

The gunmen then fired several shots at another police car which had arrived in the vicinity and then fled. They were later arrested.

Inspector Watkins displayed outstanding bravery and devotion to duty when alone and unarmed he continued to advance towards these armed and dangerous men until he was shot and seriously wounded.

*Awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal*

George Foster BELL, Sergeant, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Robert Frederick HALL, Inspector, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

Miss Anne CURSIO, Policewoman, Victoria Police Force.

Between May and July, 1971, six letters were sent to the Managing Director of an industrial business. The letters contained threats that explosive devices would be placed in the firm's premises and plants if a demand for \$250,000 was not met.

By the use of notices placed in the advertisement section of a daily newspaper to comply with specific instructions contained in one of the letters, arrangements were made for a courier to travel by aeroplane from Melbourne to Sydney with a large sum of money. The courier would then hand over the money to someone who would make contact at Sydney Airport.

Miss Cursio acted as the courier, followed the instructions given and after establishing her identity with the offender, managed to keep him in conversation for approximately forty minutes before handing over the brief case which contained only \$120 in genuine money, the balance being counterfeit notes. The hand-over of the case took place only shortly before the time the offender was due to board another aeroplane to Brisbane. Miss Cursio planned to accompany the man, but he dismissed her, whereupon other police moved in and arrested the man before the departure of the flight.

Miss Cursio behaved with bravery of a high order in playing the role allotted to her which, in a very tense situation, led to the arrest of a dangerous man who had in several letters threatened violence.

Thomas William DAVIES, Sergeant, Merseyside Police.  
John Frederick LEA, Inspector, Merseyside Police.

Following a shooting incident on 9th July, 1975, when three policemen were fired upon, enquiries revealed that the three gunmen responsible were terrorists.

The following day, as the result of information received, the whereabouts of the gunmen became known. A squad of police officers, thirteen of whom were armed, were sent to the scene. Inspector Lea, Sergeant Davies and another officer were members of the armed support group which followed the senior officers who made the initial entry into the three-storey house. They positioned themselves on the landing outside the door of a first floor flat at the front of the house. It was then discovered that the terrorists were not, as expected, in the top floor flat and, at the same time, Inspector Lea and Sergeant Davies heard men's voices coming from the first floor flat. They shouted that they were police officers and Sergeant Davies kicked at the door while Inspector Lea put his shoulder to it. Almost immediately a shot was fired from inside the room and Sergeant Davies was wounded in the abdomen, but before he fell to the ground he managed to fire a single round. Regardless of the danger, Inspector Lea managed to pull Sergeant Davies out of the line of fire.

Inspector Lea then shouted to the men to lay down their arms and surrender, only to be told that they had 500 lbs. of explosives in the flat and that if the police tried to enter they would blow up the house.

Inspector Lea remained where he was and continued repeatedly to call to the occupants of the flat to come out with their hands up although he could hear the sound of automatic weapons being loaded. After some time the men called that they were coming out; the door opened and the three terrorists appeared with their hands above their heads. Inspector Lea told them to keep their hands up and walk out of the house; they were then arrested. A subsequent search of the premises occupied by the terrorists revealed a number of arms including a light machine gun, a Sten sub-machine gun, hand guns, ammunition, timing devices, detonators, electrical equipment capable of causing an explosion and 500 lbs. of explosives.

Inspector Lea and Sergeant Davies displaying outstanding gallantry, devotion to duty and a complete disregard for their own safety when they fearlessly exposed themselves to great danger to bring about the eventual arrest of these three dangerous criminals.

William Matthew IRVINE, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

Graham John McNICOL, Sergeant, Victoria Police Force.

On 15th May, 1974, serious floods occurred and a message was received that an Army boat containing three Army personnel and three civilians had overturned in a river and that the occupants had been swept along into trees.

Sergeant McNicol who is a member of the Search and Rescue Squad was sent to the scene, where it was found that the river was in flood with a very strong current flow.

The Sergeant who was accompanied by another officer, found that seven people were stranded in the trees in fast flowing water. Nylon life lines were tied together and then tied off to the front of a stationary Army truck. Both men went hand over hand along the life line down a clearing where the current was not as strong, to a point opposite one of the people in a tree. Sergeant McNicol then swam to the tree which was approximately twenty yards out in the strong current, tied the line to the tree and assisted this person in returning to the bank.

Sergeant McNicol again entered the flood water and, using a rope, then floated downstream to where the other people were trapped. Three of those stranded were sitting on a pontoon of timber, reeds and debris banked up in front of the trees. By tying a rope round each one and putting a life jacket around them the rescue of five of the six people was successfully completed under extremely hazardous and dangerous conditions. Unfortunately the sixth, a soldier, drowned during the rescue attempt.

Sergeant McNicol acted with great bravery and endangered his own life to rescue others.

Wilfred TUNSTALL, Senior Constable, New South Wales Police Force.

On 12th May, 1975, a man armed with an automatic rifle shot and wounded a woman. The woman was assisted to safety by police officers who arrived at the scene shortly afterwards.