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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.

11th September 1979

(To be dated 10th August 1979)

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards of the George Medal and the Queen's Gallantry Medal and for publication in the *London Gazette* of the names of those shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for Brave Conduct and Commendation for Valuable Services in the Air.

Awarded the George Medal

Elias Harrison ALLEN, Reserve Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

Brendan William BANNAN, Sergeant, Victoria Police.

Awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal

Raymond John MULDER, Police Reservist, Victoria Police.

On 3rd February 1978, two men committed a robbery at a supermarket. The men, who were masked, forced their way into the cash office; as they did so, a cashier shouted into the public address system. One of the criminals held the cashier at gunpoint and the other who was unarmed seized sums of money.

Sergeant Bannan and Police Reservist Mulder who were off duty were shopping separately in the store.

Sergeant Bannan heard the cashier's cries over the address system and made his way to the office: as he reached the doorway one of the robbers held him at gunpoint and made the officer and the cashier face

the wall with their hands above their heads. Unknown to the men, Sergeant Bannan was still in possession of his service revolver and at the first opportunity produced his weapon, announced his identity and ordered them to surrender. The gunman turned and faced the Sergeant and a series of shots were exchanged in a running battle between them as the robbers withdrew with the money. Sergeant Bannan repeatedly called on the men to surrender but the armed criminal continued to fire at him as he pursued them through the store.

Meanwhile Police Reservist Mulder had heard a number of shots fired from the direction of the Cash Office, but he was unaware that Sergeant Bannan was involved in the shooting and, as he cleared customers from the store, he saw an armed man carrying an overnight bag run from the Cash Office towards the main entrance. Mr. Mulder followed the armed raider who turned and pointed the pistol at him from a distance of about 15 feet. He dived at the offender who brushed him aside and the armed man pointed the pistol at him and then ran off. Mr. Mulder kicked at the second offender as he ran past him and succeeded in knocking a bag containing money from his grasp.

Mr. Mulder got to his feet, ran after the two gunmen and was then overtaken by Sergeant Bannan during his pursuit of the men from the store. Mr. Mulder caught up with the Sergeant who had brought down one offender and was wrestling with him on the ground while the other man who was armed pointed his pistol at him. As the Police Reservist approached the armed man pointed his weapon at him and then turned and fled. Sergeant Bannan gave chase while Mr. Mulder subdued the unarmed offender whom the Sergeant had detained.

Sergeant Bannan displayed outstanding gallantry when at very grave risk to himself he persisted in his pursuit of the offenders, in the face of gunfire, as they attempted to escape.