
QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVERY

Shaun Randall, Leicestershire Police.

For his actions following an explosion at Hinckley Road, Leicester on 25 February 2018.

On 25 February 2018 at 19:01 hours, Leicester Police received reports of an explosion at Hinckley Road, Leicester. The explosion, and ensuing fire, was so powerful that it demolished the entire building and killed 5 people who were inside at the time. Others nearby were injured.

PC Shaun Randall was on mobile duty with colleagues and passing the location when the massive blast occurred. The force was so strong they thought something had hit their patrol vehicle. Without hesitation or concern for their own safety, they immediately turned around and were faced with a significant scene of devastation and destruction.

The officers ran towards the scene without thought for their own safety. PC Randall first came to a male who was unconscious, severely injured and trapped under rubble and heavy metal. PC Randall quickly and decisively coordinated others to assist in freeing the male.

He then made his way to assist members of the public who were digging at the rubble saying that someone was trapped. PC Randall asked the public to move away from the front in order to protect them from danger as he recognised that the rubble was unsafe and that he wasn't sure if there would be a secondary explosion.

PC Randall began to communicate with a young male trapped within the rubble. When it became apparent that the fire was spreading, PC Randall made the decision to crawl into the rubble and managed to pull the male free before the fire took hold. He went into the incident not giving a second thought for his own safety. He remained calm and his communications were clear and rationalised. PC Randall rescued the man with only seconds to spare.

The quick thinking and selfless action of PC Randall demonstrated an act of true bravery worthy of recognition at national level.

Colin Burgess and Nigel Quarmby, Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service.

For rescuing a woman from the River Mersey on 22 September 2018.

On the evening of Saturday 22 September 2018, firefighters from Warrington, Cheshire, were called to a report of a woman threatening to jump from a bridge into the River Mersey. When the firefighters arrived at the scene, she was on the bridge outside of the public barriers, a fall of approximately 60 feet into cold, fast flowing water with strong currents. Police colleagues were negotiating with the woman in an attempt to talk her down from the bridge. Meanwhile, firefighters prepared specialist equipment in preparation for a rescue in the event it was required.

Despite the best efforts of the police negotiators, the woman jumped into the River Mersey and immediately disappeared below the surface of the water. After a few seconds she resurfaced and was quickly caught up in fast moving water. Firefighters Quarmby and Burgess were already at the waterside and witnessed her become trapped in the water. They chose to carry out a tethered swim to the woman, using a tethered line secured to the waterside.

As she had already been swept along some distance, Firefighter Burgess' rescue line was not long enough to reach the casualty, despite entering the water himself. At this point, using himself as a tether for his colleague, Firefighter Quarmby waded into the river to provide Firefighter Burgess with enough length of line to reach the casualty.

On reaching the casualty, she resisted the firefighters' attempts to assist her. The firefighters were able to recover her to the bank. They then traversed a long hazardous stretch of deep mud in poor visibility, after which fellow colleagues and police officers were able to offer assistance.