

## CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London SW1

14 May 2024

His Majesty The KING was graciously pleased to approve the following awards of The King's Gallantry Medal and The King'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.

## KING'S GALLANTRY MEDAL

### **PC Steven DENNISS, Lincolnshire Police, for apprehending a double murder suspect while off-duty in Louth, Lincolnshire, on 1 June 2021.**

On 1 June 2021, whilst walking his dog off-duty, PC Steven Denniss saw a suspect from a double murder which had taken place in Louth. Given the suspect's demeanour towards a nearby woman, PC Denniss felt it necessary to identify himself as an off-duty police officer and detain him until colleagues arrived. He was not wearing any protective clothing such as a stab vest or any personal protective equipment. The suspect resisted arrest, and this escalated to a full fight with PC Denniss trying to detain the suspect. Having broken free, a member of the public tried to intervene, at which point the suspect produced a knife. The suspect, seeing PC Denniss on the phone to the police, came back and threatened PC Denniss, ordering him to hand over his phone. PC Denniss refused and he was stabbed twice; once he managed to block but on the second, he sustained an injury to his leg. The suspect then fled and PC Denniss continued to chase the suspect until he was joined by armed officers. PC Denniss then assisted in evacuating members of the public from the area. The suspect was arrested by the colleagues who had joined PC Denniss and later charged.

### **Lawrence ELSDON-DEW, for protecting others during a nine day siege during fierce fighting outside the Sudan Embassy, in April 2023.**

Mr Elsdon-Dew was on his first overseas posting when, on the morning of 15 April 2023, intense fighting erupted in Sudan's capital Khartoum between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). Residents of the city, including British Embassy staff and families, found themselves in the midst of all-out urban warfare. When the fighting began, Mr Elsdon-Dew was at home a few miles from the Embassy. He drove through the fighting to the Embassy/Residence compound, and took shelter there together with a number of Embassy staff and families, who had been in or next to the compound when the conflict started. The area around the compound rapidly became the scene of the fiercest fighting, involving not just intensive small arms fire but also the widespread and indiscriminate use of artillery. Throughout the nine day ordeal, Mr Elsdon-Dew was a model of courage, commitment and professionalism, establishing himself as the leader of the group trapped at the Embassy/Residence compound and volunteering to lead on a range of difficult and dangerous tasks. These tasks required regular movement between Embassy buildings and included leaving the compound on foot to assist a diplomatic spouse who, having been evicted from their place of shelter, had suffered a panic attack on their way to the Embassy. Mr Elsdon-Dew escorted them to safety at great personal risk to himself.

### **Stacey FARRINGTON (née Hughes) and Jake WALKER, for their actions stopping a speeding car from travelling the wrong way on a motorway, on 8 November 2021.**

On 8 November 2020, Stacey Farrington and Jake Walker were driving their ambulance up the M6 motorway to a job. They heard a warning on the radio that someone was driving their car the wrong way up the fast lane towards them. When they saw the car in the distance, they pulled out in front of the car and turned on their lights and sirens to try to get the driver's attention. When that failed to get the driver's attention, they decided to use their ambulance to stop the car to protect members of the public. The car ploughed into their ambulance head-on at motorway speeds. Clearly, this could have led to both of them losing their lives. Thankfully, both of them suffered only minor injuries. Despite having just been in a severe crash, they climbed out of the ambulance to treat the driver of the incoming car, who was heavily intoxicated. He also incurred only minor injuries.

### **Georgia LAURIE, for saving her sister from a crocodile attack while on an excursion in Puerto Escondido, Mexico, on 6 June 2021.**

On 6 June 2021, Georgia Laurie was on an excursion in Mexico with her twin sister and others, when a guide wrongly informed them that they could safely swim in a river off the Manialtepec Lagoon in Puerto Escondido.

Whilst in the water, her sister identified a crocodile also in the water approximately 15 metres away and alerted Ms Laurie and others to swim for safety. During the frantic escape, the crocodile snatched Ms Laurie's sister just as she was being pulled onto the bank by one of the other excursion members. Ms Laurie reached the shore with two other members of the excursion and began looking for her sister on hearing her screams for help. Ms Laurie jumped into the water to try to find her sister and was alerted by another excursion member to the position of her sister floating unconscious face down on the surface. Ms Laurie managed to revive her; however, the crocodile returned. It attacked her sister again, biting her by the ankle and dragging her away. Ms Laurie fought off the crocodile by punching it on the nose with one fist while ensuring her sister's head stayed above water with her other hand. Eventually, this deterred the crocodile and Ms Laurie was able to drag her sister to a more secluded area to attend to her wounds. However, the crocodile returned for a final attack. It death-rolled her sister and, as Ms Laurie was punching the crocodile to release her sister from its jaws, she sustained her own injuries when it bit her hand. During the process of retrieving her sister to safety, the crocodile attacked Ms Laurie and, though bitten and wounded, her priority was to get her sister back to a nearby boat regardless of her injuries. Ms Laurie's sister survived with an open fracture to her wrist, severe puncture wounds to the abdomen and many injuries to her leg and foot. That she did so was almost entirely due to the exceptional bravery of her sister, who clearly knew that a dangerous crocodile was in the water but still chose to risk her life to save her sister, showing great persistence in fighting off the attack on multiple occasions.