

the suspect with CS gas but it had no effect. The suspect turned on PC Henry and backed him into a confined space. The officer was then stabbed as he backed away and fell to the ground. The suspect immediately jumped on top of PC Henry and stabbed him in the chest again. The suspect then walked away but was arrested by armed officers a short time later. The man was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment. PC Henry was aware that a stabbing had already taken place and that the suspect was still in possession of a knife. The suspect refused to comply with the instructions of the police officers present so there was a need to contain him. Despite being unarmed PC Henry took the decision to attempt to detain the suspect.

He was aware of the danger he faced when he took the decision to try and detain the suspect. He knew the suspect was armed and that he had demonstrated his willingness to use the knife in his possession. Unfortunately, due to the confined space in which he found himself, PC Henry was left with no opportunity to retreat.

PC Colin SWAN, Metropolitan Police (nominated by Hampshire Constabulary).

*For evacuating women and children from a burning vehicle*

PC Swan was off duty and travelling with his family on 31 July 2009 on the M3 motorway when he noticed a double decker coach with smoke pouring out of it. On closer inspection he saw that the rear nearside wheel was on fire. He pulled his car in front of the coach in order to bring it to a standstill. Once the coach had stopped, he entered the vehicle and ordered all the passengers to evacuate. The majority of passengers were women with young children (66 in total and on a day trip to the seaside), some of whom had difficulty descending from the upper deck. PC Swan went up the stairs in order to help bring the children down and pass them off the coach. By this time, flames were licking up the side of the coach and there was an explosion which tilted the coach to the nearside. Despite this, he continued to carry the children off the coach. As the last of the women came down the stairs there was another explosion; fire had taken hold of the rear of the coach but despite this PC Swan still went upstairs to check that everyone had left the coach.

PC Swan put himself in danger to help evacuate those on the coach. He could have been overcome by smoke or trapped by the flames or the coach might have exploded if the flames had reached the fuel tank.

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