

STAR OF COURAGE

Miss Elizabeth Florence ALLEN
(Posthumous Award)

On 10 March 1978, Miss Allen, Director of Nursing at St. Margaret's Convalescent Hospital, Semaphore, South Australia, confronted a man who was demanding to see his daughter, an employee at the hospital. The man was armed with a rifle.

Miss Allen, being aware of domestic problems in the family and knowing the man to be dangerous, followed, and attempted to stop him from entering further into the hospital. As a result, she was shot and fatally wounded.

In confronting an armed and dangerous man in order to protect hospital staff and patients Miss Allen displayed conspicuous courage, and in doing so lost her life.

Mr Robert James BOWMAN
265 Brennan Street,
Smithfield New South Wales

At about 1 a.m. on 6 September 1978, Mr Bowman, a Municipal Council employee, was driving along Canley Vale Road, Canley Vale, New South Wales, when he saw a house ablaze. Upon enquiring from bystanders he ascertained that two persons were trapped inside the fiercely burning building.

Mr Bowman broke away some of the fibro wall sheeting, entered the house but was forced back by the smoke and heat. Although the portion of the building was well alight where the occupants were trapped, he entered the house again, reached the two persons - who were severely burned - and brought them one at a time to safety outside the building.

By his conspicuous courage in which he placed himself in great peril Mr Bowman saved the lives of the two persons.

Mr Glenn Kenneth JAMES
13 Garden Street,
North Narrabeen New South Wales

At about 5.30 p.m. on 9 April 1978 Mr James was advised that three persons were in extreme difficulties in a heavy surf at Warriewood Beach, New South Wales, and were caught in a rip which was sweeping them towards a rocky headland. Mr James drove to the scene and entered the water from the rocks with a torpedo buoy and swam some distance to their assistance.

Upon reaching the group Mr James assisted the most distressed person into the buoy. He then swam back to the rocks to obtain two more buoys and returned to the group to assist the other persons. After guiding the group away from the rocks, and following an unsuccessful attempt to reach the beach through the heavy surf, Mr James encouraged and supported the group in the heavy seas for approximately one hour, until picked up by a surf rescue boat from an adjoining beach.

Through his initiative Mr James placed himself in great peril and by his conspicuous courage rescued the three persons, thereby saving their lives.

BRAVERY MEDAL

Mr Jack BEECROFT
Unit 13, 251 Glynburn Road,
St. Morris, South Australia

On 23 October 1978, at about 10.25 a.m., a robbery occurred at the Commonwealth Bank, 495 Lower North East Road, Felixstow, South Australia, by a person armed with a sawn off shotgun. When the bank robber left the premises, Mr Beecroft, a 17 year old bank officer, pursued the robber.

Although menaced on at least one occasion with the shotgun during the chase Mr Beecroft, and another person who was also pursuing the bank robber, caught the culprit and apprehended and held him until the police arrived.

Mr Beecroft showed considerable bravery in pursuing and apprehending an armed bank robber.

M. Jean-Baptiste CONRI
Chez Maitre Pierre,
Hienghene, New Caledonia

On 11 May 1978, at about 1 a.m., in New Caledonia, a bus, carrying a party of Australian school students, plunged off a road during heavy rain into a river and became partly submerged.

M. Conri, a French citizen accompanying the students, escaped from the bus, but although injured, repeatedly dived back into the bus, which was in danger of sinking completely, and brought a number of persons to the surface. He supported others in the water and later tended to the injured on the bank before receiving treatment for his own injuries.

M. Conri showed considerable bravery in entering the partly submerged bus to rescue injured persons.

Miss Ann Louise MARTIN
29 George Street,
Berry, New South Wales

On 11 May 1978, at about 1 a.m., in New Caledonia, a bus, carrying a party of Australian school students plunged off a road during heavy rain into a river and became partly submerged.

Miss Martin, a student in the party, made her way out of the bus. However, although suffering from severe lacerations and bruising to the head, she twice re-entered the bus, which was in danger of sinking completely, to ascertain if any persons were trapped inside. After searching, but finding no one inside the bus, Miss Martin tended to the care of others until rescue workers arrived.

Miss Martin showed considerable bravery in entering the partly submerged bus to search for injured persons.

COMMENDATION FOR BRAVE CONDUCT

Mr Lawrence Wayne ALLCHIN
Lot 5, Francis Street,
Colyton - New South Wales

At about 7 a.m. on 13 April 1978 Mr Allchin went to the scene of a fire near his home. Upon reaching the house he was advised that two young children were inside. Mr Allchin broke a window to gain entry into the bedroom which was filled with dense black smoke. He located the children and passed them to helpers outside.

Mr Allchin showed commendable courage in entering the smoke filled house to rescue the young children.

Mr James Francis BELL
(Posthumous Award)

On 3 May 1978, a truck making delivery of premixed concrete at the site of a 14 metre deep well overturned spilling the load of concrete into the well. In the accident a workman was knocked to the bottom of the well.

Mr Bell, a contractor at the site, descended the well to assist the workman; however, he was overcome by the fumes of petrol spilling from the truck into the well and as a result lost his life.

Mr Bell displayed commendable courage in going to the assistance of an injured workman.

Miss Jennifer May CONRAD
74 Bower Road,
Semaphore Park South Australia

On 10 March 1978, a man carrying a rifle, entered the St Margaret's Convalescent Hospital, Semaphore, South Australia, demanding to see his daughter, an employee at the hospital.

Miss Conrad, upon seeing the man and knowing him to be dangerous, proceeded to various areas of the hospital to warn people. During the course of doing so she was confronted by the man and shot. The man, by this time had fatally wounded the matron of the hospital.

Miss Conrad displayed commendable courage while an armed killer was on the hospital premises.

Mr John Harold CROSSLEY
76 Bridge Road,
Nowra New South Wales

On 11 May 1978, at about 1 a.m., in New Caledonia, a bus, carrying a party of Australian school students, plunged off a road during heavy rain into a river and became partly submerged.

Although injured, Mr Crossley, a student in the party, assisted other injured persons from the sinking bus and tended to them on shore. He continued to assist the more seriously injured until rescue workers arrived.

Mr Crossley showed commendable courage in such hazardous conditions.

Mr Kevin DYKE
Riverview Road,
Nowra New South Wales

On 11 May 1978, at about 1 a.m., in New Caledonia, a bus, carrying a party of Australian school students, plunged off a road during heavy rain into a river and became partly submerged.

Mr Dyke, a student in the party, although shocked and bruised, made his way out of the bus. He then assisted a severely injured person to reach the shore and tended to a number of persons until rescue workers arrived.

Mr Dyke showed commendable courage in such hazardous conditions.

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Mr James FORSTER
70 Walsh Crescent,
North Nowra New South Wales

On 11 May 1978, at about 1 a.m., in New Caledonia, a bus, carrying a party of Australian school students, plunged off a road during heavy rain into a river and became partly submerged.

Mr Forster, a student in the party, after making his way out of the bus assisted others in helping a number of persons out of the bus and to reach the shore. He then directed helpers from nearby areas to the scene and for a considerable period assisted to care for a number of injured persons.

Mr Forster showed commendable courage in such hazardous conditions.

Mrs Rosslyn Kay LOHMANN
15 John Street,
Semaphore Park. South Australia

On 10 March 1978, a man, carrying a rifle, entered the St Margaret's Convalescent Hospital, Semaphore, South Australia, demanding to see his daughter, an employee at the hospital.

Mrs Lohmann, upon seeing the man and knowing him to be dangerous, proceeded to various areas of the hospital to warn people. During the course of doing so she was confronted by the man and shot. The man, by this time had fatally wounded the matron of the hospital.

Mrs Lohmann displayed commendable courage while an armed killer was on the hospital premises.

Mr Andrew James MACKAY
125 Kinghorn Street,
Nowra New South Wales

On 11 May 1978, at about 1 a.m., in New Caledonia, a bus carrying a party of Australian school students, plunged off a road during heavy rain into a river and became partly submerged.

Mr Mackay, a student in the party, was one of the last to find his way out of the bus. Although suffering from a dislocated shoulder and the effects of immersion, shock and bruising he proceeded to help others reach the bank. Mr Mackay then ran for more than a kilometre to summon help and later returned to the scene to assist further.

Mr Mackay displayed commendable courage in such hazardous conditions.

Miss Deborah Anne PITTAWAY
Crest Avenue,
North Nowra, New South Wales

On 11 May 1978, at about 1 a.m., in New Caledonia, a bus carrying a party of Australian school students, plunged off a road during heavy rain into a river and became partly submerged.

Miss Pittaway, a student in the party, was thrown from the bus as it left the road. Although suffering from a severe cut to the head and shock, as well as the after effects of concussion, Miss Pittaway helped to care for a number of the more seriously injured and later assisted the rescue workers.

Miss Pittaway displayed commendable courage in such hazardous conditions.

Mr Geoffrey Gilbert TOWNSEND
11 Silvermere Avenue,
Paradise, South Australia

On 10 July 1978, at about 7 p.m., Mr Townsend was advised by two young children from a neighbouring house that their father was armed with rifles and was threatening their mother.

Mr Townsend proceeded to the house and persuaded the man to allow the children's mother to leave. To enable the woman to get safely away he then remained with the man and, although menaced from time to time by the rifles, was able later to leave the house when he advised the police authorities of the situation.

Mr Townsend, displayed commendable courage in confronting an armed man.