

portions of the steel fabric and access between compartments was through bulkheads. A fire was burning at the time, live electric cables within the wreckage had been damaged and there was imminent danger of a serious explosion. In working for long periods under such hazardous conditions, they displayed personal bravery of a high order, without regard for their own safety. Mr. Sparks worked tirelessly in a confined space for many hours in great discomfort and at considerable risk to extricate a casualty trapped under a mass of wreckage. He displayed courage and devotion to duty of a high order. At the time of the disaster Mr. Stromberg was working in the west truss alongside the collapsed span. One of his first actions was, accompanied by some of his crew, to wade into the slimy mud on the North side of the collapsed span and carry out men who had been thrown over the side. He then worked through the afternoon and evening assisting in the retrieval of the dead and injured. He displayed conspicuous courage, fortitude and devotion to duty under very hazardous conditions.

Terence John BISHOP, Senior Constable, Queensland Police Force.

Senior Constable Bishop was called late one evening by two neighbours to the home of a shearer whose wife had seen him loading a .22 auto-loading rifle. The man had threatened to harm the Senior Constable and the man's wife had fetched the neighbours who had unhesitatingly gone to the man's home to calm him; he became more belligerent, fired the rifle and wounded one of them. The other neighbour then went to the police residence and fetched Senior Constable Bishop who went unarmed to intervene. He saw the man with the rifle which was pointed at him and moved towards him talking to him. After some time the officer persuaded the man to give up his weapon which was found to be loaded with eight live bullets in it. Senior Constable Bishop deliberately confronted the man unarmed as he considered that the sight of a firearm might aggravate the situation and his action showed efficiency, devotion to duty and courage of the highest order.

Peter John BOWCOCK, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

Robert Graham DENCH, Constable Metropolitan Police.

Constable Bowcock who was patrolling in a Panda car saw a car being driven recklessly. While both vehicles were held up at the traffic lights the officer left his car to speak to the driver of the other vehicle. The man drove off against the red light and the constable gave chase. The driver later abandoned the vehicle and, with Constable Bowcock in pursuit, ran across fields and wasteland to the River Brent into which he finally jumped to hide in a sewer outlet. He crouched some five yards inside the pipe and when the officer called to him he disappeared from sight further down the pipe. At this stage Constable Dench arrived with other officers including a dog handler with a dog which, being sent into the sewer, came out again and refused to go back. Meanwhile a manhole had been discovered and opened to reveal an inspection chamber in which the man's hat was seen to float. Constables Bowcock and Dench immediately entered the inspection chamber with a search lamp and made their way over a four feet deep mud trap and along

the slimy sewer pipe for a distance of 75 yards and came upon the man lying unconscious face downwards in water. Although they were choking with fumes and sewer gas, they succeeded in rolling the man on to his back and dragged him back along the pipe to the manhole entrance where another officer lifted him out and administered artificial respiration. But for the courage displayed by Constables Bowcock and Dench the man would have died through inhalation of water and marsh gas fumes.

Jack Henry BROWN, Assistant Divisional Officer, City of Portsmouth Fire Brigade.

Roy Edward GEER, Temporary Sub-Officer, City of Portsmouth Fire Brigade.

Geoffrey READMAN, Fireman, City of Portsmouth Fire Brigade.

Following a call for assistance to the Portsmouth City Fire Brigade, Assistant Divisional Officer Brown, with others went by naval tug to the m.v. *Pacific Glory* where there had been an explosion. After fighting the fire for about half-an-hour Assistant Divisional Officer Brown decided to attempt to board the *Pacific Glory* to search for missing crew members. All members of the party volunteered and Temporary Sub-Officer Geer and Fireman Readman were selected to accompany him. Assistant Divisional Officer Brown was the first to board the vessel and when he was satisfied that it was safe to continue he called the two volunteers aboard. Boarding the vessel was extremely difficult and hazardous as the deck of the *Pacific Glory* was 30 feet above the deck of the tug with a 10 to 15 feet sea-swell which caused considerable movement of both vessels. When all three men were aboard a search for survivors was carried out in all parts which at that time were approachable, this necessitated passing over the top of the cargo tank which was on fire and also the tops of other cargo tanks, the plates of which were hot, buckled and showing signs of internal pressure. There was a large fire burning in and around the ship and the risk of further explosion was considerable. It is considered that the fire was tackled with great tenacity and that Assistant Divisional Officer Brown showed great courage, leadership and devotion to duty in the way in which he boarded the *Pacific Glory* and organised fire-fighting on the ship. He was ably supported by Temporary Sub-Officer Geer and Fireman Readman, who both volunteered to board the ship in spite of the difficult and very hazardous conditions.

Peter Edward BUTCHER, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

As the result of a message that the occupants of a Rover car had been concerned in a shooting incident, Constable Butcher and two other policemen went in a police car to Parliament Square to keep observation. The Rover car was seen travelling south at great speed; the police car gave chase for some distance and the Rover was finally forced to stop by another police car which blocked its path. Constable Butcher immediately ran to the nearside door of the Rover and, as he opened the car door, he saw the passenger holding an automatic pistol. Without hesitation the officer grabbed the man's arm and in the struggle that followed the man threatened to shoot and attempted to point the gun at the officer. Undeterred Constable Butcher struck the man's hand several