



Registered as a newspaper

Published by Authority

Established 1665

The London Gazette

of Monday 12 February 2001
Supplement No. 2

Honours and Awards

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

13th February 2001

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

Queen's Gallantry Medal

Christopher Malone HOWES (Deceased). Civilian.

For his actions in negotiating the release of Mines Advisory Group personnel in a hostage situation in Cambodia.

Christopher Howes was a member of the Mines Advisory Group (MAG), working in Cambodia to clear landmines and unexploded ordnance, managing a de-mining team comprising more than 20 staff. On the morning of 26th March 1996, his team was preparing to start clearance work in a village in the province of Siem Reap. As they commenced their activities, a group of 30 armed Khmer Rouge guerrillas emerged from the nearby forest.

The team were surrounded and, under the threat of armed force, ordered to their vehicles. They were driven to the end of a dirt track where the vehicles were stripped of equipment. Mr. Howes was then told by the Khmer Rouge leader to return to MAG for ransom money.

Talking through his interpreter, he refused, pledging to remain with his team and urging their release. The situation was already dangerous and difficult, and tensions increased further when a number of de-miners

managed to escape. Mr. Howes continued his efforts to urge the guerrillas to release the other team members and eventually they agreed.

However, the guerrillas kept Mr. Howes and his interpreter hostage and two days later the interpreter was killed. Mr. Howes was taken to the Khmer Rouge headquarters where he was held for several days before being shot dead on the orders of the Khmer Rouge General.

Queen's Commendation for Bravery

Paul FLETCHER. Civilian.

For saving the life of a young boy who had fallen into a flooded river drain.

On 23rd January 1999, three young boys were playing on the bank of a stretch of water called the North Forty-Foot Drain in Boston, Lincolnshire. One of the boys fell in and his friends ran to get help as he was struggling to climb out of the water because of the steepness of the bank. On their way, the boys met a postman, Mr. Paul Fletcher, and he immediately followed them back towards a bridge that spanned the water. He climbed over the bridge railings and slid down the muddy, wet and steep bank to the water's edge, where he saw the boy floating face down and motionless in the water about 15 yards away. He shouted to the boys on the bridge to call for an ambulance and then entered the water, which was freezing cold. Despite being stunned by its coldness, he managed to swim towards the boy and turned him over to clear his face of the water. The boy was unconscious, his face was blue and he was not breathing. Mr. Fletcher put his arm around the boy's neck, and swam backwards with him towards the bank. He attempted to climb out of the water with the boy but could not get a hold on the slippery slope.

He swam further along to where the water was shallower and he was able to get a foothold. He still could not get out, but was able to support the boy's head and chest in the water while he attempted mouth to mouth resuscitation. He continued this for a minute or two but the boy did not respond. During this time, a group of people arrived and formed a human chain down to the water's edge, and he was able to pass the boy up to them. They then helped Mr. Fletcher from the water. Despite further efforts to revive him, the boy remained lifeless and was taken to hospital by ambulance. Although initially his chances of survival were thought to be poor, he later made a full recovery.

Ghulam MUHAMMAD. Civilian.

For his actions in preventing armed intruders from gaining entry to a private property.

On 7th May 2000, at 11.30 p.m., Mr. Ghulam Muhammad, an unarmed security guard, was on patrol at the front gate of a private property belonging to a project leader for the British Council's Northern Area Education Project in Gilgit, North Pakistan. Three masked men, armed with automatic weapons, attempted to gain entry to the property, but were confronted by Mr. Muhammad, who blocked their path despite being threatened by them. He then ran to the guard hut near the front gate in order to alert another security guard, and the three men followed him. As two of the men entered the hut after him, Mr. Muhammad grabbed the first man's gun, and attempted to remove his mask. As they struggled, the second man shot him in the leg, and Mr. Muhammad collapsed. At this point all three men ran off and successfully made their escape from the property. Mr. Muhammad was taken to hospital with a serious leg wound but later made a full recovery. The owner of the property and his partner were not involved in the incident and, as a result of Mr. Muhammad's action, came to no harm.

Stephen John OXFORD. Fire-fighter. Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service.

For services in rescuing a man who was trapped in an aggregate hopper of a stone crushing facility at a quarry.

On 5th February 1999 the Fire and Rescue Service were called to Croft Quarry, Leicester, where a man had become trapped in an aggregate hopper. The hopper was situated approximately 25 metres above ground level at the highest point of the stone crushing facility. The man had gained access to the hopper via an entrance in the top of the drum-like structure to carry out maintenance welding work, and was injured when loose stone stacked up the hopper sides had fallen on him. He was trapped about six metres from the top of the hopper, with a large quantity of stone covering his legs and lower body and the pressure of stones heaped up the sides of the hopper also bearing down on him. There was also a pile of stone balanced precariously in the hopper feed above his head and several tonnes of shale beneath him in danger of further movement.

Fire-fighter Oxford entered the hopper through a hole cut in the wall at the top of the drum, and was lowered down to the man on a rescue line by his colleagues. As he reached the man, he realised how dangerous the situation

was, as any sudden movement could cause more stone to cascade down on them both. Because of this it was decided not to allow any of his colleagues to enter the hopper to assist in the rescue. Suspended by the line above the man, Fire-fighter Oxford began to remove the stone trapping the man's legs piece by piece. As he did so, the man lost consciousness and medical oxygen was lowered down and administered by Fire-fighter Oxford in order to revive him. Over a period of 40 minutes he managed to free the man's body completely from the stone and, using a rope rescue technique, his colleagues lifted both men up and out of the hopper to safety.

Khaled SHAHEENZIADA. Civilian.

For his persistence in intervening to prevent an assault on a member of the public by a group of youths.

At 9.30 p.m. on Sunday, 10th January 1999, as Mr. Shaheenziada was waiting for a train at a railway station, he noticed a woman sitting on a platform bench. On either side of her, two teenage girls were sitting on the back of the bench with their feet on the seating area.

Unsure of his bearings, he approached the group and asked if he was on the correct platform to catch a particular train. One of the girls told him abruptly to go away, but Mr. Shaheenziada remained close by, as he was suspicious of the behaviour of the girls towards the woman. The woman then stood up and said to the girls: "Leave me alone", and tried to walk away. As she did so, the girls stood up and moved close towards her, forcing her back against a wall. One of them threatened the woman by waving a glass bottle in front of her face, and prodding her in her side. Mr. Shaheenziada approached the girls, and shouted for them to leave the woman alone. Both girls then turned towards him and started shoving him, and as he attempted to take the bottle from one of the girls, he was pushed to the ground. The girls then walked off along the platform, leaving the woman and Mr. Shaheenziada alone.

About five minutes later, the girls returned along the platform accompanied by a third teenage girl and a teenage boy. As a train approached the platform, they approached the woman, shouted at her, and then forced her against the wall. She tried to get away, but was surrounded as they began threatening her again. From where he stood, Mr. Shaheenziada reached out and grabbed the woman, pulling her from the rest of the group, and she managed to get on the train, which had now stopped. At this point, the group turned their attention to him, and two of the girls began raining punches on his head. As he fought to protect himself, the boy then ran up and began lunging at his face with a knife he had produced from his jacket pocket. Mr. Shaheenziada was stabbed in his face and throat, and as the struggle continued, one of the girls smashed the glass bottle over his head. Dazed and bleeding from his head wounds, Mr. Shaheenziada managed to get on the train, and the group did not pursue him. Another passenger on the platform called police to the scene, and the assailants were arrested before they could leave the railway station.

Published and printed in the UK by The Stationery Office Limited
under the authority and superintendence of Carol Tullo, Controller of
Her Majesty's Stationery Office and Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament.
Price £1.75

ISSN 0374-3721

ISBN 0-11-666118-6



9 780116 661180