

STAR OF COURAGE

Chief Inspector John Duncan THURGAR
16 Australian Civilian Police Contingent
United Nations Force in Cyprus

On 9 October 1979 Chief Inspector Thurgar, an officer of the 16th Australian Police Contingent attached to the United Nations Force in Cyprus, was on duty at Ormophita, a suburb of Nicosia, when a person driving a tractor entered a mine field area within the Buffer Zone separating the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot Forces.

The tractor struck a mine, overturning it and severely injured the driver. Chief Inspector Thurgar immediately crossed through the mine field to the injured person. He then picked up the injured person and returned through the mine field so that medical care could be obtained; in doing so he saved the person's life.

Chief Inspector Thurgar displayed conspicuous courage and placed himself in great peril in traversing the mine field to rescue the injured person.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Senior Constable Arthur ACKROYD
N.S.W. Police Force

On 28 March 1979 at about 3 p.m. a man was seen on the upper girders of the Sydney Harbour Bridge about 80 metres above the roadway. He appeared to be preparing to jump.

In company with two other police officers Senior Constable Ackroyd climbed up towards him. Winds at the time were blowing at approximately 70 km per hour. After getting close, and when the man was preparing to jump, Senior Constable Ackroyd and one of the other officers seized the man and after a brief struggle he was carried to safety.

Senior Constable Ackroyd displayed considerable bravery in effecting a rescue in such hazardous conditions.

Senior Constable Richard Anthony LAMB
N.S.W. Police Force

On 28 March 1979 at about 3 p.m. a man was seen on the upper girders of the Sydney Harbour Bridge about 80 meters above the roadway. He appeared to be preparing to jump.

In company with two other police officers Senior Constable Lamb climbed up towards him. Winds at the time were blowing at approximately 70km per hour. After getting close, and when the man was preparing to jump, Senior Constable Lamb and one of the other officers seized the man and after a brief struggle he was carried to safety.

Senior Constable Lamb displayed considerable bravery in effecting a rescue in such hazardous conditions.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Gary John WILTON
58 Anzac Parade
Muswellbrook N. S. W.

At about 5.35 p.m. pm 12 July 1979 an explosion and fire occurred at the Muswellbrook Gas Works resulting in Mr Wilton being severely injured.

Although suffering from burns to about 80% of his body, Mr Wilton returned to the burning building to close down fuel control switches thereby preventing a possible further explosion and destruction of domestic dwellings adjoining the Works. In doing so, Mr Wilton displayed considerable courage in such hazardous circumstances.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Senior Constable Mark Rodney BILLERWELL
Australian Federal Police

On 10 February 1978 an explosion occurred in the basement of a theatre building in Canberra. The area became partly flooded and despite danger from exposed electrical wiring Senior Constable Billerwell entered the water to rescue a drowned man despite the risk of the water being charged with electricity.

Senior Constable Billerwell displayed commendable courage in such circumstances.

Senior Constable Bruce Wilson GANE
N.S.W. Police Force

On 28 March 1979 at about 3 p.m. a man was seen on the upper girders of the Sydney Harbour Bridge about 80 meters above the roadway. He appeared to be preparing to jump.

In company with two other police officers Senior Constable Gane climbed the Bridge. Winds at the time were blowing at approximately 70km per hour. After the man was restrained by the other two officers Senior Constable Gane assisted in bringing the man to safety. By his actions Senior Constable Gane displayed commendable courage.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr John Murray GILMOUR
10 McKeown Court
ARMADALE W.A.

Early in the morning of 30 June 1979 Mr Gilmour was driving his truck through Salters Point, a suburb of Perth, when he observed that a house was on fire. After being advised that an invalid was trapped inside, Mr Gilmour attempted to gain entry to the house through the front door but failed because of the fierceness of the fire. He then attached a rope to a window frame and to his truck, pulled the frame clear and entered the burning house. He located the invalid man and brought him to safety.

By his actions, Mr Gilmour displayed commendable courage.

Mr Geoffrey Martin SLEE
WILMINGTON S.A.

Late at night on 23 February 1979 at Wilmington S.A. during a severe rain storm a car, containing a number of occupants, was washed off a roadway into a flooded creek. Mr Slee, upon hearing that 2 persons were trapped in the water, entered the creek and rescued a woman and her 5 year old child.

Mr Slee displayed commendable courage in such circumstances.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Master Ricky James WARD
19 Welwyn Road,
HEBERSHAM MT DRUITT N.S.W. 2770

At about 11 p.m. on 21 June 1978 at Lansvale N.S.W. the caravan occupied by the Ward family caught fire and began to burn fiercely. Master Ward, aged 13 years, awoke from his sleep and aroused the other six children, aged 4 years to 11 years, and conducted them to safety. He attempted to re-enter the burning van to rescue his father but was unable to do so.

By his actions, Master Ward displayed commendable courage.

Mrs June Marie WILLIAMS
3 Casuarina Crescent
BERRIEDALE TASMANIA

At about 1 p.m. on 29 August 1978 at Clifton Beach Tasmania Mrs Williams was advised that a neighbour's 2 year old child was missing. Mrs Williams searched the area and located the child clinging to a small piece of vegetation below a ledge a short distance from the top of a nearby cliff. Although fearful of heights, and with a drop of about 100 ft to the foot of the cliff, Mrs Williams climbed on to the ledge and lifted the child to safety.

By her actions Mrs Williams displayed commendable courage.