the life of a woman who had fallen on to electrified railway tracks.

Mr. McKenna was waiting for a train at Ewell West Railway Station. Other passengers on the platform saw an elderly lady walk down the slope at the end of the platform and lay down between the railway tracks. As they began shouting for the woman to get off the tracks, Mr. McKenna ran to the platform edge and immediately jumped down on the track and helped the woman to her feet. She was trembling, apparently in a state of shock and had blood coming from her chin. Mr. McKenna could hear the rails make a hissing sound as a train began its approach to the station and so carried her across two live rails towards the opposite platform. As he did this, the approaching train was only 15 metres away. When he reached the safety of the platform, he put the lady down and left her in the care of station staff. He then boarded the train and left the station.