

The man was subdued and another gun, an automatic pistol, was found in the pocket of his overalls. Both Gledhill and McFall received injuries and had to receive hospital treatment. They had faced a sustained firearm attack and from the early stages knew the risks they ran of being killed or seriously injured.

*Awarded the George Medal :*

Frederick William BIRD, M.B.E., Superintendent of Police, Aden.

During terrorist activities in Aden, Superintendent Bird has been called upon at all times of the day and night to render safe various explosives, mines and other devices. His experience, skill, courage and endurance in the face of danger, have been of the greatest possible value to the security forces and he has without doubt saved a great many lives at continuing risk to his own. On one occasion a large booby-trapped parcel bomb was found in the entrance of a block of flats occupied by British families. Superintendent Bird at once went to the site. The bomb was in a position which made access extremely difficult and hazardous. Nevertheless, as this was the first bomb of its type to be found unexploded, he elected to disarm it rather than blow it up, although at the time he did not know how the bomb was constructed, by what means it would explode, or with what anti-handling devices it was fitted. Insisting on working alone, he proceeded to disarm the bomb. On completion of each phase of the disarming process he called in the security force officers waiting outside, and, in case the bomb should explode before he finished the task, explained to them what he had done. The bomb was found to contain a pound of explosive and to be fitted with two lethal anti-handling devices.

Francis Charles HENDER, Senior Constable, Criminal Investigation Branch, Victoria Police Force.

Senior Constable Hender was called to assist the bar manager of a hotel who was being held up at gun point in the first floor office, and had been shot in the leg by two armed men. Hender dashed into the office and tackled one of the men who was armed with a revolver. There was a struggle and the Senior Constable received three bullet wounds to the body. Despite the wounds Hender endeavoured to grapple with the offender, but was knocked to the floor and shot again. The criminals were subsequently caught and convicted.

*Awarded the British Empire Medal for Gallantry (Civil Division) :*

Francis Anthony BARTNIK, Maintenance Engineer, Blackpool.

John Dugdale BROWN, Sergeant, Blackpool County Borough Police.

Derek Peter TAYLOR, Constable, Blackpool County Borough Police.

A small boat used to transport men and materials to and from a drilling rig platform off-shore, sank as a result of engine failure caused by rough seas, throwing the four occupants into the water. They were carried by the wind and tide past the end of a pier to a jetty where they were flung against the stanchions. Constable Taylor, who was on the jetty, threw life belts and with the help of other men on the pier, secured and then threw over a scrambling net. Taylor saw one man in the water who was

almost unconscious and having difficulty supporting himself. He immediately climbed down the pier stanchions, grabbed the man and climbed back up the ironwork to the pier rail. Still without a life belt or life line, Constable Taylor again climbed down the ironwork and had hold of another of the men in the water when a huge wave struck him, knocking him off balance into the sea amongst the pier ironwork. He surfaced on the other side of the pier, climbed up the ironwork and was taken to hospital. Another of the men in the water was able to fasten a rope around himself and was assisted out of the water by Bartnik, who climbed down the stanchions. A third man was reluctant to leave go of the pier tie bar to which he was clinging. Bartnik made several attempts to reach him but was beaten back by the rough seas. An attempt was made by Sergeant Brown to rescue this man. He went down the scrambling net and with someone holding his left hand the Sergeant entered the water and took hold of the man. He managed to pull him along a cross-member until his head and shoulders were clear of the water but then a huge wave submerged them both and the Sergeant lost his grip but he again went into the water and was dragging him clear when two more waves hit them and the man was torn from his grasp and washed away under the pier. The weather and sea conditions were appalling and there was always the danger of the rescuers, particularly the police officers who entered the water, being buffeted against the pier stanchions and severely injured.

Ronald Malcolm GUM, Senior Constable, South Australia Police Force.

Senior Constable Gum and another Constable drove to a house which was on fire. The entire front and side of the building was a mass of flame and thick smoke was issuing from the inside. Constable Gum with several others commenced to fight the blaze. A neighbour stated that a man might be inside the house, whereupon Gum donned a Remote Breathing Apparatus and entered the house through thick smoke and falling timber and iron. He searched the house and located the man lying on the floor of the lounge which was towards the rear of the house. Gum removed the breathing apparatus for a second to shout to the people outside to summon an ambulance, then picking up the man from behind the shoulders, dragged him to the door where, with help, he was able to get the man outside. There is no doubt that but for the prompt action of Senior Constable Gum the man would have lost his life.

Leslie Joseph LEWIS, Senior Constable, Queensland Police Force.

Senior Constable Lewis was informed that a man, apparently mentally ill, was in a store building at a small isolated locality armed with a rifle from which he had fired several shots at the local residents. Lewis approached the building concerned and, while talking to the occupant, saw through a letter box opening in the front door that he was armed with a rifle and was obviously suffering from a mental disorder and should be disarmed. Lewis then went to the open rear door. The man, on seeing him 10 feet away, raised the loaded rifle to shoot. Lewis immediately threw himself towards the man and after a violent struggle overpowered and disarmed him. The man became quiet but later