For Exemplary Bravery

The Queen’s Gallantry Medal

Addendum

(Information received since publication and new awards up to March 2017)

Nick Metcalfe  MBE, QGM
For Exemplary Bravery

The Queen’s Gallantry Medal

Addendum

Nick Metcalfe

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Introduction

My aim in producing this addendum is to provide additional information that has been sent to me since the publication of *For Exemplary Bravery*, it includes those awards made since January 2014.

In summary:

There have been 15 awards since January 2014, bringing the total to 1,059—527 to civilians and 532 to military personnel.

Nine recipients of the Queen’s Gallantry Medal are known to have died since January 2014 (unless pertinent information was missing from their original entries, no further amendment is made in the update to Chapter 10 below):

- Brian William Jopling QGM, 20 March 2014
- William Aubrey Driscoll QGM, 8 April 2014
- Edward Harold Costick QGM, 16 August 2015
- David Hustler QGM, 28 October 2015
- Brian Errol Grove QGM, 19 December 2015
- Terence Layard Wolfe-Milner QGM, 9 January 2016
- Nigel Wilde QGM, 21 March 2016
- Ernest Arthur Trotter QGM, 13 April 2016
- Clive Robert Pickard QGM, 23 June 2016

The following additional awards have been made to recipients of the Queen’s Gallantry Medal:

Officer of the Military Division of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)

- Colonel M W Forgrave QGM, late The Mercian Regiment (LG 31 December 2015. Issue 61450, p N6.)

Officer of the Civil Division of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)

- Mr N MacDonald QGM, Ministry of Defence (LG 31 December 2015. Issue 61450, p N13.)

Member of the Military Division of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)

- Major J G Sheerin QGM, The Parachute Regiment (LG 31 December 2015. Issue 61450, p N7.)

British Empire Medal (Civil Division) (BEM)

- Mr T D Stratford QGM, Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service (LG 31 December 2014. Issue 61092, p N34.)

Meritorious Service Medal

Warrant Officer Class I A I McGill MBE, QGM, Royal Marines (LG 11 August 2014. Issue 60959, p 15658.)

Chief Petty Officer Aircrewman D P Rigg QGM, Royal Navy (LG 28 January 2014. Issue 60765, p 1685.)

The ‘Contents’ page below is in the same format as in *For Exemplary Bravery* but only those chapters that have new material are included. Each is hyperlinked to assist navigation. At the top and bottom of each chapter is a hyperlink that will return the reader to the contents page.

In various places in *For Exemplary Bravery* there is reference to Joint Service Publication 761—Honours and Awards in the Armed Forces. That publication has recently been updated; see [JSP 761, Version 5 dated October 2016](#).

The new information in Chapter 3 deals with the production of the medal by a commercial company, rather than the Royal Mint, following a tender process in 2016.

In Chapter 9, I laid out the ‘...breadth of circumstances for which the Queen’s Gallantry Medal has been awarded since its institution in June 1974.’ Notwithstanding the new awards, I have not included here an amendment to that very detailed chapter—I have only included the introduction, which lays out the number of awards, and one of the tables.

As was the case in *For Exemplary Bravery*, citations are reproduced in Chapter 10 as they appear in the London Gazette. Some awards, particularly military awards, are not accompanied by published citations. In those cases, the details of the awards are taken from material provided by the Cabinet Office or the Ministry of Defence or from other sources.

New or amended information is in red text. For awards made since publication, to make reading easier, the recipient’s name only is in red text, annotated as a ‘New Award’.

I would be very grateful if any other errors are identified to me, in order that they may be corrected in an updated Addendum. Similarly, any further contributions about recipients, or about the medal, will be gratefully received.

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March 2017
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Chapter 9
Table 3  Awards of the Queen’s Gallantry Medal by Year
On 28 November 2015, the Cabinet Office requested tenders from commercial companies to supply ‘...medals and insignia which are presented by, or on behalf of The Queen at various times, throughout the year.’ The process would establish a multi-Supplier Framework Agreement (each medal or insignia being contracted to three suppliers), with the duration of the agreement being for three years with an option to extend by 12 months. Amongst the awards being bid for were the George Cross (lots 70 & 71), George Medal (lots 72 & 73), Queen’s Gallantry Medal (lots 67 & 68), and the Bar for the Queen’s Gallantry Medal (lot 69).

On 15 July 2016, the contracts were awarded. The three companies selected to supply the Queen’s Gallantry Medal (both versions and the Bar) were: The Royal Mint Ltd; Toye, Kenning & Spencer Ltd (known as Toye & Co); and Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd. Both Toye & Co and Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd manufacture insignia and medals in the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham.

The production of medals is on an ‘as required’ basis. The two awards announced in October 2016 were made by the Royal Mint. The first medal produced by Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd was the replacement medal for Mrs Margaret Warby, whose original medal was stolen some years before. Her replacement medal was presented on 18 January 2017, the 40th anniversary of the Granville railway disaster in Sydney, New South Wales. In the incident 83 people died and rescuers earned six Queen’s Gallantry Medals and six Queen’s Commendations for Brave Conduct. The George Medal and two Queen’s Gallantry Medals announced in January 2017 were also made by Worcestershire Medal Service Ltd.
1 Including for these purposes the Central Chancery of the Orders of Knighthood.

2 The contract notice may be found in various sources under the reference: 2015/S 231-419462.

3 The two lots reflect the requirement for versions for men and ladies to cater for the different ribbon arrangements and sizes of presentation boxes.

4 The contract may be found in various sources under the reference: 2016/S 135-243312.
The Queen’s Gallantry Medal is often referred to as ‘a civilian award’ or as ‘primarily awarded to civilians’. Although paraphrasing the Royal Warrant, this is not, however, wholly accurate. It is evident that the medal is much prized by the Armed Forces. Indeed, slightly more awards (including Bars) have been made to members of the Armed Forces (532) than to civilians (527). This simple statistic is also somewhat misleading due to the number of awards that have been made to civilians and military personnel for gallantry in the same type of incident, such as fighting fire, air-sea rescue, rescue at sea and so on.

Tables

Table 3. Awards of the Queen’s Gallantry Medal by Year

The table shows the number of awards made to civilians and military personnel by year, i.e. the year in which the award was published in the London Gazette (or the year it was dated, if specified as ‘to be dated’ earlier than the date of publication). In bold are shown those years in which more military than civilian awards were made.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Civilian Awards</th>
<th>Military Awards</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Posthumous Awards</th>
<th>Second Awards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>6 (1)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>527</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>1,059</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note:
1. Including two backdated awards published in 2015.
Photographs - Recipients

Above left: Petty Officer Aircrewman Russell James Adams QGM.
Above right: Sergeant Daniel Martin Allanson QGM.
Both men earned their awards for air-sea rescue operations, at either end of the Atlantic Ocean—Adams off the coast of Cornwall and Allanson near the Falkland Islands.

(Photos @ Crown Copyright)

Right: Captain Gordon Allen QGM with his Baluchi signaller on operations in the Dhofar jebel in 1975.
Gordon Allen earned his QGM in Northern Ireland the previous year. For his bravery in Oman he would be decorated with the Sultan’s Distinguished Service Medal (Gallantry).

(Photo @ Gordon Allen)
Above left: Warrant Officer Class 2 Wayne Cuckson QGM. He earned his award as a Lance Corporal in Northern Ireland in 1994 when he rescued a policeman from a crashed helicopter. He was killed in a motorbike accident on 5 April 2011.

Above right: Aubrey William Driscoll QGM. He earned his award in 1976 when he rescued a hostage at HMP Liverpool, of which he was governor. He died at Melbourne, Australia on 8 April 2014.

Below: Retained Firefighters Stephen Paul Griffin QGM (left) and Kevin Richard Thomas Lane QGM, who died attempting a rescue during a house fire on 1 February 1996. A local road was named Griffin Lane in their honour in October 2014. Blaina fire station, where they were based, was closed in early 2015.
Above: Belgian recipients of British awards for their gallantry and meritorious conduct in the aftermath of the sinking of *Herald of Free Enterprise* on 6 March 1987. The photograph was taken almost exactly a year later, on 8 March 1988.

From left: Dr Daniel Dendooven, Cardiologist (Honorary MBE); *Luitenant-Ter-Zee 1ste Klas* Alfons Maria Augustinus Cornelia Daems QGM; Mr Rene van Havere, Zeebrugge Harbourmaster (Honorary MBE); Mr Dirk van Mullem QGM; Captain Marc Claus, Director Belgian Pilotage Service (Honorary OBE); Mr Olivier Vanneste, Governor of West Flanders (Honorary KBE); Dr Geert Fransen, Cardiologist (Honorary MBE); Mrs Nadine de Gendt-Bruylandt, Nursing Director (Honorary MBE); Mr Piet Lagast QGM; Sister Agnes van Loo, Nursing Director (Honorary MBE); *Luitenant-Ter-Zee 1ste Klas* Guido Armand Couwenbergh QGM.
Above and right: Constable Thomas Ronald Hawthorne, Royal Ulster Constabulary, who earned his award in 1974 for rescuing people from the area of a car bomb. His life was saved when the detonator of the 500lb bomb failed to initiate the main charge.

He attended the award ceremony at Buckingham Palace with his wife and mother, both of whom died in 2010.
Above left: Mr David Hustler QGM, who received one of six Queen’s Gallantry Medals awarded for gallantry during the fire at Valley Parade football stadium, Bradford, on 11 May 1985. He died on 28 October 2015.

Above right: Captain Michael Robert John Kennedy QGM, who was decorated for his gallantry in Afghanistan.

Below: This memorial to Mike Jones QGM was nailed to a tree overlooking the river in the Braldu valley where he died. Dave Manby, who had been on the expedition with Mike Jones, returned to the area in 1983 but the tree and the paddle had gone.
Above left: Constable William David Lemon, Royal Ulster Constabulary, who earned his award in 1977 for rescuing a young child from beside a car bomb.

Above right: Mr Kenneth McGonigle QGM, a former police officer who was killed in Afghanistan in 2010 in a firefight with escaped prisoners.

Below: Captain Michael John Lobb QGM, who earned his award for a bomb disposal task in Dorset in 1995, and Lisa Potts-Webb GM.
Above left: Constable Nathan Lucy QGM, who saved a drowning woman at Cowes in 2014. Above right: Constable Robert George Morrow QGM, who tackled an armed gunman in 1985. Another QGM and three Queen's Commendations for Brave Conduct were awarded after this incident.

Below left: Ömer Faik Mûftûzade OBE, QGM, who was decorated for his gallantry during the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974.

Below right: Warrant Officer Class 2 Frederick Joseph James Patrick Murphy QGM.
Above left: Brigadier Clive Robert Pickard, who earned his QGM as a Major in Northern Ireland. He died on 25 June 2016.

Above right: The Reverend Duncan James Morrison Pollock MBE, QGM, who earned his award in Northern Ireland.

Below: Inspector Terence Michael Slocombe QGM, BEM. This photograph was taken at Buckingham Palace when he was presented with the British Empire Medal for Gallantry (one of two QGM recipients to receive that award) for tackling an armed man who had taken hostages in Castleford in 1970. With him is Mrs Maureen Simpson, who also earned the British Empire Medal for Gallantry in that incident.
Above: Darren Smith QGM, who was killed on 29 December 1989 while attempting to rescue two children from a house fire.

Left: Former Petty Officer Aircrewman Alan Paul Speed QGM. He was awarded his QGM for a helicopter rescue in Scotland in 2015. He now works for HM Coastguard.
Right: Constable Joseph Tangeria, Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary. He was killed protecting ferry passengers from armed insurgents on 1 March 1991.

Below: Constable Tangeria’s medal was not been presented to his family until a ceremony in May 2013. It was presented to his brother by the Governor General, Sir Michael Ogio GCMG, CBE, who pinned the medal to one of Joseph Tangeria’s shirts.

(Photo © Joseph Salle, Provided by Jamie Loveday)
Above: Mrs Margaret Warby QGM at the presentation of her replacement medal on 18 January 2017, 40 years after the Granville train disaster.

Left: Terence Layard Wolfe-Milner QGM, who died on 9 January 2016. His QGM was awarded for an air-sea rescue in the North Sea in 1975.

Below: Sergeant Andrew Mark Wright QGM, who was severely injured tackling a man armed with two knives on 5 February 2010.
Photographs - Medals Groups

Patrick Kielty QGM*
Queen’s Gallantry Medal, EIIR with Bar; and Golden Jubilee Medal 2002.

(Photo © Patrick Kielty)
Guido Armand Couwenbergh QGM
Other than the QGM, all awards are Belgian.
Top: Badge of a Knight of the Order of Leopold (Military Division with Swords); Badge of a Knight of the Order of the Crown; Military Cross (2nd Class).
Bottom: Military Decoration for Exceptional Service or Acts of Courage or Devotion (1st Class for Gallantry); Medal for Military Merit; and Queen’s Gallantry Medal, EIIR.
(Photo © Bruno Couwenbergh)

Gordon Derek Allen QGM
Queen’s Gallantry Medal, EIIR; General Service Medal 1962-2007 with clasp ‘NORTHERN IRELAND’ and mention in despatches emblem; Oman, Sultan’s Distinguished Service Medal (Gallantry); Oman, General Service Medal with clasp ‘DHOFAR’; and Oman, Al-Samood (Victory) Medal.
(Photo © G D Allen)
David Dooley QGM
Queen’s Gallantry Medal, EIIR; General Service Medal 1962-2007 with clasp ‘NORTHERN IRELAND’.

(Photo © London Medal Company)

Robert George Morrow QGM
Queen’s Gallantry Medal, EIIR; Police Long Service & Good Conduct medal, EIIR; and Golden Jubilee Medal 2002. (Note: The correct order of wear has the Jubilee Medal preceding the Long Service & Good Conduct Medal.

(Photo © Robert Morrow)
Duncan James Morrison Pollock MBE, QGM
Badge of a Member of the Military Division of the Order of the British Empire; Queen’s Gallantry Medal, EIIR; General Service Medal 1962 with clasp ‘NORTHERN IRELAND’; and United Nations Medal (United Nations Protection Force 1992-95 (UNPROFOR)).

(Terence Michael Slocombe QGM, BEM
Queen’s Gallantry Medal, EIIR; British Empire Medal, EIIR, with silver oak leaves for Gallantry; and Police Long Service & Good Conduct medal, EIIR.

(Photos © Duncan Pollock)
TEN

Recipients of the Queen's Gallantry Medal

(Addendum Contents)

**ADAMS**

**Russell James**

**New Award**

Nationality: United Kingdom
Occupation: Royal Navy, 771 Naval Air Squadron
Rank/Title: Petty Officer Aircrewman
Service Number: D259534X
Conflict/Incident: Helicopter Rescue
Location: Atlantic Ocean - six nautical miles north of Newquay

For repeatedly risking his life whilst rescuing 5 fishermen from almost certain death, after their fishing vessel was badly damaged in a storm 6 nautical miles north of Newquay on 1st February 2014.

The vessel was the French trawler *Le Sillon*, which was drifting, having lost power. A sixth crewman was picked up from the sea by the RNLI Padstow lifeboat, *Spirit of Padstow*. *Le Sillon* finally went aground at Park Head near Porthcothan Bay, where it was wrecked. Adams was also awarded the commendation of the Shipwrecked Mariners’ Society, and the crew of Rescue 193—a Westland Sea King HAR.5, which also included Lieutenant Commander Richard Calhaem, Royal Navy (pilot), Kapitänleutnant Steffan Volkwein, *Deutsche Marine* (pilot), and Lieutenant Commander Paul Robertson, Royal Navy (observer)—was awarded the Prince Philip Helicopter Rescue Award by the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators; the citation provides a full account of the incident:

‘Rescue 193’ a RN Sea King helicopter from RNAS Culdrose was launched on 1 February this year to assist a RNLI lifeboat in rescuing a French fishing vessel under tow. ‘R193’ arrived overhead, in the dark of a very stormy night, to assess the scene. Visibility was less than 4000 metres, with 30ft waves and 45 kts of wind. Hovering at 60 feet, the swell was so severe that the relative height of the fishing vessel was fluctuating between 20-100 feet from ‘R193.’ With the weather deteriorating rapidly, the boat drifting towards the rocky coast and capsize imminent, ‘R193’ now had to react quickly and alone.

The lifeboat was repositioned downwind and the fishermen instructed to jump into the sea, one at a time and swim clear of the vessel. Pre-positioned ready for an immediate rescue of the survivors, the winchman, PO Adams, made his first recovery, fighting through significant swell and spray to make contact with the first man in the water. Adams then quickly made himself ready and conducted the rescue of a 2nd fisherman. Quickly returning for a 3rd fisherman, Adams was this time fully submerged beneath a large wave. At that point, close to exhaustion and having ingested sea water, Adams had to inflate his emergency lifejacket to assist his own efforts to remain buoyant. Once on the surface again, he continued to the 3rd survivor and conducted another successful recovery to the aircraft. By this time Adams was vomiting from the effects of ingesting sea water, but once again agreed to be lowered down to the sea. He conducted a further 2 rescues during which he was dragged just above wave top height and battered by severe wind and spray throughout, but the aircraft could not maintain position sufficiently to effect the rescue of the last fisherman who had now drifted towards the lifeboat, and was, with great difficulty, able to be recovered by its crew.

This was an exceptional rescue in extreme conditions using the highest standards of crew cooperation, flexibility and determination to overcome a series of severe and unexpected challenges. PO Russell Adams’ actions were, in particular, meritorious and deserving of recognition. However, this rescue mission was a team effort and the entire crew of Rescue 193 is accordingly awarded the Prince Philip Helicopter Rescue Award.1

Adams commented about the incident: “I’ve thought about that night a lot since it happened and I honestly don’t think I did anything extraordinary or special. I know that any of the other crewmen on the squadron would have done the same; I just happened to be on duty that day. However, I was still extremely honoured and humbled to be deemed worthy of such an award.”

Russell James Adams was born in Canada to British parents. He enlisted into the Royal Navy in October 2004 as a Marine Engineering Artificer but switched to Aircrew in 2007, qualifying in 2008. He joined 771 Naval Air Squadron in September 2011 and was part of the crew that flew the final aircraft to disposal on 11 April 2016. He left the Royal Navy in November 2016 and returned to Canada.
His medals group comprises: Queen’s Gallantry Medal, EIIR; Operational Service Medal (Afghanistan) with clasp ‘AFGHANISTAN’; and Diamond Jubilee Medal 2012.

**ALLANSON**

**Daniel Martin**

Nationality: United Kingdom  
Occupation: Royal Air Force, 1564 Flight, 905 Expeditionary Air Wing  
Rank/Title: Sergeant  
Service Number: P8600177  
Conflict/Incident: Helicopter Rescue  
Location: South Atlantic Ocean - 60 miles north-east of East Falkland  

*For demonstrating exemplary, selfless courage and determination in risking his own life in order to winch to safety a fisherman, 60 miles north-east of East Falkland on 28th July 2014.*

Awarded the Air Force Cross:

**Flight Lieutenant Ian McIver Campbell, Royal Air Force**

*For overcoming extremely hazardous meteorological conditions with exemplary flying accuracy and captaincy during the rescue of a lost fisherman, 60 miles north-east of East Falkland on 28th July 2014.*

The seaman had been lost overboard from the fishing vessel *Venturer* on the evening of 28 July. The *Venturer* and other ships in the area began to search for him and they were joined by Rescue 01 from 1564 Flight and a C-130 Hercules from 1312 Flight from RAF Mount Pleasant. Estimating where the drift may have carried him, the crew of Rescue 01 located the seaman and, in very heavy seas, Allanson was winched down to recover him. Despite the crew’s best efforts, the seaman died soon after arrival at King Edward Memorial Hospital in Port Stanley. Allanson was presented the Award for Gallantry by the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators. The crew, which also included Flight Lieutenant Thomas Greene Royal Air Force and Sergeant Michael Boissier-Wyles, was awarded the Shipwrecked Mariners’ Society Edward and Maisie Lewis Award for the most outstanding air/sea rescue of the year and Allanson received the Society’s commendation; the citation for the former provides a full account of the incident:

On 28 July 2014, the crew of Rescue 01 were tasked to go to the assistance of a fisherman lost overboard from the fishing vessel *Venturer*, 60 nautical miles NE of East Falkland. Given the immediate need to recover the fisherman before hypothermia set in, and having taken stock of the atrocious weather and pitch black night, ‘R01’ a RAF Sea King HAR 3 of 1564 Flt, 905 EAW, Mount Pleasant launched at 1940. On departure, Flt Lt Ian Campbell (Captain) immediately recognised that there was no prospect of a direct overland transit due to the low cloud, high terrain and freezing conditions which prevented him from climbing the aircraft. He took an easterly over-water route working closely with the Radar/Winch Operator Sgt Mike Boissier-Wyles and Co-Pilot Flt Lt Tom Greene to remain clear of land before turning onto a direct track for the search area. Sgt Dan Allanson (Winchman) used the transit time to ensure that he had the cabin fully prepared and ready to receive the casualty.

En-route, information of a possible sighting of the casualty was received via a Hercules transport aircraft that was operating on-scene as a communications relay. Ian Campbell directed the radar operator to determine the open-water drift using a known point of entry into the water and this sighting. A start point 6 nm SW of the original location was determined along with a line of advance for the search. On scene at 2100 the crew encountered low cloud, torrential rain and with no ambient light the visibility was down to 200 metres. In the total darkness the night vision goggles were performing poorly and with no observable horizon, Ian Campbell was forced to fly with greater reference to instruments and rely on his searchlight.

With sea state 8 and 50 kts of wind, the probability of locating the casualty in the 45 ft swells was very low. However at 2140 on their second sweep of the area the casualty was sighted 30 metres ahead of the aircraft. With the casualty found, the Pilot decided to hover at 80 ft to allow sufficient clearance from the rapidly changing wave peaks. The standard procedure for this type of recovery at night is for the aircraft to be manoeuvred by the winch operator via autopilot with the aircraft at 50ft; but Ian Campbell recognised that the autopilot could not maintain a stable hover in the atrocious conditions and consequently elected to conduct a manual hover at a higher height than normal.

With severe sea conditions and a winching height of 80 ft, Dan Allanson showed no hesitation in leaving the aircraft to assist a casualty whose chances of being alive were assessed as slim given the length of time he had been in the near freezing water (4 degree C). On entering the water Dan was immediately submerged as changes in wave height outpaced the maximum speed of the aircraft winch. On resurfacing, the lashing spray and crashing wave peaks presented a daunting challenge.
Dan Allanson’s courage in these conditions cannot be underestimated and combined with the skill of the winch operator, Mike Boissier-Wyles and Ian Campbell’s exceptional flying accuracy, he was delivered to the casualty on the first attempt.

The physical effort of man-handling a large casualty in the 45 ft swell proved to be highly demanding and with the violent wave motion the winch cable became wrapped around Dan Allanson’s legs. He was forced to release the casualty to free himself from this entanglement. In doing this and then reconnecting with the casualty and recovering him to the aircraft, Dan showed exceptional determination, strength and stamina. The physical and mental demands placed on him within this extremely violent and chilling environment were enormous. He was immersed for almost 15 minutes.

On entering the cabin and without time to recover, Dan and Mike immediately began to provide life support to the casualty. Flying through atrocious weather conditions the fisherman was delivered to King Edward Memorial Hospital, Port Stanley, at 2210 where sadly he subsequently died.

The difficulties faced by this crew go far beyond those which it is possible to train for. Indeed, the meteorological conditions experienced during this rescue were as poor as anyone could expect to encounter during an entire career in Search and Rescue. Under the calm leadership of Ian Campbell his crew demonstrated outstanding professionalism, teamwork, determination and bravery.

Sergeant Allanson commented about the incident: “The job itself was an example of one that we trained for constantly on the Search and Rescue Force but only a few people experience. It was a testament to the training that we received and the flexibility of the aircrew that four individuals who were based all around the country in the UK could come together in the Falklands and work to affect a rescue that tested all our abilities. We had complete trust in one another and the skills of the two pilots, Flight Lieutenant Campbell and Flight Lieutenant Greene, and the Radar Operator, Sergeant Boissier-Wyles, cannot be overstated. Unfortunately, the fisherman, whose name we never learned, was pronounced dead in the hospital in Port Stanley but I am grateful for the fact that, because of our efforts, he was returned home to his family.”

Dan Allanson was born in Burnley, Lancashire and educated at Saint Theodore’s High School and Sixth Form before studying Biology at the University of Leeds; he graduated in 2004. He enlisted into the Royal Air Force in July 2004 as a Weapon Systems Operator and after his training was posted to 28 (Army Cooperation) Squadron at RAF Benson as a crewman on the Merlin Mk 3/3A; he completed four detachments to Iraq on Operation TELIC. He was then posted to 78 Squadron, where he qualified as a Crewman Trainer and completed three detachments to Afghanistan on Operation HERRICK. Having volunteered for Search and Rescue duties, he undertook conversion training at RAF Valley in 2012 and in August 2013 was posted to ‘B’ Flight, 22 Squadron at RAF Wattisham in Suffolk and completed two detachments to the Falkland Islands. In March 2016, he was posted to the Recruit Training Squadron at RAF Halton, where he currently trains recruits.

His medals group comprises: Queen’s Gallantry Medal, EIIR; General Service Medal 1862-2007 with clasp ‘NORTHERN IRELAND’; Iraq Medal; Operational Service Medal (Afghanistan) with clasp ‘AFGHANISTAN’; and Diamond Jubilee Medal 2012.

ALLEN QGM
Gordon Derek
Nationality: United Kingdom
Occupation: British Army; Royal Regiment of Artillery
Rank/Title: Lieutenant
Service Number: 491401
Conflict/Incident: Military Operations in Northern Ireland, Operation BANNER

In recognition of services in Northern Ireland during the period 1st August 1974 to 31st October 1974. Awarded for gallantry during operations in Belfast serving as a troop commander with 4th Light Regiment Royal Artillery during which his troop sergeant was killed and another soldier wounded. His actions included the rescue of a child from near a reported car bomb.

Also serving with 4th Light Regiment and awarded the Queen’s Gallantry Medal during this tour: Bombardier David Dooley
Sergeant James McGill Forteath
Bombardier William Charles Hatch.

Gordon Derek Allen QGM was born in 1950. He was commissioned from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst into the Royal Regiment of Artillery on 30 July 1971 (491401, Second Lieutenant); Lieutenant 30 July 1973. He served with the Sultan of Oman’s Armed Forces in 1975-76 during which
he was involved in most of the major engagements that concluded the Dhofar War. This included participation in a helicopter assault by an Iranian battalion, Operation SAID, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal (Gallantry). The Iranian’s role was to secure a strategically vital area not far from the Yemen border. It was effected by a helicopter-borne assault on a major guerrilla stronghold by an infantry battalion and Special Forces. The operation was one of the bloodiest of the war and the Iranians suffered heavy casualties. Allen flew in with the first assault wave. As conditions on the first day worsened, with the Iranian chain of command seriously depleted and demoralised, and their positions under relentless heavy fire from the enemy, Allen rallied the Iranian troops by moving from exposed section to section and calling in fire support from artillery and air, often only metres beyond their positions. Although promoted to Acting Captain (1975) and local Major (1976) while serving in Oman, he reverted to the substantive rank of Lieutenant when he returned to the British Army in 1977. Captain 30 July 1977; Major 30 September 1983; Lieutenant Colonel 31 December 1988, with seniority 30 June 1988. He retired from the British Army on 5 June 2000.

**Award:** Oman, Sultan’s Distinguished Service Medal (Gallantry)
(Lieutenant, attached to 1st Regiment, Oman Artillery)
**Award Date:** 29 September 1976

**Award:** Mention in Despatches
(Lieutenant Colonel, Royal Regiment of Artillery)

**Conflict/Incident:** Military Operations in Northern Ireland, Operation BANNER

**London Gazette:** 11 May 1993. Issue 53298, p 8190.

_In recognition of distinguished service in Northern Ireland._

His medals group comprises: Queen’s Gallantry Medal, EIIR; General Service Medal 1962-2007 with clasp ‘NORTHERN IRELAND’ and mention in despatches emblem; Oman, Sultan’s Distinguished Service Medal (Gallantry); Oman, General Service Medal with clasp ‘DHOFAR’; and Oman, Al-Samood (Victory) Medal.

**BOUGHTON QGM**

**John Kenneth**

**Nationality:** United Kingdom

**Occupation:** Royal Navy; 825 Naval Air Squadron

**Rank/Title:** Lieutenant

**Conflict/Incident:** Falklands War, Operation CORPORATE

**Location:** Falkland Islands - Fitzroy Creek


On 8 June 1982, RFA SIR GALAHAD and RFA SIR TRISTRAM, carrying large numbers of troops, were attacked by aircraft of the Argentine Air Force. RFA SIR GALAHAD was left damaged and burning with a considerable number of casualties. Aircraft of 825 Naval Air Squadron were on the scene within minutes and were joined for a time by a Sea King IV and Wessex V.

The helicopters captained by Lieutenant Boughton and Lieutenant Sheldon conducted pick-ups of troops and crew mustered in the extremely confined area of the LSL fore-deck. Many were injured or in shock. The rescues were conducted close to masts and rigging with little clearance for the aircraft and with no regard for personal safety. Ammunition and pyrotechnics were exploding and there was a threat of further attack by enemy aircraft. Evacuation and rescue continued until darkness and were in fact interrupted by a further air attack.

The professionalism and bravery demonstrated in these operations by Lieutenant Boughton and Lieutenant Sheldon is representative of the crews and their Squadron.

Lieutenant Boughton’s aircraft was a Westland Sea King, registration XV663. He commented about the rescue: “This was truly a huge team effort with my own crew, those of five other helicopters, plus the medics ashore where we delivered the casualties. A tough day of rescue, but unfortunate loss of life, during the most tense phase of the land campaign.”

Other awards earned in this incident and by 825 Naval Air Squadron:

**Distinguished Service Order:**

- Captain Philip Jeremy George Roberts, Royal Fleet Auxiliary, RFA Sir Galahad
- Lieutenant Commander Hugh Sinclair Clark, Royal Navy, 825 Naval Air Squadron

**George Medal:**

- Second Engineer Officer Paul Anderson Henry, Royal Fleet Auxiliary, RFA Sir Galahad (Posthumous)
Seaman Chiu Yiu Nam, RFA Sir Galahad

Distinguished Service Medal:
Colour Sergeant Michael James Francis, Royal Marines

Military Medal:
Sergeant Derrick Sidney Boulthy, Royal Corps of Transport
Guardsmen Stephen Mark Chapman, Welsh Guards
Lance Corporal Dale John Loveridge, Welsh Guards
Sergeant Peter Hurcliche Rene Naya, Royal Army Medical Corps
Warrant Officer Class 2 Brian Thomas Neck, Welsh Guards

Also awarded the Queen’s Gallantry Medal:
Third Officer Andrew Gudgeon, Royal Fleet Auxiliary, RFA Sir Galahad
Lieutenant Philip James Sheldon, Royal Navy, 825 Naval Air Squadron

See also C K A Adams QGM

Mention in Despatches: (other awards may have been made at this level but are not specified in the London Gazette as being for this incident)
Sergeant Brian Dolivera, Royal Marines

John Kenneth Boughton QGM was born in December 1956 and educated in the United Kingdom, United States, Thailand and Singapore. He was commissioned into the Royal Navy in January 1977; Lieutenant 16 September 1981. He retired from the Royal Navy in 1988 but then served in the Royal Naval Reserve Air Branch until his ultimate retirement from the Royal Navy on 30 September 1995. After his military service, he joined Ferranti International, before taking up Director roles in Westland Helicopters, Vickers Defence Systems, and Rolls-Royce Defence Aerospace. He became a founder partner at EXXUS International LLP in 2011. He is a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society and a Member of the Institute of Directors.

Award: United States, Meritorious Service Medal (not authorised for wear)
Conflict/Incident: For service on attachment to the United States Navy
Date of Award: 1986

His medals group comprises: Queen’s Gallantry Medal, EIIR; and South Atlantic Medal with Rosette.

COSTICK QGM
Edward Harold

Nationality: United Kingdom
Occupation: Royal Air Force; RAF Akrotiri
Rank/Title: Flight Lieutenant
Service Number: 582668
Conflict/Incident: Turkish Invasion of Cyprus
Location: Cyprus - Famagusta and Nicosia International Airport


In May 1972, Flight Lieutenant Costick was posted to Royal Air Force Akrotiri as Officer in Charge of the Explosives Servicing Flight of the Weapons Engineering Squadron. He was given the secondary duty of Officer in Charge of Explosive Ordnance Disposal at Royal Air Force Akrotiri, with responsibilities throughout the island if required. After the Turkish air attacks in Northern Cyprus, Flight Lieutenant Costick and his two bomb disposal teams were called upon for many Explosive Ordnance Disposal tasks. Two of these in particular exemplify the diverse and hazardous nature of the work. In the first, Flight Lieutenant Costick was called into Famagusta to deal with two large unexploded bombs. One was located in mud and rested under a church. The other was located on the 6th floor of a large hotel. The first bomb in mud had to be dealt with by feel alone and could have been in a dangerous state. Flight Lieutenant Costick was undeterred by the danger and quickly cleared the bomb for safe removal. The second bomb, lying precariously across two beds in the hotel, was fused and in a highly dangerous state. Regardless of the risk to his life he began to extract the fuse. Although he was fully trained in Explosive Ordnance Disposal techniques he was not familiar with the type of fuse on this bomb. Nevertheless by skill and brilliant improvisation he safely extracted the fuse of the bomb in a calm and efficient manner and thus prevented considerable extra damage to property and danger to personnel. Following this task Flight Lieutenant Costick was asked to clear Nicosia International Airport of unexploded bombs and other devices so that repair work could safely begin. He commanded a small team in this task which took seven days of very long hours work. During the whole of this operation he was working under arduous and hazardous conditions, often
Under the menace of the opposing guns of the Turkish Army and the National Guard. He finally gave safe clearance of the runway, taxi tracks and aircraft servicing platforms after safely disposing of two large unexploded 750 lb. bombs, ten 2.75 aerial rockets and a large variety of other explosive objects. Flight Lieutenant Costick’s devotion to duty and the exemplary manner in which he performed his hazardous duties brought great credit to the Service and were in the finest traditions of the Royal Air Force.

This was first incident of conventional munitions disposal to be rewarded by the Queen’s Gallantry Medal (see Major A S Hogben QGM).

Edward Harold Costick QGM was born in Watford on 5 October 1928. He was educated at Winchester College and, on leaving school, enlisted into the Royal Air Force in 1945 as an armament fitter. He was commissioned from Chief Technician (582668, Flying Officer) on 4 June 1964, with seniority 4 June 1963; Flight Lieutenant 4 June 1969; Squadron Leader 1 July 1976. He retired from the Royal Air Force on 5 October 1983. He died in Norfolk on 16 August 2015.

**COUWENBERGH QGM**

**Guido Armand ‘Gie’**

Nationality: Belgium  
Occupation: Belgian Marine Royale  
Rank/Title: Luitenant-Ter-Zee 1ste Klas  
Conflict/Incident: Maritime Rescue  
Location: Belgium - Zeebrugge  

*In recognition of bravery during the hazardous rescue operations after the capsize of m.v. ‘Herald of Free Enterprise’ off Zeebrugge on the night of 6th March 1987.*

For other awards earned in this incident see Lieutenant S N Bound QGM. For more information see the accounts by Lieutenant S N Bound QGM and Able Seaman E C McK Fullen QGM, and the comments by G A Couwenbergh QGM at Appendix 9.

Guido Armand ‘Gie’ Couwenbergh QGM was born in Antwerp, Belgium, on 6 September 1943. He joined the Belgian Marine Royale on 2 August 1965. He commanded the coastal minesweeper BNS Rochefort M930 on fishery protection duties and, after the Zeebrugge incident, he was appointed to command the Aggressive class minesweeper BNS Breydel M906. His final appointment was as Commander of the Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal & Diving Group and Superintendent of Diving for the Belgian Armed Forces. He retired on 31 October 1994 with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. His award was presented at Buckingham Palace by The Sovereign. Since leaving the Belgian Navy, Gie Couwenbergh has established a company that maintains and sells military diving equipment.

His medals group comprises: Badge of a Knight of the Order of Leopold (Military Division with Swords); Badge of a Knight of the Order of the Crown; Military Cross (2nd Class); Military Decoration for Exceptional Service or Acts of Courage or Devotion (1st Class for Gallantry); Medal for Military Merit; and Queen’s Gallantry Medal, EIIR.

**DUGUID QGM**

**David Ian**

Nationality: United Kingdom  
Occupation: Security Contractor  
Rank/Title: Mr  
Conflict/Incident: Tackling an Armed and Violent Person  
Location: Yemen - Jannah oil field, Shabwa province  

*For his actions in disarming a gunman in Yemen.*

On 23 June 2007, David Duguid was on assignment at an airstrip in Yemen providing security cover for a client. The airfield was protected by Yemeni military forces and he was accompanied by a driver and armed escort. He himself was unarmed. As the aircraft carrying his client landed, he moved forward towards the aircraft. As he did so, he felt a pain in his forearm and heard the sound of gunfire. He had been shot. He took cover and saw a Yemeni soldier firing his AK 47 assault rifle. A number of people were on the ground having been hit by gunfire. The gunman was firing at opportune targets as well as at the aircraft. As the gunman moved behind the far side of the aircraft, Duguid broke cover and moved towards him in the hope of overpowering him. Unfortunately, he was spotted and had to take cover again. The gunman then started to fire at the casualties lying on the ground so
he again broke cover to draw his fire. As the gunman focused on Duguid, the armed escort shot and wounded the gunman, enabling Duguid to charge forward and overpower him. Having incapacitated the gunman, and ignoring the pain from his wounds, he then began to help the other casualties. Despite the threat from leaking aviation fuel, he set up a triage and applied life-saving procedures to the most seriously injured. He then arranged evacuation to a hospital and applied further medical treatment throughout the journey. On arrival at the hospital he ensured that the right steps were taken with regard to the wounded. One man died in this incident.

He commented about the attack: “The incident resulted in one fatality—a young Indian electrical engineer, on his first trip to Yemen—three very seriously injured and three others wounded, not including the perpetrator. As said, I’m sure, by many; your training kicks in, and you react instinctively to the threat—you are just doing your job. This is also true for the immediate aftermath of an incident, when out of the chaos there needed to be order and cohesion.”

Awarded the Queen’s Commendation for Bravery: New Award

Anthony John Trethowan, Civilian

For helping to disarm a gunman in Yemen

On 23 June 2007, Tony Trethowan, a Health and Safety Consultant, was on duty at an airstrip in central Yemen managing aircraft and passenger safety. In accordance with standard operating procedure, the airfield was protected by a detachment of Yemeni military forces and he was accompanied by a military escort. He himself was unarmed and was there to greet an arriving aircraft.

Once the aircraft had landed small groups of personnel moved forward to greet the passengers and to proceed with unloading. He was in one of the groups. As they moved towards the rear door, they came under automatic gunfire from a position behind them. A few people who had been standing by the front of the plane were seen to fall down. With no cover available Trethowan dived for the ground as bursts of gunfire continued. It became apparent that the source of the firing was a Yemeni soldier armed with an AK 47 assault rifle. The soldier ran forward around the front of the plane, shooting at the body of the aircraft. A number of individuals were hit by the weapons fire. As the soldier came around the back of the aircraft he began firing directly at people, some of whom were already wounded, firing also in Trethowan’s direction again. As the soldier started moving again one of the military guards shot him, hitting him in the left shoulder. As the gunman was starting to fall to the ground from the impact of the shot, the security manager present quickly ran forward and overpowered him. Trethowan ran forward to assist and a fierce struggle ensued. He helped disarm the gunman and restrained him until help came and the soldier was handed over to military personnel.

During the attack Trethowan gave immediate life-saving first aid to a British man who had been badly wounded. That man later said that Trethowan had helped to save his life and very likely, the lives of at least three others. Trethowan also took a leading role in the recovery operation, supervising and directing personnel, managing the medical evacuation and escorting injured persons to medical facilities. One person died in the incident and five others were badly injured.

David Ian Duguid was born in Aberdeen in 1960. He enlisted into the British Army in 1978 and joined the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. He subsequently volunteered for service with United Kingdom Special Forces and joined 22nd Special Air Service Regiment, where he spent the rest of his military career. He retired from the British Army in 2004 as a Warrant Officer Class 2. He subsequently established a career as a security contractor, primarily with security management, and oil and gas companies, usually in hostile environments.

His medals group comprises: Queen’s Gallantry Medal, EIIR; South Atlantic Medal with Rosette; Operational Service Medal (Afghanistan) with clasp ‘AFGHANISTAN’; Golden Jubilee Medal 2002; and Army Long Service & Good Conduct Medal, EIIR.

DRISCOLL QGM

Aubrey William

Nationality: United Kingdom
Occupation: Prison Officer; Her Majesty’s Prison Service, HMP Liverpool
Rank/Title: Governor
Conflict/Incident: Tackling an Armed and Violent Person
Location: England - Walton, Liverpool

During the afternoon of 22nd December 1976, a civilian workman was taken hostage by a prisoner who had a history of violence. The prisoner had barricaded his cell, and was insisting on speaking
to the Governor. Mr. Driscoll was on sick leave, but when he was informed of the situation by telephone he immediately went to the prison.

On arrival at the scene, Mr. Driscoll kicked open the door to remove the obstruction behind it and went into the cell. The prisoner told him that the hostage would be killed if he went any closer, but Mr. Driscoll continued to move forward, still talking to the prisoner who then threatened to kill him. When he was close enough, Mr. Driscoll jumped between the prisoner and the hostage, grappling with the prisoner. The man, who was armed with an improvised knife, attempted four times to stab Mr. Driscoll, but fortunately his overcoat gave him some measure of protection, although one stab penetrated through it into the chest above his heart. By this time, other staff who had been waiting outside the cell were able to enter; they overpowered the prisoner and took out the hostage, who was unhurt.

Mr. Driscoll acted with great courage, initiative and a complete disregard for his own safety when he tackled this extremely violent prisoner and brought about the release of the hostage.

Aubrey William Driscoll was born on 16 April 1930 at Cardiff. He served with the Corps of Royal Military Police Special Investigation Branch during his National Service and joined His Majesty’s Prison Service in 1950. He subsequently became the principal of the Prison Service staff college at Wakefield, West Yorkshire. In 1983 he was appointed a regional director of prisons, and later had responsibility for the north region. He retired from the Prison Service in December 1989. He died at Melbourne, Australia on 8 April 2014, aged 83.

GURUNG QGM
Janga Bahadur
Nationality: Nepal
Occupation: Civilian Security Contractor; G4S
Rank/Title: Mr
Conflict/Incident: Operations in Afghanistan
Location: Afghanistan - British Council compound, Kabul

For resisting an attack by insurgents on the British Council Compound in Kabul.

On 19th August 2011, the British Council compound in Kabul, Afghanistan underwent a complex attack involving 2 Suicide Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices and an assault by 4 heavily armed insurgents. At the time of the assault there were 2 female staff asleep on site and the compound was protected by 4 armed Gurkha guards, 6 unarmed Afghan National security staff, and one British National security manager/bodyguard, all in the employ of Group 4 Security. During the course of the attack, 3 of the Afghan National security guards were killed by small arms fire, 3 others were wounded by blast and small arms fire but survived, and 3 of the 4 Ghurkha guards were also wounded. The 2 British Council staff and security manager survived having endured 7½ hours locked in a safe room within the main building.

The 500kg first bomb detonated at the front gate to the complex totally destroying the gate and internal security barriers. At this point Shayam Limbu, the Security Supervisor and 2 Afghan National staff were wounded and Janga Gurung in the gun tower received burns. Two insurgents then entered the main gate area and proceeded to engage the CCTV room with small arms and grenades. At this point Shayam Limbu was wounded and he then received a gunshot wound to the head. Nevertheless, he stayed in the guardhouse area and protected the wounded Afghan National staff until he was rescued. The insurgents proceeded to the security changing rooms and shot to death the 3 Afghan National security guards within. They then attacked the gun tower with small arms and grenades wounding Janga Gurung. Two insurgents then made their way towards the second compound, accessed through a doorway, and it was at this point that they engaged Deepak Thapa, who returned fire killing one of the insurgents before he withdrew to the main building, where he met Jeetman Magar.

Concurrent with this action, the security manager Hameed Choudhry had gone from his bedroom to one of the staff bedrooms and taken the staff member to the safe room in the main building. At this point the second large bomb detonated on the road outside the complex. The second female staff member had already taken herself from her bedroom in the main building to the safe room. Hameed Choudhry ensured that both members of staff were in the safe room and then proceeded to brief Deepak Thapa and Jeetman Magar on further defensive measures. He then entered the safe room himself and stayed with the two members of staff for the duration of the battle. Throughout this time, he maintained an open mobile telephone link with the British Embassy operations centre keeping them informed of the exact situation. This included detail of insurgent movements as well as providing intelligence of assistance to the rescue team. He was a calm and reassuring presence in the safe room.
Deepak Thapa and Jeetman Magar guarded the safe room access for about an hour but then had to withdraw as the insurgents started to throw grenades into the building to gain access. Deepak Thapa and Jeetman Magar withdrew to the roof space where they remained until they were able to evacuate some 7 hours later. Due to their swift action and response to the attack, precious time was bought for the staff and Hameed Choudhry to make their way into the safe room before they could be attacked by the insurgents. Jeetman Magar sustained shrapnel wounds to his leg and foot. Janga Gurung in the tower engaged the insurgents in the main building with his machine gun firing all his ammunition during a furious fire fight. The insurgents managed to get into the base of the tower and subjected him to sustained fire but he remained at his post until rescued some 90 minutes after the start of the attack. During the attack he fired some 8,000 rounds of machine gun ammunition. By his actions Janga Gurung helped suppress the insurgents and bought critical time that enabled staff to enter the safe house.

The siege culminated in Afghan commandos assaulting the building to rescue those in the safe room. The attackers were all killed or detonated themselves within the building. It is beyond question that the actions of all the Gurkha guards greatly assisted in saving the lives of the British Council staff. They all remained at their posts, despite several of them being wounded. Their bravery and swift action bought critical time for others to find sanctuary.

Also awarded the Queen’s Gallantry Medal in this incident:

- Shayam Kumar Limbu
- Jeetman Sharu Magar
- Deepak Kumar Thapa

Awarded the Queen’s Commendation for Bravery:

- Hameed Choudhry, Security Manager, British Council

During the attack on the compound, launched on a public holiday—Independence Day, the 92nd anniversary of the Treaty of Rawalpindi—three Afghan security guards were killed as described in the citation; several Afghan policemen and a soldier of the New Zealand Special Air Service were also killed during the day. The assault on the compound to rescue the besieged guards and teachers was conducted by the Afghan Crisis Response Unit with mentors from the New Zealand Special Air Service. The soldier killed was Corporal Douglas Grant and another New Zealand soldier, Lance Corporal Leon Smith, was awarded the New Zealand Gallantry Decoration for attempting to save Grant’s life while under fire from the insurgents. Smith was killed in action on 28 September 2015. Other New Zealand awards for gallantry during this incident were published in 2014.

Janga Bahadur Gurung is a former British Army soldier of the Brigade of Gurkhas. His award was presented in Kabul in February 2015 by the British Ambassador to Afghanistan, Sir Richard Stagg KCMG.

**KENNEDY QGM**

**New Award**

**Michael Robert John**

**Nationality:** United Kingdom

**Occupation:** British Army; Corps of Royal Engineers

**Rank/Title:** Captain

**Service Number:** 565765

**Conflict/Incident:** Imprvised Explosive Device Disposal, Military Operations in Afghanistan, Operation Herrick

**London Gazette:** 21 March 2014. Issue 60813, p 5836.

On his third tour of operations in Afghanistan, Captain Kennedy and his Improvised Explosive Device Disposal team were supporting a Brigade Operations Company that had landed by helicopter at a compound. After scaling the compound walls using ladders, a search revealed bomb-making equipment and a number of concealed IEDs. As he and his team prepared to neutralise the IEDs remotely in the hope of recovering the items intact, a message came through that he had five minutes before the patrol would be extracted by helicopter. With time now a major obstacle to retrieving the IEDs intact, he decided to destroy them. Insurgents were now reported to be in the area and preparing to detonate a concealed command wire IED.

Noting a patch of disturbed earth near the ladder used to scale the compound walls, he discovered a large artillery shell with a command wire running off to a tree-lined area that insurgents were moving toward. Realising he had minutes to neutralise the device before it was detonated he shouted to patrol commander to evacuate the area. Once his colleagues were out of harm’s way he set about defusing the device, cutting the command wire and carefully removing the detonator. With time running out before the extraction of the patrol he quickly placed explosive charges near the remaining IEDs detonating them from a safe vantage point. All of this was completed within just five minutes.
Michael Robert John Kennedy QGM was commissioned from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst into the Corps of Royal Engineers (565765, Second Lieutenant) on 16 December 2006, with seniority 13 December 2003; Lieutenant 16 December 2006, with seniority 13 December 2005; Captain 16 June 2009. He retired from the British Army on 13 December 2014.

LIMBU QGM New Award
Shayam Kumar
Nationality: Nepal
Occupation: Civilian Security Contractor; G4S
Rank/Title: Mr
Conflict/Incident: Operations in Afghanistan
Location: Afghanistan - British Council compound, Kabul
For resisting an attack by insurgents on the British Council Compound in Kabul.
For other awards earned in this incident, and for more information see Janga Bahadur Gurung QGM.

LUCY QGM New Award
Nathan
Nationality: United Kingdom
Occupation: Police Officer; Hampshire Constabulary
Rank/Title: Constable
Conflict/Incident: Rescue from the Sea
Location: Cowes, Isle of Wight
On 12 April 2014 PC Lucy was on duty when he was made aware of a female who had walked out of a mental health hospital after attending as a voluntary patient. The woman had made numerous threats to her own safety.

PC Lucy responded to a radio message stating that the same woman had jumped into the water from the Red Jet Terminal in Cowes. The officer saw the woman in the water and knew that she was being swept out by the current. He ran to three different locations to get ahead of her in the water and shouted at her to swim towards him, but she ignored him.

PC Lucy considered the woman to be in danger of drowning due to the current and temperatures known to make that stretch of water dangerous. He therefore took a life ring and jumped into the sea and started to swim towards the woman. When he reached her, he stretched out towards her but she kicked him in the chest. He eventually managed to get hold of the female but she pushed him under the water. When he resurfaced, this time he successfully pulled her towards him and gripped the life ring. Someone on the jetty then started to pull them in. The woman continued to resist but then went very still with her eyes closed. PC Lucy pushed her head higher out of the water which again caused him to go under. Despite this he retained hold of her until they were finally pulled into the jetty where she was lifted out and given immediate life saving treatment before being conveyed to hospital.

PC Lucy was aware of the danger to himself when he went into the water to save the woman. The woman was intent on taking her own life and put herself and the officer in grave danger. Throughout the incident he displayed great dedication and remained calm and in control.

He commented about the award and the incident: “I am extremely proud to receive the medal. I think this incident clearly portrays the challenges and very difficult decisions that front-line police officers face on a daily basis. With regards to the incident itself, I could not have done it without that member of the public pulling on the rope of the life ring to help get me into the jetty.”

Nathan Lucy was born on the Isle of Wight in February 1973. In 1989 he enlisted into the Royal Navy in 1989 as an Air Engineering Mechanic; his final post was in the Mobile Aircraft Support Unit (now 1710 Naval Air Squadron). He joined Hampshire Constabulary on 7 July 1997 and was first posted to Shanklin on the Isle of Wight. Since 2003 he has been a police dog handler. For the rescue at Cowes he was awarded a Chief Constables Commendation.

His medals group comprises: Queen’s Gallantry Medal, EIIR; NATO Service Medal (Former Yugoslavia) with clasp ‘FORMER YUGOSLAVIA’; Golden Jubilee Medal 2002; and Diamond Jubilee Medal 2012.
LYE QGM

Paul

Nationality: Unknown
Occupation: Unknown
Rank/Title: Mr
Conflict/Incident: Unknown
To be dated 15 April 2014.

No further details of the incident that resulted in this award are known.
Also awarded the Queen’s Gallantry Medal:
Mr Wesley Richards.

MAGAR QGM

Jeetman Sharu

Nationality: Nepal
Occupation: Civilian Security Contractor; G4S
Rank/Title: Mr
Conflict/Incident: Operations in Afghanistan
Location: Afghanistan - British Council compound, Kabul

For resisting an attack by insurgents on the British Council Compound in Kabul.
For other awards earned in this incident, and for more information see Janga Bahadur Gurung QGM.

McKEAG QGM

Jonathan

Nationality: United Kingdom
Occupation: Royal Marines
Service Number: P059060X
Rank/Title: Corporal
Conflict/Incident: Unspecified Military Operations

In recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the field during the period 1 October 2013 to 30 June 2014.

MUFTIZADE OBE, QGM

Omar Faik

Nationality: Cyprus
Occupation: Civil Servant; Ministry of Defence, Area Officer, Akrotiri Sovereign Base Areas Administration
Rank/Title: Mr
Conflict/Incident: Turkish Invasion of Cyprus
Location: Cyprus - Limassol

Early on 20th July 1974 fighting broke out in Limassol between Greek and Turkish Cypriot Forces. The heavy exchange of fire presented a serious danger to the lives of British personnel and caused their evacuation to be halted. Soon after midday negotiations were successfully concluded with the Greek Cypriot National Guard for a cease-fire to allow the evacuation of British personnel and families to be completed.

Mr. Muftizade was given the task of negotiating a ceasefire with the Commander of the forces in the Turkish Cypriot quarter. Accompanied by a British officer and three soldiers, Mr. Muftizade drove into Limassol. The vehicle was stopped at a Greek Cypriot National Guard road block and the party ordered out at gunpoint and disarmed, but Mr. Muftizade eventually persuaded them to allow his party to drive on. As the vehicle approached a factory it came under small arms fire and the radiator was pierced by a bullet. They drove on at high speed until they reached a house where Mr. Muftizade
met a Turkish officer and began discussions. The remainder of the party took cover from sporadic small arms and mortar fire.

When the cease-fire negotiations were completed Mr. Muftizade and his party drove back through continuing small arms fire from both sides. At the National Guard block they retrieved their weapons and found that their vehicle’s radiator was completely drained. After changing vehicles Mr. Muftizade then confirmed the Turkish Cypriot acceptance of the cease-fire to the National Guard Commander in Limassol.

The success of the negotiations for a cease-fire was vital to the security of more than 11,000 British nationals who were subsequently evacuated from Limassol without a single casualty. Mr. Muftizade completed his mission in the most hazardous circumstances with total disregard for his personal safety. Faced with hostility and extreme danger he refused to turn back, even after his vehicle was hit under fire from both sides. Throughout this mission he displayed outstanding courage and devotion to duty.

Also awarded the Queen’s Gallantry Medal in this incident:

Captain Simon John MacMillan Barnewson

Ömer Faik Müftüzade was born in November 1915 at Larnaca, on the southern coast of Cyprus. He worked as a teacher before the Second World War, when he enlisted into the newly-formed Cyprus Regiment; he was commissioned into the Regiment (144874, Second Lieutenant) on 4 May 1940. He was subsequently promoted to Major and from 1946 to 1949 commanded the Regiment. He relinquished his commission on 26 May 1950. He joined the Civil Service in Cyprus and served in the administration of the Sovereign Base Areas. He was appointed Assistant Commissioner of Paphos in February 1952 before being appointed as Commissioner of Paphos. On the night of 30 March/1 April 1955, the first night of the EOKA campaign, a bomb exploded at his house. In 1975, he was appointed as the London Representative for the unrecognised Turkish Federated State of Cyprus. He held this post until 1982, when he retired; he returned Cyprus in 1991. Ömer Faik Müftüzade OBE, QGM died on 9 July 2002, aged 87, and was buried in Nicosia.

Award: Ordinary Member of the Military Division of the Order of the British Empire (Major, The Cyprus Regiment)

Conflict/Incident: Second World War


Award: Ordinary Officer of the Civil Division of the Order of the British Empire (Commissioner, Paphos, Cyprus)


His medal group comprises: Badge of an Officer of the Civil Division of the Order of the British Empire; (Badge of a Member of the Military Division of the Order of the British Empire); Queen’s Gallantry Medal, EIIR; 1939-45 Star; Africa Star with clasp ‘8TH ARMY’; Defence Medal; War Medal 1939-45; and Coronation Medal 1953.

O’ROURKE QGM Shane Mark

Nationality: United Kingdom

Occupation: British Army, Adjutant General’s Corps (Royal Military Police)

Rank/Title: Warrant Officer Class 2

Service Number: 25026294

Conflict/Incident: Aircraft Accident


In recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the field during the period 1 October 2015 to 31 March 2016.

Warrant Officer Class II O’Rourke was serving on operations in Afghanistan—on Operation TORAL, the British component of the NATO training mission Operation RESOLUTE SUPPORT—when the incident occurred.

At 1623 hours on 11 October 2015, a Royal Air Force Puma HC Mk2 hit the tether of a military observation aerostat and crashed within the confines of the NATO headquarters. Two aircrew and three passengers were killed and a third member of the aircrew and three passengers were injured, some severely.

Amongst the first on the scene, Warrant Officer Class II O’Rourke took command of the rescue efforts, which lasted for almost 1½ hours, and personally engaged in the extraction of the casualties from the wreckage. An extract from his citation states: ‘There is no doubt that O’Rourke’s actions
prevented further loss of life as four were pulled from the wreckage alive. For his courage, leadership, compassion, skill and determination, he is worthy of formal recognition.'

Those killed in the accident were Flight Lieutenant Alan James Scott, 33 Squadron Royal Air Force (Aircraft Captain); Flight Lieutenant Geraint Roberts, 230 Squadron Royal Air Force (Crewman), Major Phyllis J. Pelky United States Air Force, Master Sergeant Gregory T. Kuhse United States Air Force, and Mr Gordon Emin, (former French Foreign Legion NCO, civilian security contractor). Of the injured passengers, one was United States Air Force, one was a US civilian contractor and one was from the Lithuanian armed forces. In addition, a Turkish military bystander was also injured.

**PICKARD QGM**

*Clive Robert*

| Nationality: | United Kingdom |
| Occupation: | British Army; 321 (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) Company, Royal Army Ordnance Corps |
| Rank/Title: | Major |
| Service Number: | 462402 |
| Conflict/Incident: | Improvised Explosive Device Disposal, Military Operations in Northern Ireland, Operation BANNER |

*In recognition of services in Northern Ireland during the period 1st August 1974 to 31st October 1974.*

Clive Robert Pickard QGM was born on 22 May 1937 in Hull and educated at Kingston High School. He was commissioned for National Service into The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) on 12 September 1959; Lieutenant 31 March 1961. He transferred to the Royal Army Ordnance Corps on 19 April 1961; Captain 31 March 1965; Major 31 December 1969; Lieutenant Colonel 30 June 1976; Colonel 31 December 1982; Brigadier 30 June 1989. Pickard took command of 321 (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) Company in March 1974 and was engaged in a series of counter IED operations, including that for which Captain N W Wylde was awarded the QGM. He retired from the British Army on 12 October 1991. He subsequently became an Honorary Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Defence Economics at the University of York. He died on 23 June 2016.

**RICHARDS QGM**

*Wesley*

| Nationality: | Unknown |
| Occupation: | Unknown |
| Rank/Title: | Mr |
| Conflict/Incident: | Unknown |

No further details of the incident that resulted in this award are known.

Also awarded the Queen’s Gallantry Medal:

Mr Paul Lye.

**SMAHON QGM**

*Dean Carey*

| Nationality: | United Kingdom |
| Occupation: | Police Officer; Royal Ulster Constabulary |
| Rank/Title: | Constable |
| Conflict/Incident: | Police Operations in Northern Ireland |

*For Bravery in Northern Ireland.*

For other awards earned in this incident and for more information see Sergeant A McKinley QGM.

| Award: | Queen’s Commendation for Brave Conduct (Constable, Royal Ulster Constabulary) |
| Conflict/Incident: | Police Operations in Northern Ireland |

*For bravery in Northern Ireland.*
Also awarded the Queen’s Commendation for Brave Conduct in this incident:
Constable Thomas William Sanderson

Dean Smahon represented Northern Ireland in athletics (javelin) in 1994. He left the Royal Ulster Constabulary and settled in England, where he became a well-regarded DJ. In 2010 he fell seriously ill with sepsis and lost both legs, his right hand and fingers of his left hand.

**SMITH QGM Posthumous Award**

**Darren**

Nationality: United Kingdom
Occupation: Security Guard
Rank/Title: Mr
Conflict/Incident: Rescue from Fire
Location: Wales – Maxton Court, Lansbury Park Estate, Caerphilly, Glamorgan

At approximately 10.45 p.m. on 29th December 1989, a fire broke out on the ground floor of a two-storey maisonette. The occupant, a mother of two children, trapped in a bedroom on the first floor, shouted for help. The fire brigade was summoned.

Darren Smith, who was in a nearby flat, heard the woman cry for help. He, together with a neighbour, attempted to break into the flat through the front door. After several attempts Mr. Smith managed to force open the door, while the neighbour gained access through a rear kitchen window. By this time, the mother had climbed out of the bedroom window and hung from the ledge as smoke and hot gases quickly entered the room. She fell onto the concrete below as she grasped a nearby television aerial that gave way.

Mr. Smith and the neighbour went up the stairs to search for the children, but became separated in the dense smoke. The neighbour, unable to withstand the heat and smoke, came out for fresh air. He re-entered the maisonette but only managed to reach the first floor landing where he heard Mr. Smith calling. The thick acrid smoke made it impossible for the neighbour to continue the search and he was forced to leave the burning flat. The fire, now out of control, developed quite rapidly making it impossible for the neighbour to re-enter. The fire brigade arrived and, wearing breathing apparatus, two firemen located the body of Mr. Smith in the mother’s bedroom and the two children in an adjacent room. The two children died later in hospital. The fire was brought under control at approximately 12.30 a.m.

Darren Smith, with total disregard for his own safety, displayed bravery of a high order in attempting to rescue a mother and her two children from their blazing and smoke-laden maisonette, losing his life in the attempt.

The neighbour who helped in the rescue attempt was Mr Brian Evans, and the children who died were Geraint Lewis, aged two, and nine-month-old Jade Lewis.

Darren Smith QGM was born Darren Paul Thomas on 6 April 1969 in Caerphilly District Miners’ Hospital and lived in Lansbury Park all his life. He attended Lansbury Park Junior School and St Martin’s School, Caerphilly. His sister commented: “Darren always got into trouble with his brothers, but he had a heart of gold and always made sure I was safe and got all his mates to look after me.” At some time, he changed his name to Darren Smith and at the time of his death he was working as a security guard on a building site on the outskirts of Caerphilly. Darren Smith QGM is buried in Bedwas Cemetery, near the children he tried to save. He is commemorated on a memorial plaque on the wall inside the local doctor’s surgery in Wedgewood Court.20

This Queen’s Gallantry Medal is now in a private collection in Wales.

**SPEED QGM New Award**

**Alan Paul**

Nationality: United Kingdom
Occupation: Royal Navy, HMS Gannet Search and Rescue Flight, Prestwick
Rank/Title: Petty Officer Aircrewman
Service Number: D251861A
Conflict/Incident: Helicopter Rescue
Location: Scotland - Dailly, South Ayrshire
For rescuing ten passengers trapped in a single decker bus in a heavily flooded river in Dailly, South Ayrshire on 30th December 2015.

Awarded the Air Force Cross:

Acting Lieutenant Commander Richard Alan Lightfoot, Royal Navy

For assisting in the rescue of ten passengers trapped in a single decker bus in a heavily flooded river in Dailly, South Ayrshire on 30th December 2015.

The area had suffered severe flooding in the aftermath of Storm Frank and the bus was in a precarious position and nearly flooded. The difficulty of the rescue was compounded by overhanging trees. The crew of Rescue 177—which included Lieutenant Commander Martin Lanni AFC Royal Navy and Lieutenant James Bullock Royal Navy—was awarded the Prince Philip Helicopter Rescue Award by the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators; the citation provides a full account of the incident:

On 30 December 2015, Rescue 177 (R177), the duty Search and Rescue aircraft at HMS Gannet was under the command of Lt Richard Lightfoot and his crew comprised of Lt Cdr Lanni AFC (P1/Handling Pilot), Lt Bullock (P2) and POACMN Speed (Aircrewman). South Ayrshire was suffering significant rainfall and continued gale force winds during the passage of ‘Storm Frank’. R177 had already conducted three rescues during their duty period when Lt Lightfoot received tasking from the ARCC to proceed to Dailly, South Ayrshire to attend a vehicle stuck in floodwater that was to test their mettle as a SAR crew.

Once on scene, this transpired to be a single-deck bus stuck in a heavily flooded river, listing and 75% submerged with water already at the windows’ midpoint. Precariously positioned, the bus was only just held from being completely lost by a submerged wall. All other attempts by attending rescue services had failed and the only available boat was a Fire Rescue Service Rib that had been damaged beyond use and now lay roped to the bus, its crew inside the bus. The bus itself was also under significant tree cover, preventing easy access. Lt Lightfoot assessed the scene and saw that with no other viable form of rescue, and the water continuing to flood, the bus and its passengers were likely to be lost to the torrent and the 60kts winds. His initial plan was to use a hi-line to extract the casualties as safely as possible, however this was soon impossible due to the extensive overhang of the trees preventing the hi-line being passed. With the aircrewman’s consent, Lt Lightfoot now planned to put the aircraft itself into the branches of the trees, enabling the aircrewman to be lowered directly through the branches using the aircrewman’s own weight to force a way through. Lt Cdr Lanni had to position the aircraft with the starboard sponson of the aircraft now in the treeline constantly challenged by gale force winds and significant turbulence but the man was successfully placed into the bus.

Inside the bus, the scene was grim, water halfway up the cabin and the passengers retreated to the highest seats; after 2 hours, they were cold and scared. POACMN Speed tactfully assessed the priority for evacuation and set up the hi-line for recovery. He intelligently decided to use an adult male first in order to prove the extraction. He and the casualty met with considerable swing of the winch but nonetheless he had proved its viability. In contact with the aircrewman, Lt Lightfoot’s plan was to extract casualties one by one, under his supervision and conducting the winching. Lt Cdr Lanni continued to hover within inches of the treeline’s branches and with such a small aperture of escape for the winchman and casualties, a careful, constant and exact con of the aircraft was required, and given, by Lt Lightfoot. On the second deployment, the current caught POACMN Speed, sweeping him under the tethered Rib, trapping him under water. Lt Lightfoot immediately spotted this, raising the winch and bringing the aircrewman back to the surface saving his life with his quick actions. POACMN Speed caught his breath, signalled that he was OK and to continue. What followed was 9 further lifts, 9 pinpoint re-iterations of the hovering required to rescue the casualties for 90 minutes in an unrelenting storm, including two rescues of children using the child’s rescue valise until all casualties were clear.

Lt Lightfoot decided that with the potential of total loss of the bus still present, there would be no opportunity to stop. In consultation with his crew, he decided to take the aircraft to its limit of endurance, accepting the fuel low captions would illuminate and that the aircraft would have to shut down after with not enough fuel to continue flying. With forethought, R177 alerted the ARCC to deploy Gannet’s fuel bowser by road to refuel on completion. Ending the rescue with 10 casualties on board and every seat full, they landed in darkness. POACMN Speed was cold, soaked and had suffered a near drowning but never gave up or asked for time to recover. The crew were marshalled to keep going by Lt Lightfoot’s continued direction. Now, every casualty was individually handed over by the winchman to the medical services. Finally, the crew lift to find, rescue and land at an optimal area to refuel the aircraft in situ and returned it to alert status. The aircraft was to launch again later that night for the fifth callout of their 24 hour duty. Lt Lightfoot commanded a crew through a period of constant bad weather. He planned and conducted a rescue with flexibility of thought and, crucially, it worked and lives undoubtedly saved. Lt Cdr Lanni positioned the aircraft in close proximity to obstructions for over 90 minutes and together they took the aircraft to the very limit of its fuel.
endurance. This rescue tested every fibre of POACMN Speed, from a near drowning to exhausting work in freezing conditions. The crew of R177 were resolute, determined and successful and with no other feasible method of recovery, their actions were decisive in saving all. The entire crew is therefore most deservedly recognised for their outstanding courage and devotion to duty by the award of the Prince Philip Helicopter Rescue Award.\textsuperscript{21}

Alan Speed left the Royal Navy and joined Bristow Helicopters as a winchman paramedic for HM Coastguard, Inverness.

**THAPA QGM**  
**Deepak Kumar**  
New Award

- **Nationality:** Nepal
- **Occupation:** Civilian Security Contractor; G4S
- **Rank/Title:** Mr
- **Conflict/Incident:** Operations in Afghanistan
- **Location:** Afghanistan - British Council compound, Kabul
- **London Gazette:** 2 September 2014. Issue 60977, p 17010.

  For resisting an attack by insurgents on the British Council Compound in Kabul.

  For other awards earned in this incident, and for more information see Janga Bahadur Gurung QGM.

**WRIGHT QGM**  
**Andrew Mark**  
New Award

- **Nationality:** United Kingdom
- **Occupation:** Police Officer; Police Service of Northern Ireland
- **Rank/Title:** Sergeant
- **Conflict/Incident:** Tackling an Armed and Violent Person
- **Location:** Filbin Crescent, Kilwilkie, Lurgan

  On 5 February 2012 Sergeant Wright volunteered to deal with an urgent call for assistance from a woman who had been assaulted during a serious disturbance in a house. Sergeant Wright was accompanied by two other police officers. The suspected perpetrator of the assault had locked himself inside the house with two very young children. He was described as ‘dangerously out of control’ but it was not known that he was armed.

  Sergeant Wright could see evidence of a disturbance and blood through a window. As he was about to force entry the suspect, armed with a knife in each hand, attacked him at close quarters. Sergeant Wright sustained serious wounds to his head. Despite his injuries, Sergeant Wright wrestled with the suspect in an attempt to prevent injury to others. However, the suspect struggled free and attacked a second officer nearby, swinging a knife towards the officer’s throat. Sergeant Wright ‘rugby tackled’ the suspect to the ground, preventing any injuries to his colleague. He and his colleagues then overpowered and handcuffed the suspect.

  Although Sergeant Wright was trained and experienced in personal protection, the immediacy and ferocity of the attack and the risk of death to both him and his colleague was significant. Although seriously wounded, Sergeant Wright made a deliberate decision to continue to pursue the suspect in the face of the danger to his colleague. His actions ensured the safety of the children, protected the life of his colleague and culminated in the conviction of a man on various charges including Wounding with intent to do Grievous Bodily Harm. The man was subsequently sentenced to 7 years’ imprisonment.

  During the sentencing of the perpetrator at Craigavon Crown Court, Judge Patrick Lynch QC commended the police for using minimum force. Sergeant Wright commented: “I am aware of the perception in some communities that police are heavy-handed and I hope the judge’s comments dispels some of this thinking.”

**WRIGHT QGM**  
**Kevin Marc**  
New Award

- **Nationality:** United Kingdom
- **Occupation:** British Army; The Royal Logistic Corps
- **Rank/Title:** Sergeant
Service Number:  25209808
Conflict/Incident:  Improvised Explosive Device Disposal, Unspecified Military Operations

In recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the field during the period 1 April 2013 to 30 September 2013.

(Addendum Contents)

1 Citation with permission of The Honourable Company of Air Pilots; Trophies and Awards 2014.
2 Comments about the award, and details of his career and medals group provided to the author by R J Adams QGM.
3 Citation with permission of Shipwrecked Mariners’ Society; Awards for Skill and Gallantry 2015.
4 Comment about the award and details about his career and medals group provided to the author by D M Allanson QGM.
6 Details about his career, and medals group provided to the author by G D Allen QGM.
8 At the time of writing Sea King XV663 was on display at the National Maritime Museum Cornwall Search and Rescue Exhibition, painted in Royal Navy (port side) and Royal Air Force (starboard side) livery. XV663 has since been moved to the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Royal Naval Air Station Yeovilton.
9 Comment about the award and details about his career and medals group provided to the author by J K Boughton QGM.
10 Honorary award, approved 19 June 1983.
11 Details of the incident and of his career and medals group provided to the author by D I Duguid QGM.
13 New Zealand Special Honours List, 20 April 2013.

New Zealand Gallantry Decoration. T1002840 Lance Corporal Leon Kristopher Smith, 1 New Zealand Special Air Service Group, New Zealand Defence Force

On 19 August 2011 Lance Corporal Smith, as a member of the NZSAS Task Force, responded to an insurgent attack on the British Council Offices in the centre of Kabul, Afghanistan. Five insurgents used a Suicide Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device to gain entry into the British Council Offices. Having made entry into the compound they manoeuvred themselves into a strong defensive position where they could rain down small arms fire and rockets and ultimately detonate suicide vests against the rescue force. This incident was complex in nature. Not only was the enemy determined and well-equipped, five British nationals were also isolated within the compound.

Lance Corporal Smith arrived on the scene with other members of the NZSAS who were supporting the Afghan Crisis Response Unit (CRU). As part of a supporting plan Lance Corporal Smith moved into an over-watch position 30 metres away from the insurgents’ stronghold. The NZSAS personnel, including Lance Corporal Smith, began to prepare a plan to rescue the hostages and to assist the CRU to clear the compound of insurgents.

At approximately 11.35 am (local time) Corporal Douglas Grant, another member of the Task Force, moved across the backyard of the target building to link up with other NZSAS members. Whilst rushing up a stairwell Corporal Grant was mortally wounded by insurgent fire. Initially it was not known where Corporal Grant had fallen or what condition he was in.

With no concern for his personal safety, Lance Corporal Smith pushed into an exposed position to view and confirm Corporal Grant’s exact location. Lance Corporal Smith saw Corporal Grant lying inside a small structure slightly above him at the top of some stairs. Without hesitation Lance Corporal Smith requested to move to Corporal Grant’s position in order to render first aid, but was told by his Troop
Commander to wait for a ballistic shield. During this period Lance Corporal Smith’s position was receiving a significant volume of insurgent machine gun and rifle fire.

Once Lance Corporal Smith received the ballistic shield, he took two deep breaths, gave his Troop Commander a positive nod and the ‘GO’ call was issued. Covering fire from over-watch positions was directed towards the insurgents as Lance Corporal Smith jumped into the fray. Once again without thought for his personal safety, he leapt over a wall and across exposed and open ground and up the same stairs where Corporal Grant had been shot. All the while, insurgent bullets were impacting around him. Lance Corporal Smith threw himself into the room where Corporal Grant lay and then, with cool and professional resolve, began providing immediate medical treatment. Corporal Grant was not yet confirmed dead and Lance Corporal Smith, also trained in advanced patrol paramedic techniques, applied first aid to the wound and commenced CPR, which he continued to administer until Corporal Grant was evacuated from the building in the care of the Task Force medic. To evacuate Corporal Grant safely, Lance Corporal Smith had to call for other Task Force members to knock a hole in the brick wall of the building that he and Corporal Grant were in. Lance Corporal Smith then calmly returned to the fight. During this stage he again exposed himself to enemy fire so that he could engage the insurgents effectively. He then took part in blowing a large hole in the outer wall of the compound so that he and other members of the Task Force could minimise the open ground they had to cover to get to the panic room where the British captives were hiding. Lance Corporal Smith then provided covering fire as the captives were rushed to safety through the compound wall.

Throughout the entire incident Lance Corporal Smith displayed extreme calmness under pressure, tremendous personal bravery, and the utmost professionalism whilst under continuous insurgent fire. As a result of Lance Corporal Smith’s actions Corporal Grant received the best medical treatment possible, the Task Force was able to recover all five British nationals alive and the insurgent threat was neutralised.

14 New Zealand Special Honours List, 9 December 2014.


16 His forename has been published as both Omar and Omer. His full correct name is Ömer Faik Müftüzade.


18 Ibid.

19 The record of the Service Inquiry into the incident may be found here: Service Inquiry.

20 Details of his life provided to the author by his sister, Deborah John.

21 Citation with permission of The Honourable Company of Air Pilots; Trophies and Awards 2016.