
QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVERY

Spencer BELL (deceased), Civilian

For attempting to save a life

On 30 January 2014, Spencer Bell was driving north on the M1 near Watford when he saw a man fall from a bridge onto the carriageway. He stopped on the hard shoulder and went on foot to try to help the individual who was lying on the motorway between lanes 2 and 3. Bell gestured to the traffic to stop and a number of vehicles approaching the scene slowed to a halt and put on their hazard lights.

There were stationary vehicles in all three lanes, but with gaps between them large enough for a car to get through. Bell crossed the road to where the victim was lying. Other drivers started to get out of their cars to help. A car approaching the scene in lane 3 belatedly braked, swerved into lane 2 to avoid one of parked vehicles and, still travelling at high speed, hit Bell and the other man in lane 2. Both were pronounced dead at the scene.

Bell's primary concern was to render assistance to the victim. He would have been aware of the danger of the situation. He did not know that the victim was probably already dead from the injuries he suffered from falling from the bridge. His actions demonstrated that he clearly felt that if there was any chance that the individual had survived the fall, he would require immediate medical assistance and protection from further injury.

Christopher NORMAN, Civilian

For subduing an armed man

Chris Norman was a passenger on a train travelling between Amsterdam and Paris on 21 August 2015. As the train travelled through northern France, a man exited the train toilet carrying a Kalashnikov assault rifle. An initial attempt was made to disarm the gunman, resulting in one passenger suffering a serious wound to the neck. The gunman then entered the train carriage where Norman was sitting, at which point the rifle jammed. Three American passengers (two of whom were off-duty military personnel) and a Frenchman initially intervened to tackle the gunman. Norman came to their aid, helping to bring the gunman to the floor and immobilising him. This carried considerable risk as the gunman resisted and at this stage had produced a knife.

Norman's intervention, alongside the other passengers, was at significant risk to himself. He undoubtedly helped save the lives of his fellow passengers, including British nationals. This was underscored by the subsequent investigation which reported that the gunman was carrying a Kalashnikov, 9 rifle magazines (approximately 300 rounds), an automatic pistol and a box cutter knife. Norman acted with courage and calmness in the face of significant risk. When he intervened, the gunman had already injured a passenger and was brandishing a knife. Norman made the deliberate choice to intervene before the gunman was overpowered. He acted with calmness and presence of mind throughout.

Allen PEMBROKE, Civilian

For aiding the victims of the Port El Kantaoui terrorist attack, 26 June 2015

Allen Pembroke, a tourist, was on the beach with his wife when the attack began and they fled to their hotel room. However, Pembroke chose to return outside to help the injured. He left his wife and others whom he had escorted in the relative safety of their rooms. He then returned to the beach.

The first handful of people he encountered had already died but he then reached a woman lying face down in the sand. A man (her husband) was dead but the woman was alive. Her hand had been shot off and she had been shot in the leg. She was semi-conscious. Pembroke secured the wounds as best he could with towels and ensured that he had stopped the bleeding. He made sure they remained quiet so as not to attract the attention of the gunman. Pembroke put his life at risk in leaving his hotel room to help others. At that time the attack remained underway.

Paul SHORT, Civilian

For aiding the victims of the Port El Kantaoui terrorist attack, 26 June 2015

Paul Short, a tourist, was on the beach with his wife when the attack began. He took his wife to the relative safety of their hotel room. He then helped a man who had been shot and was bleeding heavily. The man's wife was already dead. At the time, the gunman was in the immediate vicinity. Short then guided another man to safety and returned to the first wounded man. When another tourist came to help, Short began to cover the man's wife with towels.