

STAR OF COURAGE

Master Alfred COLLINS
Belah Valley,
MARLBOROUGH QLD 4705

At about 3.00 p.m. on 26 September 1984 at Marlborough, Queensland, Alfred Collins, aged 9 years, was walking with his father on their property when a wild boar rushed out of the undergrowth. The father was knocked to the ground and gored. He suffered severe lacerations to the left leg, losing some of the bone and also received wounds to the right leg and hand. Because he was afraid, Alfred ran away but, hearing his father call to him to save him, he returned, picking up a branch as he ran. He hit the boar a number of times and drove it off. Alfred then assisted his father to the truck, helped him into it and drove him and three other children home.

By his actions in most perilous circumstances Alfred Collins displayed conspicuous courage without which the father would have been killed.

STAR OF COURAGE

Mr Daniel Francis LLOYD
11 The Crescent,
HIGHETT VIC. 3190

Late in the afternoon of 28 July 1984 the yacht "Larina" was anchored off "Beagle Reef" 200 kilometres north of Derby, Western Australia. A crew member dived overboard for a swim and was carried away by the strong current. Mr Lloyd and other crew members threw her a life ring with rope tied to it but she drifted further away. Although aware that these waters were infested with sharks, crocodiles and snakes Lloyd dived in and swam 100 metres to her with the ring. The ring became anchored as a result of its rope being snagged on the reef with the result that the strong current of some 11 knots forced it below the surface. Mr Lloyd accordingly tied the woman and himself to the ring to keep their heads above water. Fearing that she would be submerged the woman, at 2.30 p.m. the following day, untied herself from the ring. Mr Lloyd then observing that she was being rapidly carried away by the current untied himself from the ring and swam after her. He then supported the woman who was now crying. After some five minutes miraculously a search plane which had abandoned the search sighted them and they were rescued after being in the water for approximately 22 hours.

By his actions Mr Lloyd displayed conspicuous courage in most perilous circumstances.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Brian Roy BALDWIN
28 Petrie Close
BIDWILL N.S.W. 2770

On 29 September 1984 Mr Baldwin went to the scene of a fire near his home. Smoke was coming from the top window of the house and as he entered he was informed that the children were upstairs. He ran up, heard a window shatter from the heat and opened the back bedroom door when very heavy black smoke billowed towards him. Unable to see, he groped around until he found a baby in a cot. When Mr Baldwin took the baby down the stairs he was told that two more children were in the front room. Twice he returned to rescue them but because of the smoke and the intensity of the fire one of the children was not brought out.

By his actions in attempting to save the children Mr Baldwin displayed considerable bravery.

Dr Mitko Angel DIMITROFF
4/272 Cotham Road
KEW VIC 3101

On 5 October 1983 two masked offenders, one of whom was armed with a shotgun, held up the Glenferrie South Branch of the Commonwealth Bank. They ordered the customers to stand against a wall. As the armed offender walked past them an elderly man hit him with his walking stick causing him to drop the gun. The offender quickly knocked him to the floor and went to kick him. Dr Dimitroff, another customer, went to the rescue of the elderly man, pulled his assailant away from him and placed himself between the offender and the gun. The offender then knocked Dr Dimitrov to the floor, and retrieving the gun, struck him on the head with the barrel causing severe head injuries.

By his actions Dr Dimitroff displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Fred GIANNAROS
169 Edward Street
BRUNSWICK VIC 3056

On 11 April 1984 Mr Giannaros entered the Westpac Bank, 329 High Street, Northcote. He saw a man rushing into the manager's office and as the manager came out he stabbed him. The manager fell to the floor with the man again trying to stab him. With one hand Mr Giannaros grabbed the man around the neck and with the other grabbed the hand in which he held the knife. A struggle ensued and he forced the man away from the manager, who escaped; in so doing he received cuts to his finger which later required surgery. Mr Giannaros then ran out and shut the door as a result of which a man was apprehended.

By his actions Mr Giannaros undoubtedly saved the manager's life.

Mr Chris William HUBBERT
3 Enid Street,
GOODNA QLD 4300

On 6 October 1984 Mr Hubbert went to a house which was on fire near his home. There he was advised that two children were sleeping upstairs. Mr Hubbert climbed a ladder and, after breaking a window, entered a bedroom which was filled with thick black smoke and was intensely hot. Feeling his way to a bed he found a girl; he carried her to the window and passed her to helpers outside; Mr Hubbert descended, but on being told that a boy remained inside, again climbed up the ladder and went through billowing smoke and flames to find him on the hallway floor with his hair and pyjamas on fire. He picked the boy up, held him against his body, brushed out the flames and carried him to the window where a helper was waiting on the ladder. On reaching the ground he applied mouth to mouth resuscitation to the girl.

Mr Hubbert showed considerable bravery in entering the smoke filled house to rescue the children.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Flight Lieutenant Murray Frank JOEL
Aircraft Research and Development Unit,
RAAF Base,
EDINBURGH S.A. 5111

On 1 September 1983 the Key Biscayne drilling rig became adrift when 15 nautical miles off Lancelin. Flight Lieutenant Joel was the captain of Rescue 271, one of the two helicopters despatched to provide search and rescue support. The weather conditions were extreme with the wind gusting up to 40 knots and the rig rolling up to 20 degrees. Believing the rig to be sinking Flight Lieutenant Joel decided to manoeuvre the helicopter above its helipad and winch the rig crew aboard. Notwithstanding the enormous risks of such an operation, in two separate sorties a total of eight crew members from the rig were winched aboard the helicopter and ferried to safety.

In the light of the substantial risks involved Flight Lieutenant Joel displayed considerable bravery.

Constable First Class Robert Frank MAYNE
South Australian Police Force

On 22 January 1984 at approximately 2.00 a.m. a man armed with a gun and a rifle took two elderly persons hostage at their home in Banksia Park. First Class Constable Mayne was among police who were called to the house after shots were fired. He negotiated the woman's release but, as she walked from the house, the gunman fired near her demanding that Constable Mayne break cover and sit on the lawn with his hands on his head. As he tried to persuade the gunman to surrender many shots were fired in his direction and he was twice "death counted" with the man counting down from five and firing near him. Constable Mayne was himself held hostage for twenty minutes until the gunman was distracted and he was able to run to safety.

In attempting to negotiate with an armed, obviously unbalanced man, Constable Mayne displayed considerable bravery.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Detective Sergeant Second Class John Kevin Vincent O'GORMAN
Queensland Police Force

On 21 May 1983 at about 6.00 p.m. Detective Sergeant Second Class O'Gorman joined other members of the Queensland Police Force at a house in Chermside where a man armed with a shotgun forced two civilians into a police car. Detective Sergeant O'Gorman took up his position on the footpath, and in continuous rain, negotiated with the man then 6 - 8 metres away. The man threatened to shoot him on several occasions, pointing the gun once at his head and at other times at his stomach. After three hours Detective Sergeant O'Gorman persuaded the man to place his shotgun on the bonnet of the car and he was overpowered by the police.

By his actions Detective Sergeant O'Gorman showed considerable bravery.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable First Class Colin William ASPLIN
Western Australian Police Force

On 31 August 1983 a 12 year old boy became stranded in the flooded, fast-flowing Blackwood River near Bridgetown. He supported himself for an hour on a partly submerged tree branch towards the centre of the river, at this point 100 metres wide.

Constable Asplin, then on holidays, was called from his house and ran down to the river. He then donned a life jacket, entered the river 150 metres upstream and with difficulty swam to the boy. After fitting another life jacket on him he supported him to the bank. They were swept downstream 20 - 30 metres by the swirling waters but Constable Asplin eventually caught hold of a rope and they were hauled to safety.

By his actions Constable Asplin displayed commendable courage.

Mr Robert Jack Edward BYRNE
14 Kidd Close,
BIDWILL N.S.W. 2770

On 29 September 1984 Mr Byrne went with two others to a fire on the top floor of a house at Bidwill. Mr Byrne climbed up to a balcony and was then told that there was a baby in the back bedroom. He entered the smoke-filled house on five occasions, twice crawling to the room where he believed the baby to be but searching unsuccessfully. Finally driven back by the flames he, with another helper, began hosing the fire until forced to retire as a result of the smoke.

By his actions Mr Byrne displayed commendable courage.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Patrick John CONLON
10 Kidd Close,
BIDWILL N.S.W. 2770

On 29 September 1984 a fire broke out in a house at Bidwill. Mr Conlon and five others searched for three children on the top floor of the house. Two of the children's bedrooms were ablaze, there was an explosion in one, and little could be seen in the thick smoke. Mr Conlon and another helper took hold of a garden hose and a fire extinguisher in an attempt to put out the fierce flames. They opened a door and were thrown back but returned twice more until forced back by the intense heat.

By his actions Mr Conlon displayed commendable courage.

Mr Burnham Walker DUN
5 Allawah Court,
VERMONT SOUTH VIC. 3133

On 5 October 1983 two masked offenders, one of whom was armed with a shotgun, held up the Glenferrie South Branch of the Commonwealth Bank.

They ordered the customers to stand against a wall. As the armed offender walked in front of him, Mr Dun then in his mid-seventies, hit him with his walking stick causing him to drop the gun. The offender quickly knocked Mr Dunn to the floor where he lay while a Dr Dimitroff struggled to defend him. The offenders later left the bank.

By his actions Mr Dun displayed commendable courage.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Constable Paul Gerard DUNWORTH
New South Wales Police Force

On 17 June 1984 a lone climber was trapped on Timor Rock near Coonabarabran. Constable Dunworth, totally unskilled in rock climbing and without the aid of ropes, then undertook an extremely hazardous operation. He climbed 200 metres from the ground and then down 10 metres from the top of the rock to reach the climber, traversing crevices with only small areas of rock on which to maintain his hold. Finding the climber suffering from shock and exposure he shared his clothing with him and remained with him for two hours until a member of a Rescue Squad abseiled down to them. Constable Dunworth assisted in the fitting of harness and ropes, holding the trailing rope as the climber was helped to the top of the rock.

By his actions Constable Dunworth displayed commendable courage.

Mr Luis Jacinto FAISCA
17 Dunstan Street,
CURTIN A.C.T. 2605

On 1 March 1984 Mr Faisca and a woman companion discovered an intoxicated man in a dwelling on a property near Michelago. When the man threatened them with a 12-gauge shotgun Mr Faisca grabbed the barrel of the gun attempting to point it towards the floor. A violent struggle followed during which Mr Faisca disarmed the man who, after a further struggle shut himself up in another room. Mr Faisca received injuries to his face and lip in the struggle.

In disarming a dangerous criminal Mr Faisca displayed commendable courage.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Desmond Leslie FAULKNER
29 Sunbeam Crescent,
SCAMANDER TAS. 7215

On 23 January 1985 at about 8.30 a.m. a car and a truck collided on the Esk Highway. Petrol from the truck's tank spilled on to the car and both vehicles became engulfed in a fierce blaze. Mr Faulkner who was driving towards the collision then called for help over his two-way radio, beckoned to the driver of an oncoming car to assist, and together, they ran to the car. They were unable to see inside but, on hearing a cry Mr Faulkner opened the rear left hand door and the boy, who had burns to his face and arms, was rescued.

By his actions Mr Faulkner displayed commendable courage.

Mr Terry Alan FEATHERBY
295 Oceanic Drive,
CITY BEACH W.A. 6015.

On 9 April 1985 at about 2.30 p.m., a huge wave knocked a surfboard rider from his board when 50 metres from the shore at City Beach. Because of the rough seas Mr Featherby decided not to venture into the water on his board but when told that a boy was in difficulties he tried unsuccessfully to get through the waves between the City Beach and Floreat groynes. He then ran south and managed to get through the surf on his second attempt. Continually pounded by 4 to 5 metre waves, Mr Featherby put the boy on the back of his board and paddled 250 metres past the main break until 50 metres from the shore the boy let go and Mr Featherby could not reach him again. Later, however, they both came ashore safely.

By his actions Mr Featherby undoubtedly saved the boy's life.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Giuseppe Antonio TOMASELLO
19 Mashoobra Street,
NORTH COBURG VIC. 3058

On 9 July 1983, at a coffee shop in Moonee Ponds, a man armed with a sawn-off .22 rifle shot the manager in the head. He then turned the rifle in the direction of Mr Tomasello, who grabbed the barrel and the man's right hand, pulling them downwards. A struggle ensued in which Mr Tomasello pushed the man and together they fell through the plate glass window and into the street where the struggle continued. Mr Tomasello managed to subdue and disarm the man despite suffering injuries to his left arm and chest.

By his actions Mr Tomasello displayed commendable courage.

Mr Peter Tarrant WILLIAMS
1/37 Bishops Drive,
NEWNHAM TAS. 7250

On 23 January 1985 at about 8.30 a.m. a car and a truck collided on the Esk Highway. Petrol from the truck's tank spilled on to the car and both vehicles became engulfed in a fierce blaze. Mr Williams, who was driving towards the collision, responded to a call for assistance from the driver of the truck in front and together they ran to the car. They were unable to see inside but heard a child's cry. The truck driver opened the door and the boy was rescued. The boy was burnt on the face and arms and Mr Williams carried him away to administer first aid.

By his actions Mr Williams displayed commendable courage.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Miss Kathryn Jill FLETCHER
23 Louis Street
BEENLEIGH QLD 4207

On 5 November 1984 an open aluminium boat sank in Anderson's Bay, Tasmania, two to three kilometres off shore. Miss Fletcher and her two companions were thrown into the water and one, a non-swimmer, drowned in spite of the attempts of the others to save him. For two hours Miss Fletcher then supported her remaining companion who was suffering from cramp in both legs and assisted her to the shore.

By her actions Miss Fletcher displayed commendable courage.

Mr Leslie George JEFFREE
672 Luxford Road,
BIDWILL N.S.W. 2770

On 29 September 1984 a fire broke out in a house at Bidwill. Mr Jeffree and five others searched for three children on the top floor of the house. Informed that there was a child in the back bedroom, he opened the door, but by then the double bunks were well alight and he was forced back by the intense heat. He had entered the smoke filled rooms on five separate occasions leaving only to get fresh air when almost overcome by the thick black smoke.

By his actions Mr Jeffree displayed commendable courage.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Lawrence Norman REEVES
9 Amelia Way,
BIDWILL N.S.W. 2770

On 29 September 1984 a fire broke out in a house at Bidwill. Mr Reeves and five others searched for three children on the top floor of the house. Two of the children's bedrooms were ablaze, there was an explosion in one and little could be seen in the thick smoke. Mr Reeves and another helper took hold of a garden hose and a fire extinguisher in an attempt to put out the fierce flames. They opened a door and were thrown back but returned twice more until forced back by the intense heat.

By his actions Mr Reeves displayed commenable courage.

Mr Kenneth Ross TAYLOR
316 Popondetta Road,
BIDWILL N.S.W. 2770

On 29 September 1984 a fire broke out in a house at Bidwill. Mr Taylor and five others searched for three children on the top floor of the house. Two of the children's bedrooms were ablaze, there was an explosion in one, and little could be seen in the thick smoke. Mr Taylor tried to extinguish the flames with buckets of water. He crawled to rescue one child and then, with others, attempted to force a door to rescue another but failed because of the fierceness of the fire.

By his actions Mr Taylor displayed commendable courage.