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# QUEEN'S GALLANTRY MEDAL

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## Ian BUGLER, Volunteer Coastguard

### *For the attempted rescue of a woman trapped in a cave*

On 2 November 2013, a 999 call was made to the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Portland, reporting a person in the water off Tilly Whim caves, Dorset. He was rescued by HM Coastguard helicopter and reported that his sister was trapped in a sea cave. In deteriorating weather conditions with winds of severe gale force 9 and very rough seas, a rescue operation was mounted. The helicopter and lifeboat were unable to access the cave from the seaward direction, the weather conditions being too poor.

Initially the Coastguard team considered conducting a rope rescue over the cliff face, but the sea conditions and the wave effect prevented this option. They developed a plan to access the cave via a blow-hole above it, a very difficult and constrained entrance. Verbal communication with the casualty was established but she was unable to swim to the blow-hole entrance due to the very strong wave action entering the cave. It was hoped to deploy a rescue harness for the casualty, but dialogue was lost.

Ian Bugler, a volunteer Coastguard rescue team member, volunteered to deploy into the cave via the blow-hole. The blow-hole was narrow and he had to remove much of his own safety equipment, including waterproof clothing. He was lowered into the hole and was several times blown back due to the piston-effect of the sea causing a very strong updraft of air. After much effort, he got low enough to be able to see the woman, who was being dashed about at the back of the cave and had died. He himself was being smashed into the sides and roof of the cave. Without waterproof clothing, he had little protection.

Determining that there was little he could do, he asked to be recovered but the shock effect on the rescue equipment was so severe that the fail-safe mechanisms activated and he had to be physically hauled from the cave by his colleagues. He displayed exemplary bravery, a high level of professionalism and outstanding commitment in attempting a rescue in such difficult and dangerous circumstances. He knew very well the risks involved and that both the team and their equipment would be operating on the limits of their technical capability. Yet he placed himself in harm's way in a final effort to save the woman's life.

## PC Craig NICHOLLS, West Yorkshire Police

### *For the arrest of the murderer of Jo Cox MP*

On 16 June 2016, West Yorkshire Police received a report that Jo Cox MP had been stabbed and shot outside Birstall Library. The suspect had left the immediate scene armed with a knife and a gun. His whereabouts and intentions were not known. PC Nicholls and his colleague PC Wright, both unarmed and on routine patrol, decided to make their way in the general direction of the incident. They noticed a man who took evasive action to avoid being seen. They pursued the man, knowing that he was potentially the suspect who had shot and stabbed one person and stabbed another. They quickly confirmed that, and realised that the suspect was likely still to be armed with a gun and a knife. Of concern was the fact that there were numerous members of public on the street going about their normal business. They therefore continued to follow the suspect and began communicating with him. Under extreme pressure and fear of the unknown, the two officers decided instinctively to rush the suspect and arrest him to prevent him from committing any further acts of violence. A gun and a knife were subsequently found in his possession.

## PC Jonathan WRIGHT, West Yorkshire Police

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