

The King's Gallantry Medal



The official King's Gallantry Medal Pattern, produced by Worcestershire Medal Service.

(Photo: By Permission © Worcestershire Medal Service)

The final awards of the Queen's Gallantry Medal were announced in the Civilian Gallantry List of 18 March 2023.¹ Following the Accession of King Charles III, the medal was renamed 'The King's Gallantry Medal'.² The Royal Warrant was reviewed shortly before the Coronation of King Charles III and it was determined that due to the flexibility contained within it regarding '*Heirs and Successors*', there was no requirement to revise or reissue it.³ The first recipients were announced in the Civilian Gallantry List of 14 May 2024.⁴ The list of recipients below is complete as at June 2026.

The new medal includes some design changes from its predecessor.

The obverse displays the right-facing, crowned effigy of King Charles III designed by Jack McDermott of Worcestershire Medal Service,⁵ whose initials appear under the bust. It is

¹ LG 18 March 2023. Issue 64000.

² Cabinet Office. [The Honours System of the United Kingdom—Gallantry](#).

³ Cabinet Office, Honours and Memorialisation Secretariats. (17 March 2005). *Letter to Nick Metcalfe from the Honours Policy Officer*.

⁴ LG 14 May 2024. Issue 64394.

⁵ This effigy was first used on the Nuclear Test Medal.

inscribed 'CHARLES III DEI GRATIA REX FID DEF' (*King Charles III by the Grace of God King and Defender of the Faith*).

The reverse comprises the same design features as the original by Reynolds Stone CBE, RDI but, reworked by Jack McDermott, now displays the Tudor crown (rather than St. Edward's Crown) and is inscribed 'THE KING'S GALLANTRY MEDAL', in a subtly different, serif font.

The 'Garter' blue⁶ ribbon remains unchanged and comprises a central stripe of pearl grey, within which is a narrow stripe of rose pink; the grey and rose colours represent the Order of the British Empire, which the original medal replaced.

The format and description of events in the next section follow those found in [**For Exemplary Bravery**](#).

Nick Metcalfe, May 2024

⁶ This colour (also known as 'kingfisher blue') in addition to being that of the ribbon of the Most Noble Order of the Garter is the colour of the ribbon of the George Cross.

Recipients of The King's Gallantry Medal

APPLEBY-MASON KGM

Alex Schmidt

Nationality: United Kingdom
Occupation: British Army; 221 Squadron (Explosive Ordnance Disposal & Search), Corps of Royal Engineers, Army Reserve
Rank/Title: Sapper
Service Number: 30370211
Conflict/Incident: River Rescue
Location: England—River Thames, Royal Pier Road, Gravesend, Kent
London Gazette: 13 June 2026. Issue 65092, p. B43.

For exceptional bravery in the attempted rescue of two small children in the River Thames whilst off-duty on 30 May 2025.

On the afternoon of 30 May 2025, a young girl, Luiza Paun aged 9, fell off a jetty into the River Thames at Royal Pier Road, Gravesend and was soon swept up-river by the strong current. Her young cousin attempted to rescue her but also got into difficulties. Sapper Appleby-Mason and Air Specialist (Class 1) G. M. Karnovski, both of whom were off-duty, attempted to rescue both children and were able to save the young boy, who was taken to hospital. The emergency services, including Kent Police, H.M. Coastguard, and the R.N.L.I., later responded but were unable to find Luiza Paun; her body was recovered the next day.

Also awarded the King's Gallantry Medal in this incident:

Air Specialist (Class 1) George McGillivray **Karnovski**

COOK KGM

Thomas

Nationality: United Kingdom
Occupation: Unknown
Rank/Title: Mr.
Conflict/Incident: Tackling an Armed and Violent Person
Location: England—Purbrook, Hampshire
London Gazette: 6 October 2025. Issue 64865, p. 19203.

For intervening in an armed attack on an approved premises in Hampshire on 1 December 2023. On 1 December 2023, an armed assailant arrived at an approved premises in Purbrook in Hampshire and scaled the perimeter fence. Once inside the perimeter, the assailant walked through the grounds and proceeded to attack the premises and parked cars with an axe that had been concealed in his coat. The attacker used the axe to break through the outer door before a prolonged attempt to break through the internal door, eventually gaining access to the building through a smashed window. Once inside the premises, the attacker was confronted by Mr. Thomas Cook who made a conscious decision to intervene, firstly by attempting to de-escalate the situation through conversation, before ultimately acting to physically disarm the individual and take control of the axe. During this struggle, Mr. Cook was subjected to a serious assault, repeatedly being struck in the head and lower body. Despite this, Mr. Cook persisted and was successful in preventing the assailant from regaining control of the weapon. His actions, while placing himself in considerable personal risk, likely prevented serious injury to staff and residents, and demonstrated courage, and selflessness in the face of significant danger.

DENNISS KGM

Steven

Nationality: United Kingdom
Occupation: Police Officer; Lincolnshire Police
Rank/Title: Constable
Conflict/Incident: Tackling an Armed and Violent Person
Location: England—Louth, Lincolnshire
London Gazette: 14 May 2024. Issue 64394, p. 9334.

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.

The suspect was Daniel Boulton, who was believed to have stabbed and murdered Bethany Vincent, aged 26, and her son Darren, aged 9 at their home in Louth the previous evening; a nine-month-old child at the scene was unharmed. Bolton was convicted at Lincoln Crown Court on 1 February 2022 of the murders and of assault with intent to resist arrest and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

PC Dennis commented about his award: "It's a great honour to be recognised in this way and I am really humbled by it. I must also acknowledge my colleagues on that day as well because if it wasn't for the firearms team and other officers who arrived within minutes, it could have been a very different outcome."

ELSDON-DEW KGM

Lawrence David

Nationality: United Kingdom
 Occupation: Diplomat; Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
 Rank/Title: Mr.
 Conflict/Incident: Civil War in Sudan
 Location: Sudan—Khartoum
 London Gazette: 14 May 2024. Issue 64394, p. 9334.

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.

Due to the scale of the violence and threats against foreign diplomats and embassy properties, in conjunction with an operation mounted by the United States, the Armed Forces conducted a non-combatant evacuation operation on the night of 22/23 April to evacuate British embassy staff from the Wadi Seidna airbase, 14 miles north of Khartoum, to RAF Akrotiri in Cyprus. In a large and complex operation the Armed Forces then evacuated 2,450 British and other nationals from Wadi Seidna and Port Sudan on 30 flights between 25 April and 3 May 2023.

FARRINGTON KGM

Stacey

Nationality: United Kingdom
 Occupation: Paramedic; East Midlands Ambulance Service
 Rank/Title: Ms.
 Conflict/Incident: Traffic Accident
 Location: England—M6 Motorway, near Junction 2, Coventry
 London Gazette: 14 May 2024. Issue 64394, p. 9334.

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.

Also awarded the King's Gallantry Medal:

Mr. Jake **Walker**

JONES KGM

Daniel

Nationality: United Kingdom
Occupation: Security Contractor
Rank/Title: Mr.
Conflict/Incident: Tackling an Armed and Violent Person
Location: Afghanistan—Anjuman Base, Kabul
London Gazette: 6 October 2025. Issue 64865, p. 19203.

For his actions during an insurgent attack on the Anjuman base, Kabul, in November 2018. In November 2018, the Anjuman base housing contracted security staff of the British Embassy Kabul was targeted by a complex and coordinated insurgent attack from a group of assailants using improvised explosive devices, grenades and assault weapons. Daniel Jones courageously exposed himself to heavy fire in an attempt to recover his colleague, who had at this point tragically been fatally wounded. After extracting the colleague, he then advanced to engage the attackers further, and saved many lives through his leadership and bravery.

Awarded the King's Commendation for Bravery:

Mr. Luke GRIFFIN (Posthumous)

Mr. Michael KELLY

Mr Daniel DUNNINGS

For their actions during an insurgent attack on the Anjuman base, Kabul, in November 2018. In November 2018, the Anjuman base housing contracted security staff of the British Embassy Kabul was targeted by a complex and coordinated insurgent attack from a group of assailants using improvised explosive devices, grenades and assault weapons. Luke Griffin was one of the first to respond, engaging insurgents with suppressive fire that denied them access to the safe rooms, before he was tragically fatally wounded. Michael Kelly, despite sustaining a severe injury as a result of the initial blast and lacking personal protective equipment, provided defensive support by returning fire and neutralising the threat. Daniel Dunnings also responded immediately, delivering suppressive fire while exposed to the attackers, preventing their advance and maintaining composure despite the loss of his colleague Mr Griffin.

Camp Anjuman, in the eastern part of Kabul, was the headquarters for G4S Risk Management Group operations in the country and the security team personnel involved were G4S employees. In addition to Mr. Griffin, four Afghan security personnel were killed; 32 G4S personnel were injured. The attack began with the detonation of a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device outside the compound, which was then attacked by armed insurgents; four Afghan insurgents were killed. Luke Griffin had previously served with the Royal Regiment of Artillery.

KARNOVSKI KGM

George McGillivray

Nationality: United Kingdom
Occupation: Royal Air Force
Rank/Title: Air Specialist (Class 1)
Service Number: 30360574
Conflict/Incident: River Rescue
Location: England—River Thames, Royal Pier Road, Gravesend, Kent
London Gazette: 13 June 2026. Issue 65092, p. B43.

For exceptional bravery in the attempted rescue of two small children in the River Thames whilst off-duty on 30 May 2025.

On the afternoon of 30 May 2025, a young girl, Luiza Paun aged 9, fell off a jetty into the River Thames at Royal Pier Road, Gravesend and was soon swept up-river by the strong current. Her young cousin attempted to rescue her but also got into difficulties. Air Specialist (Class 1) Karnovski and Sapper A.

S. Appleby-Mason, both of whom were off-duty, attempted to rescue both children and were able to save the young boy, who was taken to hospital. The emergency services, including Kent Police, H.M. Coastguard, and the R.N.L.I., later responded but were unable to find Luiza Paun; her body was recovered the next day.

Also awarded the King's Gallantry Medal in this incident:

Sapper Alex Schmidt **Appleby-Mason**

LA CROIX KGM

Dave Neala

Nationality: United Kingdom
Occupation: Royal Navy, HMS *Queen Elizabeth*
Rank/Title: Leading Logistician (Catering Services)
Service Number: 30004931
Conflict/Incident: Fighting Fire
Location: Scotland—Northern Ammunition Jetty, Glen Mallan, Loch Long
London Gazette: 14 June 2025. Issue 64760, p. B48.

For demonstrating exceptional courage and disregard for his own safety by attempting to put out a fire before entering a smoke-filled compartment to ensure all personnel were evacuated to the safety of the Mess Deck on HMS Queen Elizabeth on 8th March 2024.

The fire occurred when HMS *Queen Elizabeth* was alongside at the Northern Ammunition Jetty at Glen Mallan en route to Rosyth Dockyard for repairs after being withdrawn from Exercise *Steadfast Defender* due to damage to the ship's starboard propeller shaft coupling.

With the award to Petty Officer C. A. Maddock (see below), this was the first award of the KGM to a member of the Armed Forces.

LAURIE KGM

Georgia

Nationality: United Kingdom
Occupation: Hospitality Specialist and Dive Master
Rank/Title: Ms.
Conflict/Incident: Protecting Others from Wild Animals
Location: Mexico—Manialtepec Lagoon, Puerto Escondido
London Gazette: 14 May 2024. Issue 64394, p. 9334.

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.

In the attack Melissa Laurie was severely injured. In the United Kingdom, it is extremely rare for bravery awards to be granted in incidents where someone risks their life to save a relative; in this

case it emphasises the severity of the attack endured by the Laurie sisters, and the courage of Georgia Laurie. Ms. Georgia Laurie was awarded the Royal Humane Society Silver Medal on 25 May 2022.¹

MADDOCK KGM

Craig Antony

Nationality: United Kingdom
Occupation: Royal Navy, Southern Diving Unit 1
Rank/Title: Petty Officer (Diver)
Service Number: D262926V
Conflict/Incident: Munitions Disposal
Location: England—Plymouth
London Gazette: 14 June 2025. Issue 64760, p. B48.

For displaying exceptional bravery by knowingly and repeatedly placing himself in harm's way to conduct a highly complex Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) task following the discovery of a live fused 500kg German Air Delivered Weapon in a densely populated area of Plymouth, during the period of 20th–23rd February 2024.

Awarded the King's Commendation For Bravery:

D234502Y Petty Officer (Diver) Paul Anthony Damian Cartwright, Southern Diving Unit 1

For knowingly and willingly placing himself in substantial danger to protect the people of Keyham by volunteering to drive a vehicle for almost two miles, loaded with a live, fused 500kg German WW2 bomb through the streets of Plymouth to the Torpoint Ferry Slipway, on 23rd February 2024.

30346337 Lance Corporal Charley Dean Draper, Corps of Royal Engineers

For displaying professionalism and courage volunteering to remain within the blast radius of an unexploded Ordnance and using plant machinery to carefully lift the munition and skilfully drive it 100 metres placing it on a flatbed truck for transportation to render it safe, in Plymouth, during the period of 20th–24th February 2024.

30301765 Lance Corporal Rhys Jamie Petersen, Corps of Royal Engineers

For displaying bravery in lifting an unexploded WW2 Ordnance from a flatbed truck onto a Naval Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB) with no protection from accidental detonation for its ultimate disposal at sea in Plymouth, during the period of 20th–23rd of February 2024.

The bomb was discovered in the garden of a house at St Michael Avenue, Keyham. Having been taken out to sea, it was detonated in Plymouth Sound.

With the award to Leading Logistician D. N. La Croix (see above), this was the first award of the KGM to a member of the Armed Forces.

O'BRIEN KGM

Richard

Nationality: United Kingdom
Occupation: Electrician
Rank/Title: Mr.
Conflict/Incident: Tackling an Armed and Violent Person
Location: England—Barnet, London

¹ There have been similar awards made over the years (what follows is not exhaustive)—an Empire Gallantry Medal (in Bechuanaland (Botswana)) and three George Medals have been awarded for tackling lions (two in Tanganyika Territory (Tanzania) and one in Northern Rhodesia (Zambia) and an Empire Gallantry Medal was awarded to a young girl for fighting off a cougar in Canada; five Albert Medals and a George Medal have been awarded for fighting off sharks; two George Medals were awarded in an incident involving an attack by a crocodile and a British Empire Medal for Gallantry was awarded for rescuing a boy from the jaws of a crocodile in Northern Rhodesia (numerous people have been recognised for rescues in 'shark-infested' or 'crocodile-infested' waters, or in rivers with hippopotami present); an Empire Gallantry Medal was awarded to a man for tackling rampaging elephants on two separate occasions in Uganda; and two awards of the Queen's Gallantry Medal were made for saving the lives of people attacked by elephants in Kenya and in Tanzania; an Empire Gallantry Medal was awarded for fighting a violent rabid dog; and an Albert Medal was awarded for fighting off a bull at a farm in England. Finally, two Albert Medals and an Empire Gallantry Medal have been awarded for stopping runaway horses and wagons, a most dangerous endeavour.

London Gazette: 6 October 2025. Issue 64865, p. 19203.

For intervening in an armed attack in Barnet on 21 September 2021. On the evening of 21 September 2021, Mr. Richard O'Brien was driving alone along Wood Street, Barnet. It was dark but he observed two people arguing aggressively. Mr. O'Brien stopped his car and saw that a man was stabbing a woman. Mr. O'Brien drove forward to distract the attacker, then stopped, exited his car and attempted to verbally subdue the attacker. Unarmed, Mr. O'Brien approached the attacker and kicked him, successfully stopping the brutal knife attack. By this stage, the victim's injuries were significant and life threatening. Having stopped the brutal attack, Mr. O'Brien managed to immobilise the attacker by kicking his face, knocking him to the ground and the knife out of his hands. He then dragged the attacker away from the knife and held him face down to the ground until police officers arrived. Without the intervention of Mr. O'Brien the victim would likely have lost her life. Mr. O'Brien's actions went well beyond detaining a dangerous attacker; he bravely used force to prevent a savage and sustained knife attack. The victim was later taken to hospital in a life-threatening condition.

With a history of domestic violence, King's College London lecturer Dr. Ying Zhang attacked his estranged wife, Hannan Xiao, also an academic and who had just left a parents' evening at her child's school, stabbing her multiple times with a kitchen knife. He was found guilty of attempted murder and received a life sentence in April 2023; an appeal against the conviction was dismissed in May 2025.

PRINTER KGM

Zachary

Nationality: United Kingdom
Occupation: Police Officer; Devon and Cornwall Police
Rank/Title: Constable
Conflict/Incident: Tackling an Armed and Violent Person
Location: England—Keyham, Plymouth
London Gazette: 14 May 2024. Issue 64394, p. 9335.

On 12 August 2021, an assailant shot and killed five people and injured two more in a series of shootings in Keyham, Plymouth. PC Printer was the driver of a marked patrol vehicle accompanied by another officer when he heard a reported shooting and responded immediately. They attended a scene where they saw one of the victims, who was severely injured. PC Printer stopped his vehicle and ran towards them, immediately realising that the victim had suffered a significant gunshot wound to her abdomen. Whilst attending to the victim, PC Printer became aware that the assailant had returned with a shotgun. PC Printer immediately moved towards the assailant, trying to divert his attention away from other members of the public in the immediate vicinity. The assailant held the shotgun under his chin with one of his fingers around the trigger. As PC Printer continued to move towards the assailant, he appeared to nod in the direction of PC Printer before pulling the trigger. PC Printer continued to run towards the assailant, but the assailant was fatally injured. PC Printer returned to the injured woman, while continuing with CPR, as well as directly assisting the doctor whilst surgery was conducted in the street. PC Printer drove with the injured woman's husband, who had arrived at the scene, to hospital and remained at the hospital for some time, supporting the husband. The woman's injuries were not survivable and she sadly died in hospital. PC Printer's selfless and brave actions confronting the assailant prevented further harm to members of the public.

The assailant was Jake Davison, aged 22. Using a legally held shotgun, he shot and killed his mother, Ms. Maxine Davison, aged 51, in their home. He then left the house and murdered Mr. Lee Martyn, aged 43, and his three-year-old daughter, Sophie Martyn, before then firing into a neighbour's house, injuring two occupants. He then killed Mr. Stephen Washington, aged 59, who was walking his dog in a nearby park and then Ms. Katherine (Kate) Shepherd, aged 66, who was walking home.

Zachary Printer KGM has since retired from Devon and Cornwall Police and works as a police enquiry officer. Prior to joining the police, Mr. Printer served with the Royal Marines.

His medals group comprises: King's Gallantry Medal, CIIR; NATO Service Medal (Kosovo) with clasp 'KOSOVO'; Operational Service Medal (Afghanistan) with clasp 'AFGHANISTAN'; Iraq Medal with clasp '16 MAR TO 28 APR 2003'; Golden Jubilee Medal, EIIR 2002; Diamond Jubilee Medal, EIIR 2012; Platinum Jubilee Medal, EIIR 2022; and Royal Naval Long Service & Good Conduct Medal, EIIR.

WALKER KGM

Jake

Nationality: United Kingdom
Occupation: Paramedic; East Midlands Ambulance Service
Rank/Title: Ms.

Conflict/Incident: Traffic Accident
Location: England—M6 Motorway, near Junction 2, Coventry
London Gazette: 14 May 2024. Issue 64394, p. 9334.

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.

Also awarded the King's Gallantry Medal:

Ms. Stacey **Farrington**