

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London SW1

8 May 2021

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

QUEEN'S GALLANTRY MEDAL

Michael Hooper and Stephen Quartermain, Leicestershire Police.

For attempting to rescue those who were involved in a helicopter crash at the King Power Stadium, Leicester, on 27 October 2018.

On 27 October 2018, Leicester City Football Club played West Ham United Football Club at the King Power Stadium, Leicester. After the game, a helicopter crashed and caught fire in a car park at Filbert Way, Leicester, adjacent to the stadium.

Police Sergeant Michael Hooper and Police Constable Stephen Quartermain were on uniformed duty in a police car assisting with the policing of the football match, when they observed the helicopter take off and then start to descend, quickly and out of control.

On arrival near the crash site, PC Quartermain ran straight to the helicopter, which was on wasteland adjacent to the car park. It was already dark and the ground surface was uneven and littered with debris. PS Hooper then parked the police car as close to the crash site as fencing would allow. The helicopter was lying on its left hand side with its engines still operating, the rear section was on fire, and a loud bang was heard. Both officers immediately perceived that there was a significant risk of a large explosion due to the intensity of the fire and the amount of fuel they could see leaking from the aircraft.

Members of the public were already in the vicinity and PS Hooper urgently directed them back to ensure their safety.

PC Quartermain looked for a way to get into the helicopter, but as the helicopter was lying on its left side against the ground with the right side raised at height, immediate access via the doors was not possible. PS Hooper joined PC Quartermain at the helicopter and began to repeatedly and forcefully strike the helicopter's windscreen, in an attempt to shatter it and gain entry. PC Quartermain positioned himself next to PS Hooper, ready to assist. By now, the heat from the fire was searing hot and driving the officers back. The majority of the helicopter became engulfed in flames, but both officers kept going forward, to strike the windscreen and attempt a rescue.

When attempts to shatter the helicopter windscreen failed, PS Hooper ran back to the police car and retrieved the vehicle's fire extinguisher. The flames had already completely engulfed the rear section of the helicopter, and PS Hooper discharged it towards the rear of the cockpit in an attempt to keep the flames back.

Members of the public were now moving towards the helicopter and PC Quartermain urgently directed them back to prevent further casualties.

The fire now consumed and totally engulfed the whole aircraft with repeated loud bangs, two other officers arrived with hand held fire extinguishers. During the attempted rescue, both the officers made sustained efforts to save the lives of the helicopter occupants, comprehending but ignoring the very real possibility of their own deaths. As a result of their efforts both officers received treatment for first degree burns and smoke inhalation. Sadly, the occupants of the helicopter all died in the accident.

Daniel Nicholson and Joel Snarr.

For rescuing the occupants of a light aircraft that had crashed in Abergavenny, Wales on 12 May 2019.

On 12 May 2019, a light aircraft containing three passengers took off from a runway in Abergavenny, Wales. Immediately after take off, the plane suffered engine failure, which resulted in the plane hitting a tree and inverting before crashing to the ground and catching fire.

Daniel Nicholson and Joel Snarr were independently driving along the A40 dual carriageway in separate vehicles. They observed the crash, stopped their vehicles, ran towards the burning wreckage, and forced entry to the plane by breaking a window to reach the three occupants who were trapped. They then safely removed the two passengers and pilot. After this the plane was totally consumed by fire. No injuries were caused to any party.