

where he saw a man lying on the path, but holding a revolver in both hands. The Constable went to tackle the man who got up and went along the road, still brandishing his weapon. The officer followed the man who kept turning and threatening him so he crossed the road and followed from there. The gunman turned into a factory yard and Constable Kiff ran to the shelter of a van parked opposite the yard entrance from where he saw through the driver's window that although the man was semi-prone on his back he appeared to be aiming at a target within the yard. In view of this, the Constable immediately left the cover of the van and ran towards the gunman's back, jumped on him striking him with his truncheon and at the same time disarming him. After the gunman was arrested it was discovered that he had shot himself in the chest.

In facing this dangerous and armed terrorist in the knowledge that he had already caused a bomb explosion and mortally wounded a man, Constable Kiff displayed gallantry and devotion to duty of a very high order. Mr. Chalk and Mr. Stephen also displayed outstanding gallantry and a complete disregard for their safety when they faced this armed criminal.

Awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal

Michael Victor Gordon FAIRFIELD, Sergeant, Warwickshire Constabulary.

On 20th January 1977, following a wages ambush, Sergeant Fairfield was among officers who responded to a police radio call.

As he drove his Panda car towards the scene he noticed a car parked on some waste ground and although this was not the vehicle reported to have been used in the robbery, he became suspicious and decided to stop and investigate. His suspicions were further heightened when the car's two occupants averted their faces. He radioed details of the car to his police control and then left his car; as he approached the other vehicle he saw the passenger lean over to the back seat and pick up a revolver-type weapon. The Sergeant quickly returned to his Panda to report the situation and the other car drove off at high speed. The Sergeant immediately drove in pursuit.

By very skilful driving Sergeant Fairfield managed to keep his vehicle close to the gunman's car in the high speed chase that followed, although the passenger leaned from the car window, took deliberate aim and fired the gun at him. The gun was aimed at him at least five times in the course of the next mile or so, but by taking evasive action he caused the passenger to become unsighted. The man then produced a double-barrelled shotgun and the Sergeant again took evasive action. When the pursued car was forced to stop at a busy road junction the gunman fired on the officer at very close quarters, but Sergeant Fairfield continued to pursue the car, constantly taking evasive action as he was fired upon and pellets from the gun struck the front of the Panda car.

Meanwhile a Constable in another police car had heard reports of the chase, and placed his vehicle across the road when he realised the pursuit was coming in his direction. As the two cars approached him at high speed the gunman's car, by mounting the kerb, managed to pass the blockade closely followed by Sergeant Fairfield. The second officer also followed.

The driver of the stolen car, which had been damaged in mounting the kerb, was by now having difficulty in controlling his vehicle, but his passenger continued to

aim his gun at the Sergeant and fired the weapon. Finally the damaged car came to a halt and the two men got out. The gun was aimed at Sergeant Fairfield who swerved his Panda towards the man. The Constable also saw the men trying to escape and drove his car at them, forcing them into a ditch, but as he left his car to grapple with the men he was forced to take cover as the shotgun was pointed in his direction. The robbers then attempted to drive away in the Constable's vehicle but Sergeant Fairfield turned his car with the intention of ramming them to prevent their escape and drove at the gunman who immediately turned his gun directly at the Sergeant. The panda car struck the gunman who was quickly arrested and disarmed. The second man was also arrested.

Sergeant Fairfield displayed bravery of a high order, resourcefulness and devotion to duty and his actions throughout the pursuit undoubtedly led to the speedy arrest of two armed and desperate criminals.

Brian Leslie GRAHAM, Constable, Northumbria Police.
David Alexander James HEPWORTH, Sergeant, Northumbria Police.

Late in the evening of 22nd January 1977, a man who had been drinking heavily, assaulted his wife and then left his home.

He later produced a sawn-off shotgun from a sack and fired a shot at two men in the street. He returned home and attacked his uncle, beating him savagely about the head with the shotgun and seriously injured him. The gunman again left the house and returned to the street where he once more fired the gun and also struck a youth. He then disappeared, but some time later arrived, still armed with the shotgun, at the home of an acquaintance and forced his way inside. The owner of the house managed to get his wife and child away from danger and contacted the police who were already searching the area.

Sergeant Hepworth and Constable Graham went to the house where the gunman was sheltering and, finding it locked and in darkness, forced an entry. The two officers went upstairs and saw the gunman sitting in a lighted bedroom, facing the door with the shotgun held in both hands. They ran forward towards the man and, as they did, he pointed the gun at them; without hesitation the two officers jumped on him. Sergeant Hepworth grabbed the gunman's left arm and took hold of the barrel of the shotgun. Constable Graham grabbed the man's right arm and held him down on to the bed. A fierce struggle ensued and Sergeant Hepworth eventually managed to wrest the gun from the man's grip, kneeling on his arm while he broke open the weapon which had both barrels loaded. Both officers restrained the man until further assistance arrived.

Sergeant Hepworth and Constable Graham displayed great courage and a complete disregard for their own safety in dealing with an armed criminal in the knowledge that he had already fired his weapon.

Norman Adrian Robert WRIGHT, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

On 9th March 1977 a man entered the office of an Embassy, produced a pistol and threatened the staff. When a woman employed in the office was slow to obey his orders, he fired a shot at the desk, then covered her with his weapon and ordered the rest of the staff to leave the room. As they hesitated he again fired the pistol.