

enormous courage by proceeding towards the advancing prisoner, and protecting his colleague from further injury by placing himself between her and the prisoner. Officer Walker then confronted and ultimately restrained the prisoner. In doing so, he received three serious stabbing injuries to his face, abdomen and the back of his head. Despite this, he singlehandedly restrained the prisoner who was disarmed when colleagues came to his aid.

Queen's Commendation for Bravery

William Arthur Alistair BARKER (deceased), Police Constable, Cumbria Constabulary

For sacrificing his own life while trying to save others

During 19 and 20 November 2009, Cumbria suffered unprecedented levels of rainfall, resulting in severe flooding. On 20 November, the police received reports that a bridge over the River Derwent in Workington had begun to collapse. Police patrols, which included PC Barker and a colleague, were sent to the location to assess the situation. As PC Barker arrived at the bridge, he was informed that it might have collapsed and a vehicle may have fallen into the water. The area was in darkness due to power failures, but the police managed to secure the scene. To ascertain whether there was any evidence that a vehicle had fallen into the water, PC Barker and a colleague ventured on to the bridge. The camber of the bridge meant that the two police officers were unable to establish the extent of the damage until they reached a point within a few feet of the lip of the bridge. It was only then they were able to confirm that the central section of

the bridge had fully collapsed. Having ascertained that there were no visible casualties in the water, both officers decided to leave the bridge. As they started to leave, PC Barker went to the side of the bridge, looking over the parapet, to check again if any vehicle or its occupants were visible. At this moment, the area of the bridge where PC Barker was standing broke away and he was swept away in the water. His body was recovered later the same day.

While recognising the obvious risks to himself, PC Barker took steps to check for casualties in need of assistance, and paid the ultimate price for his selfless actions.

Judith Ann TIMSON, Civilian

For preventing a raid on a jewellery store

On 7 February 2011 Mrs Timson, 71 years of age, was shopping in Northampton when she noticed a commotion coming from the direction of a nearby jewellery store. Three mopeds were parked with riders on board, and three other people wearing crash helmets and armed with lump hammers, were smashing a jewellery store's windows. She immediately ran towards the group of robbers (a distance of 150 metres) and began swinging her handbag at one of the riders, who then departed the scene. She then swung her handbag at those smashing the window in an attempt to stop them continuing their attack on the shop. The robbers decided to leave the scene but one robber was so distracted by Mrs Timson that he fell off his moped. She continued to hit him with her handbag until other members of the public also intervened. The robber was detained until the police arrived and took him into custody.