

Police Reservist Mulder also displayed bravery of a high order when, despite being threatened by the armed offender, he went to the assistance of Sergeant Bannan.

*Awarded the George Medal*

Brian Ernest Walter PAWLEY, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

At about mid-day on 11th March 1978, Constable Pawley and a colleague approached a man who, they had been given reason to believe, kept firearms at his home. The man admitted the possession of firearms but said that he held certificates that allowed him to do so. He agreed that the officers might search his home.

Up to that time the man had behaved rationally, but when the officers were not satisfied and asked him to accompany them to the Police Station to clear up another charge, he produced a gun and said he would kill them and then himself.

Constable Pawley tried to reason with the man who was pointing his weapon at the head of the other officer; the gunman immediately turned the gun on him from a distance of about 3 feet. Constable Pawley was sufficiently close to see that the weapon was no imitation and continued to reason with the man who once again pointed the gun at the other policeman. Realising from the man's attitude that he meant to carry out his threat and fearing for his colleague's life, Constable Pawley jumped on him and gripped his wrist to push the weapon away. He was not entirely successful and the man who was strong and powerful turned and grappled for the gun; he then moved the gun at arms length until he could point it at the Constable's chest and fired. The officer felt a terrific impact as the bullet passed into his body: he was still holding the man and called to his colleague to go and summon help. As the other officer ran from the room the gunman fired in his direction but missed his target: he then ran past Constable Pawley who struck at him hoping to knock him off balance.

The man was intent on stopping the other policeman and, as Constable Pawley collapsed on the floor, he heard another shot. The Constable was on his hands and knees and had difficulty in breathing. The gunman returned, fired a random shot and then began to reload the gun. Constable Pawley saw an airgun lying close to him on the floor and, convinced that his colleague was at least wounded, he made up his mind that he would make a last effort to ensure that the gunman was incapacitated so that he could be of no danger to anyone else appearing on the scene. Summoning the maximum effort Constable Pawley got to his feet, faced the man who was still in the process of reloading the revolver and took him by surprise. The Constable at once hit him with the air gun, using it as a club, and knocked the gun from the man's hand. During the struggle which followed the man managed to grasp the air gun, but the officer was able to fight him off. As he pushed the gunman away Constable Pawley struck him about the head and neck until the man collapsed: the Constable tried to drag the assailant out of the flat so that it would be safe for anyone to approach. However, he was too weak to do this so he left the room to look for his colleague: as he did so he fell down the stairs, but managed to reach the street and called for help before collapsing on the pavement. Fortunately Constable Pawley's colleague was uninjured, had quickly summoned assistance and appeared on the scene with other

officers who surrounded the premises. When they entered the flat the man was found dead with a self inflicted shot wound to his chest.

Constable Pawley who sustained serious chest and internal injuries displayed courage of an extremely high order. Not only did he suffer a severe wound to save the life of his colleague in the early stages of the occurrence, but after being so wounded he made every effort to assist him to escape. He then put his life at great risk again to ensure that this extremely strong and violent criminal would not present a danger to anyone else who might come to the scene.

*Awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal*

Joseph Alan ANDREWS, Reserve Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Coloumba Michael PRICE, Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary.

For gallantry in Northern Ireland.

Nelson George BIDGWAY, lately Ministry of Defence Police Officer, North Petherton, Somerset.

On 7th July 1978 a man was seen leaving his home carrying a large woodman's axe. He crossed the road and approached a nearby house where a housewife was working in her hallway. The woman took fright and ran out of her house into a neighbouring garden pursued by the axeman who caught her and brutally killed her by battering her about the head with the axe.

He next pursued the woman's son, who had attempted to save his mother, making a frenzied attack on a locked door, but his attention was then diverted by another woman who arrived on the scene. He followed this woman and, as she ran into an alleyway to escape, he attacked her inflicting serious wounds to her head. He then pursued a man and his wife who had gone to the woman's assistance, attacking their door with the axe and, on gaining entry, chased them through their home aiming a blow at the woman which fortunately missed her head and struck her shoulder; he struck her again on the head, although her husband attempted to protect her.

In the meantime Mr. Bidgway heard the cries of the woman and saw the axeman attacking the second victim. Without hesitation he left his home and rushed to the scene; he then realised that the couple were being attacked. Grasping a sweeping broom he ran to the front of the house where the husband, armed with a metal gate, was attempting to protect his wife. Mr. Bidgway diverted the axeman who raised his weapon and turned to attack him; when the man was about 3 feet away he thrust the broom into his face with great force. This rocked the assailant backwards and Mr. Bidgway immediately followed-up by wrapping his arms around the man, forcing him to the ground. The axeman still retained his hold on his weapon, but Mr. Bidgway knelt across his hands so that he was unable to use it and forced his head on to the ground. With the assistance of the man and his wife the axeman was disarmed and restrained until the arrival of the Police.

Mr. Bidgway displayed outstanding bravery and a complete disregard for his own safety when he confronted and overpowered this armed and mentally deranged man knowing that he had already brutally injured one woman.