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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St James's Palace, London SW1A
2nd August 1996

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

Awarded The George Medal

Jack CRAWSHAW, Civilian (deceased)
Michael Clive MEE, Station Officer, South Yorkshire
Fire Station (deceased)

For services in trying to rescue a girl who had fallen through thin ice into a lake, when they could not afford to wait for the arrival of proper equipment.

After a period of severe cold December weather a lake, used for rowing and other recreational purposes during the summer, had frozen over. Two girls were walking their dogs around the edge of the lake when one of the dogs broke free and ran onto the ice to chase some ducks. When the dog was approximately 30 metres from the edge it fell through the ice into the water which was around two metres deep. One of the girls went for help while the other ran onto the ice to try to rescue the dog. She fell through the ice into the freezing water.

Mr Mee, an off duty fireman, was walking with his family when he heard the girl's cries for help. After sending his daughter to alert the emergency services, he went to a point on the bank nearest to where the girl had fallen through the ice, and then proceeded to

crawl, slowly, across the ice towards the girl. As he reached her the ice gave way and he fell, head first, into the freezing water.

Mr Crawshaw had seen what had happened to Mr Mee and fetched a tarpaulin sheet from a Church nearby, to spread his body weight. He started to make his way towards Mr Mee and the girl, but as he neared them the ice gave way and he too fell into the freezing water. Despite their attempts to get out of the water or to stay afloat, both men and the girl eventually disappeared beneath the surface. Attempts to save them, by passers-by and the emergency services, were unsuccessful and all three died of hypothermia.

Awarded The Queen's Gallantry Medal

CHEUNG, Kwong-keung, Constable 20432, Royal
Hong Kong Police.
LEE, Man-ying, Sergeant 17258, Royal Hong Kong
Police.
Barry John SMITH, Chief Inspector, Royal Hong
Kong Police.

For services in arresting six heavily armed gang members suspected of committing a number of robberies.

Following an investigation and surveillance operation Chief Inspector Smith, Sergeant Lee and Constable Cheung, together with twelve or so other officers, prepared to raid a flat known to be occupied by members of a gang involved in a number of robberies. The suspects were believed to be armed with pistols, hand grenades and an AK47 assault rifle.

In the early morning, Chief Inspector Smith (then Acting Chief Inspector) led the officers to the front door of the flat, a wooden door with a metal grille gate on the outside. The police placed a fishing net over the doorway to prevent grenades being thrown out before

warning the suspects, by telephone and loud-hailer, that the police had surrounded the flat. Immediately the gang inside fired a short burst of automatic gun-fire through the door, just missing Chief Inspector Smith's head and smashing overhead lights in the corridor.

Sergeant Lee returned fire, preventing the occupants from continuing their defence, and then moved forward to the doorway and fired liquid CS gas through the grille and door into the flat. Constable Cheung moved to the door and tried to punch a hole through the door for an injection of tear-gas powder, but the device he was using malfunctioned, and he had to hand-feed a hose for the gas through the hole in the door created by Sergeant Lee. The occupants of the flat again fired through the door and Sergeant Lee returned fire. Constable Cheung, then fired more liquid CS gas into the flat. As he was doing this, the occupants threw a fragmentation grenade which shook the door.

Liquid CS gas and tear-gas powder continued to be pumped into the flat by the police officers who again came under automatic fire from within.

After other officers had sawed through the mountings of the metal gate, Sergeant Lee removed it. The wooden door was then broken down and flash grenades thrown into the flat which was already filled with thick black smoke caused by a fire started by the gang's fragmentation grenades. After officers had extinguished this fire, Chief Inspector Smith, realising that the assault had lost its momentum, led the raiding party into the flat with only his hand gun for protection. Two suspects were arrested in the flat but four other suspects escaped through windows to different floors in the building, throwing a grenade which wounded other police officers at ground level.

Following a search of the block of flats, led by a Senior Inspector with Chief Inspector Smith, all four remaining suspects were arrested. Police later recovered an AK47 automatic assault rifle, four semi-automatic pistols, six hand grenades and a quantity of ammunition from the flat.

LEUNG, Lai-fun, Woman Constable, Royal Hong Kong Police

For services in arresting a known criminal who had fired shots at officers while trying to escape.

In the early hours of the morning Constable Hon and Constable Wong, who were armed, and WPC Leung, who was unarmed, were assigned with one other officer, to take part in a random check on vehicles and occupants. Constable Leung assisted by Constable Wong were checking the details of two occupants of a taxi which had been stopped by Constable Hon. The taxi then departed and the documents of the two occupants were scrutinised and a query about a bail receipt held by one of the taxi's former occupants followed. As the occupant was being questioned by Constable Hon and Constable Wong, confirmation was received by Constable Leung that he was wanted for robbery. (During this period the other former occupant of the taxi was being questioned by the fourth officer).

The suspect then tried to escape but the two police officers made a determined effort to arrest him. He was grabbed from behind by Constable Hon and from the front by Constable Wong, and Constable Leung assisted by grabbing the suspect's hair. During the ensuing violent struggle "three consecutive shots" were fired and Constable Wong jumped back from the

struggle and drew his gun. Meanwhile Constable Leung (who was unarmed) continued to hold onto the suspect who was in a crouching position. She then noticed that the suspect was aiming what looked like a gun at Constable Wong. As Constable Leung grabbed the suspect around the neck, in order to pull him to the ground, he fired two shots at Constable Wong who sustained a bullet wound to his left arm. The suspect was then arrested as further assistance arrived. It was only then discovered that Constable Hon has been fatally shot, three times, during the initial struggle from bullets fired from his personal revolver which must have been taken from him during the struggle.

Robin Anthony SMITH, Civilian

For services in apprehending one member of an armed gang during a robbery.

Three members of an armed gang entered a cash and carry store at closing time and one fired a shotgun into the ceiling. Mr Smith, the assistant manager, who was standing next to the door grabbed hold of the shotgun barrel and tried to disarm the armed intruder. There followed a violent struggle during which Mr Smith managed to move the intruder away from other members of staff and to knock the shotgun from his grasp. The intruder then pulled out an axe and the struggle continued until Mr Smith managed to disarm the intruder again. As Mr Smith continued to wrestle with him, the intruder pulled a handgun from his jacket. Mr Smith attempted to knock the gun out of his hand but the intruder stepped backwards and started to move away from Mr Smith before turning and firing at him, hitting him in the shoulder. The intruder then grabbed Mr Smith and started to drag him towards the store doors. Mr Smith's attempts to grapple with the man were frustrated by the injury sustained from the pistol shot, but he managed to break free and get out of view of the intruder, returning to the store check outs where he sought to help another member of staff. The police, who had been summoned to the incident by other members of staff, then arrived and arrested one of the gang.

Kevin Wayne EVANS, Civilian

For services in arresting an armed robber following a bank robbery.

Mr Evans was walking along the street when he saw a security van parked outside a bank across the road ahead of him. He noticed a security guard holding an orange bag talking to another male and then saw the male take the orange bag and run across the road towards him.

Mr Evans decided to try and stop the man whom he now realised was a robber even though he saw that the robber had a hand gun. Taking the initiative Mr Evans rugby tackled the robber bringing him to the ground and a violent struggle followed. He was helped by a second member of the public, who having seen the incident, and seeing a struggle in progress, ran to support Mr Evans and managed to pin the arm of the robber to the ground. Mr Evans then managed to force the gun from the robber's grasp. The gun was tossed away and secured by a third member of the public. Both men continued to restrain the still struggling robber until police arrived and arrested him.

Queen's Commendation for Bravery

HON Wing-sang (deceased), Constable, Royal Hong Kong Police

For services in seeking to detain a man wanted for robbery who was fiercely resisting arrest.

In the early hours of the morning Constable Hon and Constable Wong, who were armed, and WPC Leung, who was unarmed, were assigned with one other officer to take part in a random check on vehicles and occupants. Constable Leung and Constable Wong were checking the details of two occupants of a taxi which had been stopped by Constable Hon. The taxi then departed and the documents of the two occupants were scrutinised and a query about a bail receipt held by one of the taxi's former occupants followed. As this occupant was being questioned by Constable Hon and Constable Wong, confirmation was received by Constable Leung that he was wanted for robbery. (During this period the other former occupant of the taxi was being questioned by the fourth officer).

The suspect then tried to escape but the three police officers made a determined effort to arrest him. He was grabbed from behind by Constable Hon and from the front by Constable Wong, and Constable Leung assisted by grabbing the suspect's hair. During the ensuing violent struggle Constable Hon, with his colleagues, hung onto the suspect and did not appear to let go. "Three consecutive shots" were fired and Constable Wong jumped back from the struggle and drew his gun. Constable Leung (who was unarmed) continued to hold onto the suspect, who then aimed a gun at Constable Wong. As Constable Leung grabbed the suspect to pull him to the ground, he fired two shots at Constable Wong, injuring his left arm. The suspect was then arrested as further assistance arrived. It was only then discovered that Constable Hon had been fatally shot, three times, during the initial struggle from bullets fired from his personal revolver which must have been taken from him during the struggle.

Raymond Anthony NELSON (deceased), Civilian

For services in saving seven people from fire in an accommodation block.

While on duty at an oil site in Kazakhstan, Mr Nelson was accommodated with seven colleagues in an 11 bedroom accommodation block. Very late at night, probably shortly after he had closed the bar where he was working as barman and had gone to bed, he was woken by an alarm. Mr Nelson found the accommodation block was on fire and filled with smoke. He left the block to assess the position, then returned to rouse the other occupants and lead them out of the block to safety. He returned to the block on several occasions to help his colleagues escape. He was finally overcome by smoke, and could not find his way out of the building. His body was recovered later. Through his brave actions he helped to save the lives of seven colleagues.

Kevin ROBERTSON, Civilian

For services in assisting in the arrest of an armed robber following a bank robbery.

Mr Robertson had witnessed a robbery involving a security guard delivering cash to a bank and started to chase the robber, catching up with him just after he had been rugby tackled to the ground by a first member of the public. Mr Robertson supported the first member

of the public in the ensuing violent struggle and Mr Robertson managed to pin the arm of the robber to the ground. This allowed the first member of the public to force the gun from the robber's grasp. The gun was tossed away and secured by a third member of the public. Both men continued to restrain the still struggling robber until police arrived and arrested him.

Ralph WECKER, Civilian

For services in saving the life of a child who had fallen into a fast flowing river.

A 22 month old girl had been playing in the garden of her home, which backed onto the river, when she went to feed some ducks. She slipped and fell into the river and was carried upstream by the fast flowing current in a dangerous stretch of water.

Mr Wecker, who was on holiday on a boat moored some 400 yards upstream, saw what he thought was a bundle of rags in the water. He then realised that it was the child. Although not a strong swimmer, he immediately jumped into the river and swam towards the child. He dragged her to the bank, got her out of the water and administered first aid until the emergency services arrived. By his quick thinking and actions Mr Wecker saved the life of the child who was suffering from shock and hypothermia when lifted out of the river.

Rodney Charles BUSH BEM, Constable, Lincolnshire Police

Derek Thomas DANIELS, Constable, Lincolnshire Police

Gregory Paul MARKS, Constable, Lincolnshire Police

For services in arresting a gunman and his accomplice following a robbery: despite shots fired indiscriminately at them from a .22 semi-automatic rifle held by one suspect.

After receiving information of a robbery Constables Bush, Marks, Daniels and others started to search the surrounding area for the two, juvenile, suspects. The two suspects, one male and one female, were found entering a field of rape. Constables Marks and Bush arrived at the field, which was behind and close to residential houses, and Constable Marks entered the field and approached the two suspects. He was within 30 yards of them when he noticed that the male suspect was carrying a rifle, which later turned out to have been stolen the previous day.

Meanwhile Constable Bush had decided to try and cut off the suspects by making his way around to the rear of the field. As Constable Marks shouted at the male suspect holding the rifle to put down the gun, the gunman, holding the rifle level and at waist height, fired a first shot in his direction from about 25 yards. Constable Marks took cover by ducking down in the rape. The suspect also pointed and aimed the rifle twice at Constable Bush. Constable Marks shouted another warning at the gunman while continuing to walk slowly towards him and his accomplice both of whom had started to back away. Constable Marks was by that time aware that Constable Daniels had also entered the field and was also closing in on the suspects as was PC Bush. At one stage the suspect fired in the general direction of Constable Daniels.

The gunman fired two further shots into the air, in the direction of Constable Marks. He then aimed the rifle twice, without firing, at the Constable as the officer continued to advance, before seemingly firing two

further shots in the air, but not in anybody's direction. As the gunman's attention turned to Constables Bush and Daniels, Constable Marks moved in closer. He saw that both suspects had walked into a slight clearing and that the gunman was trying to reload the rifle. He took this opportunity to rush the gunman, forcing him to the ground. At the same time Constables Bush and Daniels moved in and assisted in the arrest of the gunman and his female accomplice, both of whom received substantial sentences of imprisonment for the robbery concerned.

Andrew Michael KEYTE, Constable, Metropolitan Police
Deborah Karen WRIGHT, former Constable, Metropolitan Police

For services in chasing two suspected armed robbers, during which time they were fired upon on a number of occasions.

Constables Keyte and Wright were on patrol in their police car when they saw two men acting suspiciously, running between two cars in a car park. As the officers stopped to investigate the men got into one of the cars, a white Cavalier, and drove off, passing the police car at high speed.

During the subsequent eight minute high speed chase through a residential area one of the men, who was in the back seat of the car, smashed the rear windscreen and pointed a handgun towards the police car. Despite seeing this and hearing the sound of gun shots on three separate occasions PC Keyte continued the chase, while PC Wright was continuing to give an account of what was happening over the radio. As the police car got closer, a fourth burst of shots was fired, hitting the vehicle and causing it to drop back slightly. But it still continued to pursue the vehicle. Shortly after this the police car was involved in a collision and took no further part in the pursuit. One of the suspects was later arrested.

Kevin ASHMORE, Constable, Kent Constabulary
Michael John DAVIS, Constable, Kent Constabulary
Richard John Steven WATSON, Constable, Kent Constabulary

For services in arresting a man armed with a shotgun who was firing indiscriminately.

Constables Watson, Davis and Ashmore were alerted to an armed suspect who was walking down a road and who had fired several shots indiscriminately. Constable Davis (unarmed) arrived at the scene first and positioned his vehicle behind other police vehicles already following the suspect. The suspect fired a shot at the police hitting Constable Davis' car.

An Armed Response Unit, containing Constables Watson and Ashmore then arrived and the Unit Constables drew their weapons and put on body armour before leaving the vehicle. They positioned themselves on either side of the road, about 100 yards behind the man and in front of the police vehicles. In response to the armed officers' shouted warning, the suspect aimed and fired his gun at them. Constable Ashmore then entered a field to the right of the road to try and get ahead of the gunman. Constable Watson walked along the left side of the road to keep the suspect in view ordering him to put down his weapon. On several occasions the suspect fired at both Constables and at the following police vehicles.

Realising that the suspect was nearing a built-up area, increasing the risk to the public, Constable Davis drove his car forward to pick up Constable Watson. They then slowly drove towards the suspect, coming under fire on several occasions. Constable Watson challenged and then shot the suspect who fell to the ground still holding his weapon. Then Constable Watson fired another shot at the suspect who dropped his gun. As Watson and Ashmore, who had arrived after the suspect had been shot, covered him Davis approached and handcuffed the suspect.

The brave actions of all three officers were instrumental in preventing danger to members of the public.

Hugh Montgomery ALEXANDER, Sergeant, Royal Ulster Constabulary

Paul Ignatius COYLE, Full-time Reserve Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary

For Bravery in Northern Ireland.

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