



Registered as a newspaper

Published by Authority

Established 1665

The London Gazette

of Thursday 23 March 2000

Supplement No. 1

Honours and Awards

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St James's Palace, London S.W.1.

24th March 2000

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.

George Medal

William DEACON (deceased). Lately Winchman, Search and Rescue Helicopter.

For his actions during the rescue of the crew of a shipwrecked cargo vessel.

On 19th November 1997, Mr Deacon was a member of a Search and Rescue helicopter team called to assist the crew of a cargo vessel which had suffered engine failure and was drifting helplessly in a severe storm off the coast of Shetland. There were 15 crew members on board. While attempts to rescue them by a lifeboat and two other vessels enabled five crew members to be taken off, the extreme sea and weather conditions, with 30ft waves and surface winds of between 50 and 70 knots, prevented further attempts by the rescue craft. A helicopter was called to the scene.

An initial attempt by the helicopter commander to winch up two injured crew members was abandoned as the vessel was rolling badly and close to shore. However, once the tug had managed to secure the cargo vessel's anchor it halted the drift to shore and rescue operations

re-commenced. Mr Deacon, the winchman, was lowered to the deck to supervise the airlifting of the 10 remaining crew members. He detached himself from the winch and secured himself to another safety line. Three lifts, each of two crew members, were successfully completed before the anchor cable parted and the vessel once again drifted rapidly towards the shore.

A further lift was completed before the vessel ran hard against rocks and rolled heavily to one side. Mr Deacon and the last two crew members were engulfed by a wave, but he was able to attach them to the winch. The vessel's Master and the last crew member were airlifted to safety, leaving Mr Deacon alone, some 15 minutes after he had first been lowered to the deck.

At this point, the vessel, already unstable, began to roll violently, up to 60° either side of the vertical, and Mr Deacon was swamped several times by waves. Before the winch could be lowered again, he was washed into the sea. He then suffered the full impact of being thrown against the vessel and lost his life. His body was recovered the following day.

Anthony John DOHERTY (deceased). Lately Boatman, Fast Rescue Craft.

For his actions during the attempted rescue of a man who fell into the sea from a North Sea gas rig.

On 19th February 1998, a maintenance team was present on a gas rig 110 miles off Aberdeen conducting a routine inspection. Two men were examining the lower underdeck in the breakwater area when one of them fell through a hole in the walkway into a partially enclosed area of water. Although he was wearing a life jacket, the turbulence of the water and the effects of the cold quickly fatigued him. Within a few minutes, he was floating helplessly, unable to grasp the lines and rope ladder dropped to him by his colleagues on the deck above.

As soon as the alarm had sounded, a Fast Rescue Craft was launched. Its crew managed to get the boat close to the rig, but were unable to gain access to the man through the protective "Jarlan wall" which could be crossed only through a series of 1.5 metre holes. At this point, despite the two-metre sea swell, Mr Doherty, a member of the Fast Rescue Craft crew, climbed into one of the holes in the wall and attempted to throw a line to the man. When this failed, he dived into the enclosed water and managed to reach the man, who was now unconscious. He tried to swim with him to the side wall, but the water was too rough and was flowing fast from outside through the holes in the wall and he lost his grip on the man. The unconscious man drifted away from him and Mr Doherty again swam after him and tried to put a Perry Buoy (life ring) over his head. By now Mr Doherty was himself struggling. Various attempts by others to help Mr Doherty and the other man failed, and Mr Doherty then lost consciousness.

The co-pilot of a helicopter supporting the maintenance team volunteered to try to rescue the two men. He was wearing a survival suit, which afforded him some protection from the effects of the cold water, and a life jacket. Attached to a safety line, he climbed down a ladder to the surface of the water, and with the help of others was able to bring up Mr Doherty and the other man. Unfortunately, both Mr Doherty and the man he had tried to rescue were later declared dead from exposure in the bitterly cold water.

Queen's Gallantry Medal

Derek HILL. Civilian.

For his actions in the prevention of an armed robbery at a Post Office.

On the morning of Monday 7th July 1997, an armoured security van arrived at a Post Office to make a cash delivery. A security guard was delivering cash bags in security boxes to a staff office entered through a security door at one end of the service counter. The Post Office manager, Mr Hill, opened the door for the security guard each time he made a delivery. During this delivery, there were at least 20 customers waiting to be served, and four counter staff, in the Post Office.

The security guard successfully made three journeys into the office. As Mr Hill opened the security door for a fourth delivery, a man suddenly came up behind the guard from one of the counter queues. He pushed the security guard into the office and entered behind him brandishing a handgun. He then aimed the gun in the direction of members of staff and demanded that he be given the cash bags and security box.

Without hesitation, Mr Hill lunged forward and seized the gunman's arm. A violent struggle ensued as they grappled together, during which the gunman tried to take aim at Mr Hill. Mr Hill managed to force the arm that was holding the gun towards the ceiling. It was at this point that the gun fired, and the gunman threatened to shoot Mr Hill who maintained a hold on the gunman whilst the struggle continued. The gun then fired a second

time, but Mr Hill still held on and managed to punch the gunman in the stomach with his free hand. The gunman then attempted to escape and pulled away from Mr Hill towards the partially open security door. As he did so, he stumbled in the doorway and Mr Hill managed to close the door, trapping the gunman's leg as he lay with his body on the other side of the door. He had lost his grip on the gun in the fall and struggled to get free. However, staff and customers helped Mr Hill to keep the gunman trapped in the doorway until police officers arrived and arrested him.

Queen's Commendation for Bravery

Ian Paul CHURMS. Police Constable, Northamptonshire Police.

Patrick Rowan HARRIS. Detective Constable, Northamptonshire Police.

For actions during the course of an armed incident in which lives were threatened.

As a woman arrived home late one evening, she saw her ex-boyfriend standing by her front door. He began to shout aggressively at her and, when she attempted to pacify him, he punched her in the neck and threatened her with a knife. He forced her into her house with him, and took her to the kitchen where, being frightened, she called out for her daughter who was upstairs.

The daughter saw the assailant as she came down stairs and tried to escape, but he grabbed her and punched her repeatedly in the face. Then, as she attempted to reach the telephone to call the police, the assailant ripped the telephone wires from the wall. He then continued his assault on the mother, but after a struggle she and her daughter managed to escape from the house, and ran across the road to the house of Detective Constable Harris. DC Harris was aware of the potential threat of violence from the assailant, as he had previous knowledge of the harassment the women had suffered. Nevertheless, he let them into his home.

The women were very frightened, and DC Harris telephoned for the duty police. Whilst waiting for the police's arrival, and having seen the assailant leave the area, the daughter returned to her house to close the front door. She then returned for safety to the house of DC Harris, and handed him the discarded knife which she had found. A short while later, a duty police officer arrived and suggested taking a statement from the women in their own home.

At this point Constable Churms, a dog handler, also arrived and the first police officer stopped to brief him on what had occurred. The women, meanwhile, continued walking towards their home, and passed out of sight of the police officers. As they opened the front door, the assailant suddenly appeared from the side of the house armed with a rifle. The women managed to get into the house and shut the door, but the assailant smashed his way inside. He then grabbed the mother as she tried to escape from the back of the house and pointed the gun at her head. Meanwhile, the daughter ran upstairs, and

called from a window to alert the police officers who were unaware of his arrival, and still on the other side of the road.

On hearing her shouts, the first police officer ran towards the house and saw broken glass in the door. He then called his colleague, Constable Churms, who got his police dog and also ran towards the house. At this point, the daughter ran out of the house, and was led away to safety. From his position on the pavement by the front gate, Constable Churms could see the assailant struggling with the mother in the hallway. As the assailant emerged from the house holding the gun to her head, Constable Churms challenged him. He pleaded with the assailant to put the gun down, but the assailant continued to threaten the woman who was now screaming. Constable Churms then called for further assistance on his radio, and again pleaded with the assailant. This time, the assailant aimed and fired the gun at Constable Churms, hitting him in the leg. He fell to the ground letting go of his dog's lead.

At that moment, the woman managed to get free and began to run away, followed by the dog, but the assailant fired at her and hit her in the back, and she fell to the ground. When the dog turned to face the assailant, he shot it dead. The assailant then stood over Constable Churms and pointed the gun in his face, but the injured woman's pleas made him return to her and check her wound. She was bleeding badly and, from where he lay, Constable Churms again asked the man to put the gun down. The assailant told him to be quiet, picked the woman up and moved away. At this point, Constable Churms attempted again to call for assistance on his radio, but the assailant returned and ripped the radio from his hand. The assailant then grabbed the woman and dragged her towards DC Harris's home, where he attempted unsuccessfully to break into the locked and parked police vehicles.

Meanwhile, Constable Churms managed to struggle to another house in the road. The assailant saw Constable Churms' escape and, letting go of the woman, began to run after him. This enabled the woman to run back into DC Harris's house to seek safety, and again he let her in. But in doing so, DC Harris and his family also became a target for the assailant's attention, as the assailant then returned to DC Harris's house. Unable to kick through the front door, he went to the back door and gained entry that way by smashing a glass panel.

By now, DC Harris had positioned himself at the top of the stairs, close by the woman, his own partner and their child, all of whom had hidden for safety in an upstairs bedroom. As the assailant climbed the stairs aiming the gun in front of him, DC Harris backed into the bedroom and positioned himself behind the bedroom door.

On reaching the top of the stairs, the assailant turned on all the lights and then pointed the gun through the open doorway of the occupied bedroom. Without hesitation, DC Harris grabbed hold of the gun barrel, and pushed the aim of the gun away from the woman and his family. At this point the gun fired, and as PC Harris wrestled to get control of it, both he and the assailant fell to the floor in a violent struggle. As the struggle continued, the assailant threatened to kill DC Harris. As they tumbled down the stairs locked in combat, DC

Harris managed to get the gun away from him. He was able then to restrain the assailant until two further police officers arrived, and the assailant was then arrested.

Max Lorenz Camillo NEILL-GORDON. Helicopter pilot.

For his actions during the attempted rescue of a man who fell into the sea from a North Sea gas rig.

On 19th February 1998, a maintenance team was present on a gas rig 110 miles off Aberdeen conducting a routine inspection. Two men were inspecting the lower underdeck in the breakwater area when one of them fell through a hole in the walkway into a partially enclosed area of water. Although he was wearing a life jacket, the turbulence of the water and the effects of the cold quickly fatigued him. Within a few minutes, he was floating helplessly, unable to grasp the lines and rope ladder dropped to him by his colleagues on the deck above. A colleague then dived into the enclosed water and made several attempts to swim, with the now unconscious man, to the side. But the water was too rough. Within minutes he got into difficulty himself and lost consciousness.

Mr Neill-Gordon, the co-pilot of a helicopter supporting the maintenance team, then volunteered to try to rescue the two men as other attempts failed. He was wearing a survival suit, which afforded him some protection from the effects of the cold water, and a life jacket. Attached to a safety line, he climbed down a ladder to the surface of the water. Holding onto the ladder he was able to get hold of one crew member and attach him to a winch which started to lift the man from the water. Mr Neill-Gordon then managed to grab hold of the other man's harness, pull him to the ladder and attach him to it using the man's harness clips. Mr Neill-Gordon then climbed out of the water and helped others bring out the two men. Unfortunately, both those who had been in the water without protective clothing were later declared dead from exposure in the bitterly cold water.

Michael Peter ROXBY. Detective Constable, Norfolk Constabulary.

For his actions in preventing an attempted armed robbery of a building society.

Detective Constable Roxby was at the counter of his building society, when a man entered the premises and approached the counter. As he did so, the man removed two carrier bags from a pocket and lifted his jacket to reveal the handle of a sawn off double shotgun which was concealed in his trousers. He shouted "armed robbery" and threw the carrier bags on the counter at the position next to that being used by DC Roxby. The robber ordered the teller to put money in the bags.

DC Roxby believed he saw the robber using some sort of weapon. He immediately lunged at the robber and managed to grab hold of his body. As he struggled to get free, the robber managed to remove a shotgun from his trousers. DC Roxby saw the shotgun, but continued to hold on to the robber giving a number of staff the opportunity to run to safety.

A violent struggle then followed and at one point the robber aimed the shotgun at DC Roxby with its barrels pressed against his stomach and shouted "bang bang". DC Roxby struggled to hold the shotgun away from

himself and the staff behind him although the robber still held on to it. As the fight continued, DC Roxby received minor stab wounds to his back and chest from a knife which the robber was also holding, though he did not notice the injuries at the time. The robber opened the street door and he and DC Roxby crashed onto the pavement outside. There DC Roxby fell on top of the robber and restrained him, pulling the shotgun from his grip and tossing it out of reach. He continued to restrain the robber until other police officers arrived and arrested him.

Antoni Ambrose SMITH. Constable, Sussex Police.

For his actions during the course of an armed incident during which lives were threatened.

On Sunday 13th December 1998, Constable Smith, a Dog Handler, was called to a flat where a man armed with two knives was holding a woman and two young children hostage.

On arrival, he donned protective body armour and, accompanied by his police dog, joined fellow police officers who were attempting to talk to the man. The man, standing just inside the front door of the flat, was threatening to harm the children and was physically restraining the woman whilst holding a knife to her body. Tension increased as continued attempts to negotiate the release of the hostages failed, and escalated further as the man became more and more agitated. At one point, he lunged at the police officers with the knife, whilst still holding onto the woman, and they were forced to retreat. By now the woman and children were screaming in fear.

Sensing the urgency of the situation, Constable Smith entered the flat through a second door armed with a baton and accompanied by his dog. There he saw the man standing in a doorway, the knife pointing at the woman's abdomen and a hand around her neck. Constable Smith shouted for the man to drop the knife and without hesitation, charged at him, striking the man's knife hand with his baton and bodily knocking him away from the woman. He then forced the man to the ground managing to get the knife away and restraining him until other police officers arrived. The man was then arrested.

Peter Chalkley SMITH. Inspector, Greater Manchester Police.

Stephen John BENTLEY. Constable, Greater Manchester Police.

Paul David HEAP. Constable, Greater Manchester Police.

For their actions in chasing and arresting a man armed with a sawn-off shotgun.

On 1st January 1998 at 12.30 a.m., police officers attended a public house where a fight had broken out between a number of people. Whilst they were trying to restore order at the scene they heard shouting that someone had a gun, followed by a gunshot from outside. Constable Heap looked out of the door and saw two men running towards the pub. One was chasing the other brandishing a sawn-off shotgun.

Constable Heap went back inside to inform his colleagues and warn the people in the building to take cover, and then looked back outside to see a number of people struggling with each other. There followed another gunshot and then the man being chased stumbled

into the pub with a gunshot wound to his hand. At this Constable Heap, accompanied by Inspector Smith and Constable Bentley, left the premises and chased the gunman who had run off down the road with two other men.

On reaching a nearby junction, the men stopped and appeared to struggle with each other. The gunman then turned and levelled the shotgun at the pursuing officers, shouting for them to leave him alone. He then ran on with the other two men running off in other directions. All three police officers continued to chase the gunman and he again turned and pointed the shotgun at the officers shouting for them to leave him alone. He continued to run and the officers followed at a close distance.

Soon afterwards the gunman entered an alleyway and stopped outside the entrance to a shop. He again turned and faced the police officers, shouting that if they did not leave him alone he would shoot them. The officers continued to approach and Constable Heap was able to strike him on the head with his baton, whilst Constable Bentley fired CS spray in his face. Inspector Smith grabbed the gunman and managed to wrestle the gun from his grip. The three officers then successfully restrained and arrested him.

Paul Geoffrey STUBBLES. Fire-fighter, Somerset Fire Brigade.

Paul Anthony WILLIAMS. Fire-fighter, Somerset Fire Brigade.

For their actions in saving the life of a woman who had fallen into a river during severe flooding.

On 6th August 1997, a team of fire fighters was pumping floodwater from the cellar of a public house. Heavy rainfall in the area over a period of three days had brought severe flooding and the river nearby had burst its banks, bringing the level of the water just below the top of the arch of a small bridge that spanned it.

In response to an alert, the team ran to the river where they saw a woman up to her neck in water, clinging to the side of the bridge to prevent herself being swept away by the strong current. Fire-fighter Stubbles was tied to a rescue line and lowered over the parapet of the bridge into the water by another fire fighter. He grabbed the woman's left wrist and held onto her in order to stop her being washed away, whilst she continued to hold onto the bridge with her other hand.

Meanwhile, Fire-fighter Williams entered the river from the riverbank tied to a rescue line held by another fire fighter on the bank. He attempted to reach the woman, but was prevented from doing so by the strong current. He made a second attempt and had nearly reached her when she lost her grip on the bridge. Fire-fighter Stubbles was also losing his grip on the woman and was in danger of being swept under the bridge himself. With only a single fire fighter holding his line, he could not be pulled back unless he released the woman. Seeing this difficulty another fire officer entered the water and grabbed the woman's free hand, but began to sink under the water. As he was unsecured by a line, he sought to save himself by clutching Fire-fighter William's rescue line.

As the woman and the two fire fighters disappeared below the surface, Fire-fighter Stubbles managed to keep hold of the woman's left wrist and succeeded in pulling

her back to the surface. Fire-fighter Williams and the third fire officer were hauled to the bank on fire-fighter Williams' rescue line by the fire fighters on the bank. Seeing the urgency of the situation, Fire-fighter Williams re-entered the water a little upstream, and allowed himself to drift with the current towards the woman. When he reached her, he took a firm hold of her body but as Fire-fighter Stubbles released his grip, both Fire-fighter Williams and the woman were dragged below the surface of the water by the current. Fire-fighter Williams did not release his hold on the woman and both were pulled on the rescue line to safety on the bank. Fire-fighter Stubbles was similarly pulled to safety onto the bridge.

Andrew Mark WEATHERILL. Fire-fighter, North Yorkshire Fire Brigade.

For attempting to save the life of a child trapped inside a car that had become submerged in a flooded quarry.

A fire brigade crew was called to a quarry into which a car with a young child inside had rolled and become submerged under approximately seven metres of water.

Fire-fighter Weatherill was not trained in under-water rescue and initially he attempted surface dives in order to reach the vehicle. But he was unsuccessful owing to the depth of the water, poor visibility and lack of air. He then improvised some equipment and re-entered the water wearing fire-fighting breathing apparatus and carrying a winch cable with a large limestone boulder as ballast. This weight counter-balanced the air in the breathing equipment, which was not designed for use under water. He walked some three to four metres from the bank, becoming completely submerged. Despite a visibility of only 30 cms, he managed to find the car, lying on its roof.

He then secured the winch cable to the rear axle of the car, before finding and opening the rear door. With his shoulder wedged under the upper sill of the car, he released the boulder and began to search the car interior. At first he could not find the child and so climbed into the car to look further. He finally found her in the front foot well and, gathering her in his arms, left the vehicle by the rear door. The buoyancy of the breathing apparatus brought them both to the surface where they were taken ashore by other members of the supporting fire-fighting team.

The girl was taken to hospital, but unfortunately died a few days later.

Published and printed in the UK by The Stationery Office Limited
under the authority and superintendence of Carol Tullo, Controller of
Her Majesty's Stationery Office and Queen's Printer of Acts of Parliament.
Price £2.50

ISSN 0374-3721

ISBN 0-11-665799-5



9 780116 657992