

Nicholas John ROBERTS, Chief Inspector, Royal Hong Kong Police Force.
TSANG, Hung-lit, Senior Inspector, Royal Hong Kong Police Force.
YEUNG, Kwok-wing, Lately Constable, Royal Hong Kong Police Force.

On 22 July 1991, a male prisoner was escorted to hospital by two Police Officers for medical treatment. Whilst inside the hospital, the prisoner escaped, aided by three armed accomplices who also stole the revolvers of two Police Officers. Intensive investigations followed and the culprits were eventually traced to a house in a village. On 27 July at 7.30 a.m. a team of Police Officers, led by Chief Inspector Roberts, were assigned to raid the premises.

The team were deployed around the suspects' hideout, some were positioned on adjacent rooftops, the others were split into two groups. Chief Inspector Roberts, Senior Inspector Tsang and Constable Yeung were in the group positioned directly opposite the main door of the premises in a small enclosed courtyard. At 9 a.m. the main door opened and a suspect emerged. He was immediately arrested by officers and removed from the area. He informed the police that there were five members of the gang inside the premises, each armed with a pistol and a box of hand grenades.

At 9.35 a.m. the door opened again and one man emerged slowly from the doorway with his hands behind his head as if intending to surrender. Constable Yeung stepped forward to take hold of the man. As he did so the man grabbed hold of Constable Yeung's collar and pressed a hand grenade to the officer's chest slipping one of his fingers through the ring of the grenade's pin. Inspector Tsang came to the aid of his colleague using both hands to hold the hand grenade. As the officers pulled the suspect clear from the doorway they lost their balance and fell to the ground. Meanwhile Chief Inspector Roberts became aware that the other suspects were attempting to rush the doorway in an attempt to escape. To prevent this, he entered the premises and was immediately confronted by a man pointing a pistol directly at him, while his accomplices stood behind. The group fired a number of shots at the officer which narrowly missed him. He returned fire wounding one of the gunmen as the rest fled back up the stairs. As the Chief Inspector left the premises he came under fire from a gunman at an upstairs window. A hand grenade was also thrown from an upper window landing in front of the Inspector and his colleagues who ran for cover. The grenade did not detonate.

Constable Yeung and Inspector Tsang continued their hold on the man carrying the grenade. Their captive shouted to his accomplices for help, that he had two police officers as hostages and that he would detonate the grenade if other police officers came near. Constable Yeung persuaded the armed man to allow Inspector Tsang to leave his position to warn his fellow officers not to make an approach. He left, but made his way to a position of cover. Constable Yeung distracted the armed man by telling him he had been shot as he slowly lifted his foot to kick the gunman, causing him to stagger backwards. He drew his revolver as he came under fire from another gunman crouching in the doorway. The armed man pulled out the grenade's pin and was about to throw it when he was shot through

the head by one of the officers. The armed man fell to the ground on top of the grenade which exploded, killing him.

An exchange of fire took place between the officers and the remaining armed men. Chief Inspector Roberts ordered the culprits to surrender as they had no chance of escape. Shortly after, four men emerged from the premises and surrendered. The building was subsequently searched and the body of the man, who had escaped earlier from police custody, was found. He had received fatal gunshot wounds. The five gunmen were arrested and charged with a number of serious offences.

Chief Inspector Roberts, Inspector Tsang and Constable Yeung all displayed gallantry of a high order when attempting to arrest a highly dangerous gang armed with pistols and grenades. They placed themselves at considerable risk when exposed to danger by cross fire, to prevent the gang from escaping.

Neil SIMPSON, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

On Thursday, 13th April 1989, at approximately 9 a.m., Constable Simpson together with other officers, was detailed to drive to the back of a parade of shops where a raid on a Post Office was believed to be about to take place. As the suspects were known to the police and likely to be carrying weapons, Constable Simpson and a colleague were issued with firearms.

The suspects made their way to the back of the Post Office where they attempted to gain entry by ramming the doors. The attempt failed as police officers moved in. Three men were seen to enter a vehicle, known by the officers to have been previously stolen. As the suspects fled, Constable Simpson and his colleagues took up the chase at high speed. During the chase, the officers were able to see that at least one of the occupants in the stolen car was in possession of a shotgun. The chase ended near a foot-bridge crossing a railway line. The three robbers fled across the bridge and through a narrow alleyway, closely followed by Constable Simpson and a colleague. The officers shouted several warnings to the men to stop as they were armed police officers. On reaching the end of the alleyway, Constable Simpson saw the three suspects approach another getaway vehicle. As the officer shouted another warning to the men, they turned round and two of the suspects raised their hands and pointed their weapons at the officer. A number of shots were fired at Constable Simpson who, although adopting a crouched position, was without cover. The officer managed to return fire and one of the suspects fell to the ground. As the officer turned his weapon towards the second armed suspect, he received a shot in the ankle causing him to stumble and fall to the ground. Determined not to let the suspects escape he continued to fire his weapon from a sitting position. Constable Simpson's colleague took up the challenge and upon firing his weapon, the second armed suspect fell to the ground. The third man was attempting to enter the car when other police officers arrived and he was arrested. The two wounded robbers subsequently died from their injuries and the third was charged and later convicted of a number of serious offences.

Constable Simpson displayed conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when he attempted to stop three