



SUPPLEMENT TO  
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TUESDAY, 4TH JULY 1978

**HONOURS AND AWARDS**

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF  
 THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.  
 4th July 1978.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the George Cross to the undermentioned:

**GEORGE CROSS**

Michael Kenneth PRATT, Constable, Victoria Police Force.

On the morning of 4th June 1976 three masked men entered a bank and carried out an armed robbery. One of the men ordered the staff to lie on the floor, another jumped over the counter and removed money from the tills while the third remained in the public area and fired a shot in the direction of the manager and a customer when they ran towards the rear of the bank.

Constable Pratt, who was off-duty and unarmed, was driving past the bank in his private car and saw the men entering the bank; he noticed that each man was masked and carrying a firearm and realised that they were about to commit an armed robbery. He immediately turned his car, switched up the lights and, sounding his horn, mounted the kerb and blocked the bank entrance. He instructed a passer-by to call for police assistance.

The raiders were taken by surprise, but one of them threatened the Constable with a gun and signalled to him to remove the car, whereupon the officer refused, removed the ignition key, and armed himself with the handle of a car jack. The men then attempted to leave the bank by kicking in the lower section of the glass door and climbing over the bonnet of the car. As the first man straddled the front of

the car Constable Pratt grabbed him firmly and during the violent struggle which ensued the robber was knocked unconscious. By this time a second gunman had left the bank and climbed over the car, aimed his weapon and threatened to shoot the officer at close range; the man had his arms extended at shoulder height and pointed a revolver directly at Constable Pratt. The first man had by now recovered consciousness and was getting to his feet, so the officer grabbed him again and the man called to the gunman to shoot the Constable. A shot was then fired and Constable Pratt who was in the process of trying to protect his back and at the same time retain his hold on his captive, was seriously wounded.

Constable Pratt displayed outstanding bravery, devotion to duty and a complete disregard for his own safety when, unarmed and single handed, he faced and attempted to arrest these dangerous armed criminals.

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF  
 THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.  
 4th July 1978.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Queen's Gallantry Medal to the undermentioned and for the publication in the *London Gazette* of the names of those shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for Brave Conduct and Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air.

*Awarded the Queen's Gallantry Medal*

Captain George David Preston BAIN, Chief Pilot,  
 British Airways Helicopters Ltd., Sumburgh, Shetland.