



SUPPLEMENT TO

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FRIDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER 1998

## HONOURS AND AWARDS

### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St James's Palace, London S W 1

20th November 1998

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

#### The Queen's Gallantry Medal

##### Kenneth DAVIES, Civilian

For assisting the Fire Service and helping thereby to safeguard the lives of the fire crews, in fighting a blaze at a Liquefied Petroleum Gas supply depot

On 28th December 1996 fire broke out at a Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) supply depot at Aiskew, North Yorkshire. Seeing the fire from the air, Mr Davies, an engineer with Calor Gas with experience of bulk storage installations and safety drills, landed his glider and went to offer assistance to the Fire Brigade who had been at the scene for around three hours.

The blaze was well established and some 200 gas cylinders had exploded in the first hour, and others were still likely to do so and be propelled into the air. The fire was being fed from the ruptured supply lines from two 30 tonne storage tanks, which were by then completely engulfed in flames. Mr Davies volunteered to assist the Fire Brigade in assessing the position from a hydraulic platform and then by a closer inspection from the edge of the site. From this it was decided, with

the incident commander, that the only way to reduce the fire and therefore remove the threat of a massive explosion of the main tanks would be to shut off the supply valves mounted on the two bulk storage tanks at the rear of the site. Mr Davies again volunteered to do this, despite the acute danger from the fire and risk of explosion.

Because of the intense heat, the incident commander decided to use hand held water jets to provide a protective "shield" for the firefighters so that they could move towards the tanks. After one and a half hours of preparation, involving briefing and equipping the fire teams, two teams of firefighters, with one back-up team and Mr Davies, entered the site. Using high pressure water they drove a tunnel through the intense fire, and gradually moved forward over a surface of burning and burnt out LPG cylinders until they reached the eight foot sloped wall that surrounded the two bulk storage tanks. They then had to scramble over the wall into a two foot wide corridor between the wall and the tanks. The flames then had to be pushed back by further jets of water so that Mr Davies could reach, and close, the valves on the first tank. As he did this, the intensity of the fire and heat increased and it became clear that the valve on the second tank had to be shut down also, and quickly.

One of the spray teams of firefighters was detached, with Mr Davies, to tackle the second tank. They inched their way along the narrow corridor towards it, where Mr Davies managed to shut down the valve. Because only one team could be spared to spray water at this time, the intensity of heat facing Mr Davies was even greater than before, and burned the hair on his face. Once the valve had been shut off the firefighters and Mr Davies slowly worked their way back towards the

other team, and then all made their way out of the site. It was only at this stage that the fire started to decrease.

Mr Davies' efforts prevented a massive explosion and greatly reduced the threat of loss of life and injury to the firefighters who were seeking to protect built up and shopping areas, respectively 50 and 400 metres from the site boundaries.

Ian John SMITH, Civilian  
Derrick WHALLEY, Civilian

For persisting in the prevention of an armed robbery

On Wednesday, 5th February 1997, a security van called at a local government council office where poll tax was collected. As one of the security guards returned to the van with a sealed cash bag, he was confronted by two armed men. Mr Whalley, an elderly civilian who was leaving the council offices, saw the guard being attacked by one of the armed men, and shouted at the other guard to remain inside the locked van. As the second armed man threatened Mr Whalley, he went into the offices to alert the staff and other members of the public to send for the police.

Mr Whalley then returned to the scene and attempted to disarm one of the men by striking out with his walking stick. In doing so he was shot at and suffered a graze on his shoulder. As the two armed men made good their escape, Mr Whalley once more struck out at them with his walking stick, hitting one, several times, on the shoulder.

During this time Mr Smith had seen the incident from his van and had moved his vehicle into position to try and block the exit from the car park to foil the escape of the two armed men. One of the armed men fired at him, and Mr Smith's nearside van window was shattered. When he saw the get-away van reversing quickly, he immediately put his vehicle into reverse to block the robbers again. Another gun shot was discharged nearby (hitting his dashboard as he discovered later), but undeterred by this Mr Smith followed the robbers as they drove away down the highway, pursuing them until they abandoned their vehicle. Though he knew they were armed, Mr Smith then pursued them on foot until he lost sight of them.

#### Queen's Commendation for Bravery

Kevin William Daniel MCGLINCHEY, Constable,  
Metropolitan Police

Jonathan Lee WRIGHT, Constable, Metropolitan  
Police

For services in the arrest of four armed robbers

In the early hours of the morning four armed and masked men forced their way into a wine bar and ordered the customers and staff to lie on the floor while the contents of the safe were taken and then personal jewellery and money. While this was happening one member of staff managed to slip away and call the police.

As the first two police officers arrived the robbers escaped through a side door and, before getting into their getaway car, fired a shot at the officers. Constables McGlinchey and Wright, who had arrived a few moments later in their police car, saw the robbers making their escape and heard one of their colleagues report that the robbers had fired a shot at them. They gave chase in their car. After a short distance the robbers' car braked and a shot was fired directly at the

pursuing police car shattering the windscreen and narrowly missing Constable Wright who was the passenger. Despite being fired upon, and having a shattered windscreen, Constables McGlinchey and Wright continued in their pursuit of the armed robbers and were shot at on two further occasions.

Shortly afterwards the robbers' car spun out of control and came to a stop. The occupants got out, faced Constables McGlinchey and Wright in their police car which had stopped a short way back, and fired another two shots at the two constables before trying to make their escape.

Constables McGlinchey and Wright continued to pursue the robbers (one with a handgun, and one with a sawn off shot gun) on foot. They were joined by other officers, some of whom were armed, and the two robbers were arrested in separate incidents a short while later.

Derek Howard SHEPHERD, Constable, Metropolitan  
Police

For services in the arrest of an armed suspect

Constable Shepherd and colleagues were called to a flat after reports of a fight involving at least four people. As Constable Shepherd approached the door of the flat, with two colleagues, he noticed that it was slightly ajar and that someone was standing behind it. Constable Shepherd tried to force the door but was confronted by two men who had been behind the door and who attempted to push their way past the police to escape. A violent struggle took place with Constable Shepherd and his colleagues. A first suspect broke free and ran from the building, only to be caught by other officers who were outside. As this suspect was so violent, all five officers were involved in trying to restrain and arrest him.

As this was taking place, the second suspect tried to leave the scene. He was spotted by Constable Shepherd, who grabbed him. A fierce struggle ensued, with the two ending up on the floor with Constable Shepherd on top. As Constable Shepherd struggled to restrain the suspect, the man pulled a gun from his jacket and shot, point blank, at Constable Shepherd grazing his leg and hand. The shot fatally wounded another officer who had come to assist Constable Shepherd. The gunman then fired another shot. Despite his injuries Constable Shepherd continued to struggle with the gunman, seeking to block the action of the trigger and prise the gun from the man's hand. He was then joined by other officers who succeeded in forcing the gun away and then arrested the gunman. During the struggle Constable Shepherd had placed his injured hand over the hammer of the gun to stop it being fired again, so protecting himself and colleagues from further harm.

Miss Emma Jane Tracey SWANNELL, Civilian

For assisting in the protection of a member of the public who was being attacked by a man armed with a knife

During the early hours of the morning following a night out, Miss Swannell was walking with her boyfriend when she saw one man chasing another. The men ran past her and as they did so she noticed that the second man was waving a large knife. As Miss Swannell watched, she saw the first man fall to the ground and the second with the knife start to slash and stab the man on the floor.

Miss Swannell immediately ran towards the two men and tried to drag off the assailant. After a short while she managed to stop the assailant, who looked at her and then ran off. As he escaped he slashed her boyfriend who was standing in his path. Until medical assistance arrived, Miss Swannell comforted the man on the ground, who had severe cuts to his head and neck.

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