

Civilian Gallantry List - June 2017

GEORGE CROSS

Dominic Charles TROULAN QGM, Civilian

For saving lives during the Westgate Shopping Mall terrorist attack in Kenya in 2013

On 21 September 2013, a group of heavily-armed terrorists entered the Westgate Shopping Mall in Nairobi, Kenya and started to murder men, women and children indiscriminately. Dominic Troulan, a security consultant working in Nairobi, was contacted by a friend who asked him to go to the incident to try and locate the friend's wife and daughter.

On arrival at the Mall, Troulan contacted the family by telephone and entered the Mall. He was armed with only a pistol while the area was dominated by terrorists armed with grenades and machine guns. Nevertheless, Troulan managed to bring the two women to safety.

Realising that large numbers of civilians remained trapped while the terrorists continued to kill indiscriminately, Troulan re-entered the Mall. Over the course of several hours, he went into the building at least a dozen times and on each occasion managed to bring many innocent civilians to safety. He was fired on twice by the terrorists but managed to force them back. By now, Troulan was exhausted, dehydrated and at the limit of his mental capacity. He was about to stop when a distress call was received from a woman who was trapped, injured and bleeding. Once again, Troulan entered the Mall and brought the woman to safety.

Despite the strain of his efforts, it should be noted that Troulan had the presence of mind to realise that the terrorists could be hiding among the survivors. Troulan enlisted help and searched the civilians once he had led them to safety, thus ensuring that no terrorists were hiding in their midst.

GEORGE MEDAL

Bernard Carter KENNY, Civilian

For his assistance to Jo Cox MP

On 16 June 2016, Bernard Kenny was sitting in his car in the vicinity of Birstall Library. He noticed a car pull up and park outside the library. The driver got out and went towards the back door, which she opened for the passenger, Jo Cox MP. The two women stepped onto the pavement while another woman also got out of the car.

Shortly after, a loud bang rang out. Jo Cox was shot and fell to the ground. A man stood over her, brandishing a knife. Kenny got out of his car and ran across to where the MP was lying with the intention of intervening to prevent further attack: he could see that the assailant had a knife and was stabbing the MP. The attacker noticed Kenny approaching, turned around and stabbed him in the stomach, wounding him badly. Kenny, bleeding profusely, staggered back across the road.

Kenny sat down on the steps of a nearby shop. The shop staff dragged him inside to safety. Kenny received assistance for injuries, while the emergency services were notified. From where he was seated, he could see that the MP was still being attacked. The attacker was shouting in an agitated tone and appeared to be punching or stabbing the MP who was curled up on the ground. Kenny was taken to hospital and given treatment for a damaged liver.

PC Keith PALMER (deceased), Metropolitan Police

For confronting an armed terrorist to protect others and Parliament

Keith Palmer was an officer of 16 years of exemplary service who had previously been nominated for the Commissioner's Excellence Awards. He had served on the Parliamentary and Diplomatic Protection Group since 2016. His primary duty was to protect Parliament, the people who work there and the many thousands of members of the public who visit the parliamentary estate every week.

At approximately 2.40pm on Wednesday 22 March 2017, PC Palmer was confronted with a determined terrorist assailant who in the preceding moments had been responsible for the deaths of several people and seriously injured many more. The murderer was armed with two large knives and despite the danger posed, PC Palmer moved to confront him, intent on protecting his colleagues and the public. In doing so he became the victim of a ferocious attack which took him to the ground, suffering injuries that were to cost him his life.

His actions provided time for other officers to react and shoot and stop the assailant. PC Palmer's bravery and professionalism unquestionably saved lives. PC Palmer did his duty. He stood his ground and placed himself between Parliament and a terrorist determined to harm those within. In doing so he made the ultimate sacrifice.

QUEEN'S GALLANTRY MEDAL

Ian BUGLER, Volunteer Coastguard

For the attempted rescue of a woman trapped in a cave

On 2 November 2013, a 999 call was made to the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Portland, reporting a person in the water off Tilly Whim caves, Dorset. He was rescued by HM Coastguard helicopter and reported that his sister was trapped in a sea cave. In deteriorating weather conditions with winds of severe gale force 9 and very rough seas, a rescue operation was mounted. The helicopter and lifeboat were unable to access the cave from the seaward direction, the weather conditions being too poor.

Initially the Coastguard team considered conducting a rope rescue over the cliff face, but the sea conditions and the wave effect prevented this option. They developed a plan to access the cave via a blow-hole above it, a very difficult and constrained entrance. Verbal communication with the casualty was established but she was unable to swim to the blow-hole entrance due to the very strong wave action entering the cave. It was hoped to deploy a rescue harness for the casualty, but dialogue was lost.

Ian Bugler, a volunteer Coastguard rescue team member, volunteered to deploy into the cave via the blow-hole. The blow-hole was narrow and he had to remove much of his own safety equipment, including waterproof clothing. He was lowered into the hole and was several times blown back due to the piston-effect of the sea causing a very strong updraft of air. After much effort, he got low enough to be able to see the woman, who was being dashed about at the back of the cave and had died. He himself was being smashed into the sides and roof of the cave. Without waterproof clothing, he had little protection.

Determining that there was little he could do, he asked to be recovered but the shock effect on the rescue equipment was so severe that the fail-safe mechanisms activated and he had to be physically hauled from the cave by his colleagues. He displayed exemplary bravery, a high level of professionalism and outstanding commitment in attempting to rescue the woman in such difficult and dangerous circumstances. He knew very well the risks involved and that both the team and their equipment would be operating on the limits of their technical capability. Yet he placed himself in harm's way in a final effort to save the woman's life.

PC Craig NICHOLLS, West Yorkshire Police

For the arrest of the murderer of Jo Cox MP

On 16 June 2016, West Yorkshire Police received a report that Jo Cox MP had been stabbed and shot outside Birstall Library. The suspect had left the immediate scene armed with a knife and a gun. His whereabouts and intentions were not known. PC Nicholls and his colleague PC Wright, both unarmed and on routine patrol, decided to make their way in the general direction of the incident. They noticed a man who took evasive action to avoid being seen. They pursued the man, knowing that he was potentially the suspect who had shot and stabbed one person and stabbed another. They quickly confirmed that, and realised that the suspect was likely still to be armed with a gun and a knife. Of concern was the fact that there were numerous members of public on the street going about their normal business. They therefore continued to follow the suspect and began communicating with him. Under extreme pressure and fear of the unknown, the two officers decided instinctively to rush the suspect and arrest him to prevent him from committing any further acts of violence. A gun and a knife were subsequently found in his possession.

PC Jonathan WRIGHT, West Yorkshire Police

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QUEEN'S COMMENDATION FOR BRAVERY

Spencer BELL (deceased), Civilian

For attempting to save a life

On 30 January 2014, Spencer Bell was driving north on the M1 near Watford when he saw a man fall from a bridge onto the carriageway. He stopped on the hard shoulder and went on foot to try to help the individual who was lying on the motorway between lanes 2 and 3. Bell gestured to the traffic to stop and a number of vehicles approaching the scene slowed to a halt and put on their hazard lights.

There were stationary vehicles in all three lanes, but with gaps between them large enough for a car to get through. Bell crossed the road to where the victim was lying. Other drivers started to get out of their cars to help. A car approaching the scene in lane 3 belatedly braked, swerved into lane 2 to avoid one of parked vehicles and, still travelling at high speed, hit Bell and the other man in lane 2. Both were pronounced dead at the scene.

Bell's primary concern was to render assistance to the victim. He would have been aware of the danger of the situation. He did not know that the victim was probably already dead from the injuries he suffered from falling from the bridge. His actions demonstrated that he clearly felt that if there was any chance that the individual had survived the fall, he would require immediate medical assistance and protection from further injury.

Chris NORMAN, Civilian

For subduing an armed man

Chris Norman was a passenger on a train travelling between Amsterdam and Paris on 21 August 2015. As the train travelled through northern France, a man exited the train toilet carrying a Kalashnikov assault rifle. An initial attempt was made to disarm the gunman, resulting in one passenger suffering a serious wound to the neck. The gunman then entered the train carriage where Norman was sitting, at which point the rifle jammed. Three American passengers (two of whom were off-duty military personnel) and a Frenchman initially intervened to tackle the gunman. Norman came to their aid, helping to bring the gunman to the floor and immobilising him. This carried considerable risk as the gunman resisted and at this stage had produced a knife.

Norman's intervention, alongside the other passengers, was at significant risk to himself. He undoubtedly helped save the lives of his fellow passengers, including British nationals. This was underscored by the subsequent investigation which reported that the gunman was carrying a Kalashnikov, 9 rifle magazines (approximately 300 rounds), an automatic pistol and a box cutter knife. Norman acted with courage and calmness in the face of significant risk. When he intervened,

the gunman had already injured a passenger and was brandishing a knife. Norman made the deliberate choice to intervene before the gunman was overpowered. He acted with calmness and presence of mind throughout.

Allen PEMBROKE, Civilian

For aiding the victims of the Port El Kantaoui terrorist attack, 26 June 2015

Allen Pembroke, a tourist, was on the beach with his wife when the attack began and they fled to their hotel room. However, Pembroke chose to return outside to help the injured. He left his wife and others whom he had escorted in the relative safety of their rooms. He then returned to the beach.

The first handful of people he encountered had already died but he then reached a woman lying face down in the sand. A man (her husband) was dead but the woman was alive. Her hand had been shot off and she had been shot in the leg. She was semi-conscious. Pembroke secured the wounds as best he could with towels and ensured that he had stopped the bleeding. He made sure they remained quiet so as not to attract the attention of the gunman. Pembroke put his life at risk in leaving his hotel room to help others. At that time the attack remained underway.

Paul SHORT, Civilian

For aiding the victims of the Port El Kantaoui terrorist attack, 26 June 2015

Paul Short, a tourist, was on the beach with his wife when the attack began. He took his wife to the relative safety of their hotel room. He then helped a man who had been shot and was bleeding heavily. The man's wife was already dead. At the time, the gunman was in the immediate vicinity. Short then guided another man to safety and returned to the first wounded man. When another tourist came to help, Short began to cover the man's wife with towels.