and would be prepared and armed for a fight. Pieces of wood, an iron bar and (seen only by a few) a knife, were noted.

Mr Lawrence's colleague then questioned a school pupil who was looking concerned. The pupil told him that some boys wanted to beat him up. The group of youths then started to move towards the pupil and in so doing passed Mr Lawrence. As they passed, Mr Lawrence asked one of them what was going on but his question was ignored.

The youths positioned themselves around the pupil who had been talking to the teacher. Suddenly two of the youths ran from behind, at the pupil, hitting him over the head with the objects they had been carrying. Then the pupil broke loose and ran past Mr Lawrence and across the main road, closely followed by the gang members and excited fellow pupils. Mr Lawrence tried to intervene but was unable to do so. He then pursued this crowd of pupils and gang members, catching up with one of the youths who had dropped back from the main group. There followed an exchange of words ending with the youth punching Mr Lawrence in the face and kicking him in the leg. Immediately after, the youth pulled out a knife from within his coat and stabbed Mr Lawrence, who died later in hospital.

Aaron OTOU-ACHEAMPONG, Civilian.

For services in taking the initiative to intercept, and then arrest, an armed robber following a Building Society robbery.

Mr Otou-Acheampong tried to enter a branch of his Building Society but found the door locked. He looked through the window and saw a woman lying on the floor being tended by a second woman, and a masked man holding a gun. Mr. Otou-Acheampong realised that the man was trying to rob the Building Society and despite being an untrained civilian he decided to wait outside and tackle the robber as he left. He decided that this approach would also minimise the risk for the customers and passers-by. As the robber left through the Society's entrance doors, waving the gun indiscriminately, Mr. Otou-Acheampong paused, and then grabbed the robber from behind in a bear-hug. This trapped the robber's arms at his sides preventing him from using the gun. During the ensuing, violent, struggle both men fell to the ground. A member of the public assisted by sitting on the robber allowing Mr. Otou-Acheampong to disarm the gunman. Mr. Otou-Acheampong and the member of the public continued to restrain the robber until the police arrived and arrested him. The police found the robber was also in possession of a large knife, which he may well have used had his gun (found later to be an imitation, but used in a "lifelike" way) failed to secure his objectives.

Bar to the Queen's Gallantry Medal

Patrick KIELTY, QGM, Sergeant, Metropolitan Police.

For services in arresting a man armed with a knife who had taken hostages.

Sergeant Kielty and a colleague were on patrol in a police van when they were informed that a man had taken a 5 year old girl hostage at knife point and had driven off in a hijacked car. Sergeant Kielty and his colleague caught up with the suspect car as it crashed into a parked van. The Kidnapper then approached the police van, from which the officers had dismounted, holding the hostage in one arm and making stabbing motions at her with the knife. The Kidnapper tried to drive away in the police van, but the van keys had been removed. At this point Sergeant Kielty tried to reason with the Kidnapper but he became more agitated and ran off down the street, still holding and threatening the child, and trying to open parked cars. Sergeant Kielty followed, as did his colleague who kept other units informed of the situation.

The Kidnapper stopped and again Sergeant Kielty and his colleague tried to reason with him. He then raised the knife as if to stab the hostage. Sergeant Kielty rushed forward and tackled him. During the struggle Sergeant Kielty narrowly escaped injury from the knife (which passed between his body and his upper arm), and the hostage managed to break free and run to safety. The Kidnapper also broke free and ran off, still holding the knife, closely followed by Sergeant Kielty. The Kidnapper then jumped through the window of a house door, and once inside he stabbed one of the occupants and took the other, a woman, hostage. He left the house with this second hostage at knife point, again trying doors of cars parked in the street.

By this time, Sergeant Kielty was aware of other officers close to him but he stayed in front trying to reason with the Kidnapper. Meanwhile, the Kidnapper approached another house and unsuccessfully tried to kick the door down. He then raised the knife as if to stab his hostage. At this point Sergeant Kielty rushed forward and grabbed the hand that was holding the knife. He maintained this grip while other officers assisted in arresting the Kidnapper and releasing the hostage unharmed.

Queen's Commendation for Bravery

Richard Lionel BOWER, Civilian.

For services in arresting a Suspected robber armed with a knife and an iron bar.

Mr Bower, who suffers from disablement arising from fire injuries, was sitting waiting for a bus when he saw a young man crossing the road carrying a 12" long object in his hands. Immediately afterwards the keeper of a shop opposite came running from his premises, pointing to the youth and shouting that the man had robbed him.

Mr Bower immediately chased the Suspect down the road and into nearby gardens, where the Suspect climbed over a fence, closely followed by Mr Bower. As the Suspect tried to escape over another fence, Mr Bower caught up with him, and grabbed hold of him. During the ensuing violent struggle the Suspect dropped a 10 inch knife but hit Mr Bower on the head with an iron bar he was carrying. Although dazed, Mr Bower managed to restrain the Suspect until police arrived.

Mrs Mary Edith MacKinnan BLAKE, Teacher, Dunblane Primary School.

Mrs Eileen Mary HARRILD, Teacher, Dunblane Primary School.

Mrs Gwen MAYOR, (deceased) Teacher, Dunblane Primary School.

For bravery at Dunblane Primary School on 13 March 1996.

All three teachers were preparing some twenty five 5 and 6 year olds for a physical education class. A gunman entered the gymnasium and immediately fired volleys of shots from his automatic firearms at the teachers, seriously injuring two (Mrs Blake and Mrs Harrild) and causing the death of the third (Mrs Mayor). The gunman then started shooting indiscriminately at the children killing 15 of them and injuring 10 others. Mrs Blake and Mrs Harrild managed, despite their serious injuries, to crawl to a storage area where they stayed with and kept quiet a group of children who had also arrived in the storage area. In so doing they ensured that the gunman did not do further harm to the small group of children under their care.

Stephen Daniel COLLINS, Constable, Metropolitan Police.

For services in trying to arrest an armed suspect.

Constable Collins and a colleague were on patrol in their police vehicle when they stopped a car after seeing it apparently racing with another car. The Constables became suspicious as the replies to their questions became evasive. While his colleague continued to question the driver, Constable Collins started to search the vehicle. He then turned his attention to the passenger, who had moved to stand beside the car. Constable Collins began to search the passenger, who kept his right hand in his pocket, and asked him to remove his hand. The passenger was reluctant to do as asked, so Constable Collins pulled at his arm. In doing this he managed to pull the passenger's hand from his pocket revealing a gun.

Both officers immediately backed away. The suspect then fired twice towards Constable Collins, from about five and then 10-12 feet. He then started to fumble with the gun. On seeing this, Constable Collins rushed the suspect and during the ensuing struggle the gun was fired again at the Constable. The suspect then ran off closely followed by the driver of the car and by Constable Collins, with his colleague. After a short distance Constable Collins was asked if he had been hit by a bullet, and in response to his colleague's question he stopped. Realising then that he had a bullet wound to his chest, he stopped chasing the suspects who were followed by his colleague. Eventually the gunman was arrested by tracker dogs and armed police.

Tony John HARRISON, Firefighter, Humberside Fire Brigade.

David WOODLEY, Leading Firefighter, Humberside Fire Brigade.

For services in rescuing an RAF firefighter trapped in an oil tanker at sea.

On the evening of Wednesday, 27th March 1996, Humberside Fire Control received a call from HM Coastguard for assistance at an incident three and a half miles off Flamborough Head. Two Croatian crew members of an oil tanker had been trapped inside a slop tank used to store residue and sludge after the main oil tanks on