

basement, saw a woman trapped at a third floor window. It was obvious that a severe flash-over had already occurred, blasting out the third floor windows and that a further one was imminent. Fireman Montgomerie immediately instructed the driver of the turntable ladder to prepare for a rescue. The trapped woman silhouetted by flames was frantically trying to get out of the blasted window and as soon as the driver began to elevate and extend the ladder, Fireman Montgomerie mounted and began to ascend.

He reached the head of the ladder and managed to place his right knee lengthways on the window sill. Although the woman knew he was there, she made no attempt to get out and he had to reach into the room with his right arm to grasp her around the waist and was in the act of lifting her out when a further flash-over occurred. The severe force of the blast blew both of them from the window on to the head of the ladder, dislodging Fireman Montgomerie's helmet. Although stunned and shocked the officer had the presence of mind to hold on to the ladder and the screaming, struggling, badly burned woman.

The driver of the turntable ladder observing the rescue attempt, felt a heavy dip on the ladder and realised that both the officer and the woman were on the head of the ladder. Because of the dangerous conditions he immediately decided to turn the ladder away from the window and out over the roadway, extending the ladder and training it so that the head rested on the roof coping of the building opposite.

The turntable driver then ascended the ladder to help Fireman Montgomerie who had already started the difficult task of descending with the injured woman. He met his driver mid-way down the ladder and by pressing firmly against the ladder he supported the main weight of the woman whilst his driver supported her legs on his forearms, using his hands to guide Fireman Montgomerie's feet on to each ladder round until they reached the heel of the ladder.

Fireman Montgomerie saved vital seconds by mounting the ladder whilst it was being extended and there was every possibility of his feet being crushed by the rounds while this was being done. He also took very severe punishment at the head of the ladder which could have easily led to his losing his grip and falling to the ground.

Fireman Montgomerie displayed outstanding courage and devotion to duty when, regardless of his personal safety, he carried out this daring rescue.

Brian Leslie MOORE, Manager, United Bank of Kuwait, Baker Street, London W.1.

On 3rd January 1975, a man carrying a paper carrier bag entered a bank and when Mr. Moore, the Manager, went to serve him he was handed a demand for £35,000 and told that if he did not carry out these instructions he would be shot. The note also stated that the carrier contained a bomb which would be detonated if any mistakes were made.

Mr. Moore used delaying tactics saying it would be 15 minutes before the money was ready. In the meantime a security officer who had been in the waiting room when the gunman was allowed through was recognised by the man as a bank employee and told to remain with the manager. All three men sat down and the carrier bag was placed on the floor. Mr. Moore asked to see the gun and it was shown to him and the security officer. As members of the bank returned from lunch they were alerted to the danger. Three customers came into the bank and under cover of serving these individuals the

staff and Mr. Moore took the opportunity to operate the silent alarm.

The man then demanded that he should be given what money was in the tills. Mr. Moore again used delaying tactics and while the money was being put into an envelope a uniformed policeman entered the premises in answer to the alarm call. Mr. Moore told the gunman that the officer was a customer and while the robber's attention was distracted Mr. Moore seized hold of his arm so that the gun was pointed in the air, forced his other arm behind his back and called to the police officer that the man was armed. While the officer summoned assistance Mr. Moore struck the man in the face and the security officer came to his assistance. During the scuffle which followed the gun fell to the floor and was picked up by another member of the staff. Mr. Moore with other staff overpowered and restrained the man.

Later inspection of the carrier bag revealed the contents to be harmless, but the gun was found to be a long barrelled Colt automatic pistol loaded with one round in the breach and eight in the magazine.

Mr. Moore displayed gallantry of a high order when he tackled and disarmed this dangerous and armed criminal.

Brian RICHARDS, Sergeant, West Mercia Constabulary.

During an interview on 21st July 1975 at the home of a businessman, a police constable was threatened by the man he was interviewing. The man was armed with a rifle, but the officer managed to avoid him and left the house to summon assistance.

Among the police officers sent to the scene was Sergeant Richards who was unarmed. As he arrived at the rear of the armed man's house he and several officers saw the man carrying the rifle. At that stage no one knew the whereabouts of the officer who was originally threatened and who had raised the alarm. Without hesitation Sergeant Richards jumped from the police car, drew his truncheon and ran after the man with the intention of catching him and disarming him.

As the armed man reached the rear door of his house he turned and faced Sergeant Richards, raising the rifle to the firing position. He pointed it directly at the officer and fired; the end of the barrel was at that time about 2 yards from the Sergeant who was wounded in the right arm. Despite his wound Sergeant Richards carried on towards the man trying to strike out at him, but his arm was fractured and he lost his grip on the truncheon and it fell to the ground. The Sergeant then grabbed the gunman and held on to his trouser waistband as he tried to get away. The man then hit the Sergeant on the head repeatedly with the rifle until the officer was forced to the ground.

As the officer lay face downwards on the ground he heard the man reloading the rifle and expected to be shot again, but the man fell to the ground beside him, whereupon Sergeant Richards grabbed him by the collar and pulled himself on top of him to prevent his escape. Having done this the officer realised that the man had, in fact, shot himself.

Sergeant Richards displayed bravery of a high order and great devotion to duty when he continued his attempt to overcome and disarm this dangerous man who had already shot and wounded him.

Ruth, Mrs. ROBINSON, Housewife, Willingham, Cambridgeshire.

In the early hours of the morning on 19th December 1975, Mrs. Robinson, who was travelling as a passenger in the car driven by her husband, arrived first at the