



SUPPLEMENT TO  
**The London Gazette**  
 of Thursday, 11th March 1982

**Published by Authority**

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*Registered as a Newspaper*

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FRIDAY, 12TH MARCH 1982

**HONOURS AND AWARDS**

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF  
 KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.  
 12th March 1982.

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.

*Awarded the George Medal*

William George PENSE (Deceased), First Class Constable, Western Australian Police Force.

On 12th October 1979, Constable Pense and a Police Sergeant drove in a marked police vehicle to an isolated farmhouse to serve a court warrant. Both men were in uniform and unarmed, but there was a loaded issue revolver in the glove compartment of their van.

They parked their vehicle near the rear entrance of the farm and Constable Pense's colleague walked towards the door. He had almost reached it when the Constable noticed the owner was armed with a rifle and called a warning. The gunman ordered them off the property and as the Sergeant turned to go back to the vehicle, the man raised his weapon and shot him; the bullet shattered his left wrist before penetrating his stomach.

Both officers ran towards their van to get their weapon, but the gunman fired a volley of shots and one shot hit Constable Pense immediately below his left shoulder and fractured a rib.

Because of his wrist injury, the Sergeant had difficulty in removing the revolver from its holster, but in the meantime Constable Pense had turned and faced their attacker and, as he closed with the gunman, he managed to knock the rifle from his grasp. The man, however, drew a pistol which he had concealed in his shirt pocket and fired several more shots at the Constable. Both men fell to the ground where, despite his wounds, Constable Pense continued the struggle to overcome his assailant. The other officer who by now managed to draw his revolver,

ran towards them and fired four shots at the gunman and finally succeeded in disarming him, but Constable Pense was already dead.

Constable Pense displayed gallantry of a very high order. Although seriously injured he charged the gunman with a complete disregard for his own safety in full knowledge of the risk he faced and, thereby, undoubtedly saved the life of his wounded colleague.

*Awarded the Queens Gallantry Medal*

James Kane FERRIS, Sergeant, Royal Ulster Constabulary

For Gallantry in Northern Ireland

William Richard HASTY, Senior Constable, Victoria Police.

On 27th April 1979, a police officer on patrol noticed a man acting suspiciously. He approached, but was shot before he could take any action; semi-conscious and seriously wounded he was forced into a nearby bank by his assailant who carried out an armed robbery before leaving the scene in a stolen car.

The following day Senior Constable Hasty was on duty some miles away in a divisional police vehicle. He was aware of the bank robbery, that a police officer had been wounded and noticed an individual answering the circulated description of the criminal. The suspect was carrying a suitcase and Constable Hasty who watched him cross the road and enter a lane, drove after him where, although unarmed, he confronted the suspect and questioned him. When challenged about the case, the man opened it and the Senior Constable saw it contained the proceeds of the robbery, a sawn-off shotgun, ammunition, a hunting knife and the mask worn during the bank hold-up. Immediately after opening the suitcase, the man produced a pistol from his rear pocket and pointed it at the officer who, although fearful for his life, immediately grabbed the firearm and after a violent struggle managed to disarm the criminal; he then restrained him until other police assistance arrived.

Senior Constable Hasty displayed gallantry of a high order when alone and unarmed, he faced and disarmed a dangerous criminal, whom he knew had already shot and seriously wounded another police officer.