

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London SW1

24 January 2017

THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards of The George Medal and The Queen's Gallantry Medal and for publication in *The London Gazette* of the names of those shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for Bravery.

GEORGE MEDAL

Martin FINNEY, National Crime Agency

For tackling an armed assailant

Martin Finney is a member of a team of investigators and surveillance officers. In May 2014, he was on a surveillance operation in Tottenham, London in relation to the activities of an organised crime group who had a history of witness intimidation, threats and targeted shootings. At about 22.45, the team was 'stood down' and Martin Finney began walking back to his vehicle. As he did so, he noticed a male who was hooded and wearing gloves. As the male approached some premises, he drew a handgun and fired three shots into the doorway of a bar/pool club, which contained 20-30 people. Martin Finney ran towards the suspect and issued a challenge and drew his pistol. At this point, Martin Finney was alone and with no communication with the rest of his team.

The male turned and ran towards Martin Finney and fired at him, the shot passing within a few centimetres. Martin Finney returned fire with a single shot at the suspect. The shot missed and the suspect continued his escape, then stopped and fired back a further three times. Despite the danger, Martin Finney pursued the suspect into a dark residential street in a high crime area, with no support. He returned fire with a second single shot. The suspect responded by firing again at Martin Finney, who continued verbally to challenge the suspect and advanced across the street to him. The suspect responded by raising his arms and putting down his weapon. It transpired that he had fired all the bullets in his weapon.

Martin Finney reacted with outstanding bravery to pursue and apprehend a dangerous criminal, at significant risk to his own life. The offender had discharged his weapon on a number of occasions and Martin Finney was under the impression that he may have wounded or even killed members of the public. He continued to pursue the offender despite continued shots being fired directly at him. He had no body armour and was covertly deployed in plain clothes. The suspect was convicted and sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment.

QUEEN'S GALLANTRY MEDAL

PC Nathan LUCY, Hampshire Constabulary

For saving a woman from drowning

On 12 April 2014 PC Lucy was on duty when he was made aware of a female who had walked out of a mental health hospital after attending as a voluntary patient. The woman had made numerous threats to her own safety.

PC Lucy responded to a radio message stating that the same woman had jumped into the water from the Red Jet Terminal in Cowes. The officer saw the woman in the water and knew that she was being swept out by the current. He ran to three different locations to get ahead of her in the water and shouted at her to swim towards him, but she ignored him.

PC Lucy considered the woman to be in danger of drowning due to the current and temperatures known to make that stretch of water dangerous. He therefore took a life ring and jumped into the sea and started to swim towards the woman. When he reached her, he stretched out towards her but she kicked him in the chest. He eventually managed to get hold of the female but she pushed him under the water.

When he resurfaced, this time he successfully pulled her towards him and gripped the life ring. Someone on the jetty then started to pull them in. The woman continued to resist but then went very still with her eyes closed. PC Lucy pushed her head higher out of the water which again caused him to go under. Despite this he retained hold of her until they were finally pulled into the jetty where she was lifted out and given immediate life saving treatment before being conveyed to hospital.

PC Lucy was aware of the danger to himself when he went into the water to save the woman. The woman was intent on taking her own life and put herself and the officer in grave danger. Throughout the incident he displayed great dedication and remained calm and in control.

Sergeant Andrew Mark WRIGHT, Police Service of Northern Ireland

For subduing an armed man

On 5 February 2012 Sergeant Wright volunteered to deal with an urgent call for assistance from a woman who had been assaulted during a serious disturbance in a house. Sgt Wright was accompanied by two other police officers. The suspected perpetrator of the assault had locked himself inside the house with two very young children. He was described as 'dangerously out of control' but it was not known that he was armed.

Sgt Wright could see evidence of a disturbance and blood through a window. As he was about to force entry the suspect, armed with a knife in each hand, attacked him at close quarters. Sgt Wright sustained serious wounds to his head. Despite his injuries, Sgt Wright wrestled with the suspect in an attempt to prevent injury to others. However, the suspect struggled free and attacked a second officer nearby, swinging a knife towards the officer's throat. Sgt Wright 'rugby tackled' the suspect to the ground, preventing any injuries to his colleague. He and his colleagues then overpowered and handcuffed the suspect.

Although Sgt Wright was trained and experienced in personal protection, the immediacy and ferocity of the attack and the risk of death to both him and his colleague was significant. Although seriously wounded, Sgt Wright made a deliberate decision to continue to pursue the suspect in the face of the danger to his colleague. His actions ensured the safety of the children, protected the life of his colleague and culminated in the conviction of a man on various charges including Wounding with intent to do Grievous Bodily Harm. The man was subsequently sentenced to 7 years' imprisonment.