



British  
Transport  
Police



*Commendation Ceremony*  
*Monday, 7th July 2003*

**British Transport Police**

**and**

**North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service**

Presentation of Certificates of Commendation  
arising from the  
Great Heck Rail Crash  
on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2001

Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2003

The Voltigeur Suite, York Racecourse

**Presenting Officer**

Lord Crathorne  
Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire

**Chief Constable  
British Transport Police**

Ian Johnston CBE QPM BSc (Hons)

**Chief Fire Officer  
North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service**

Eric Clark QFSM DMS MInstD MIFireE

## Order of Proceedings

1.40pm Recipients and guests assemble. Informal welcome and outline of proceedings by Acting Inspector Allan Gregory, Staff Officer to the Chief Constable, British Transport Police.

2.00pm Proceedings formally begin with the arrival of the Presenting Officer, The Lord Lieutenant of North Yorkshire, accompanied by Ian Johnston CBE QPM, Chief Constable, British Transport Police, and Eric Clark, Chief Fire Officer, North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service.

Opening address by the Chief Fire Officer and the Chief Constable, who will then invite The Lord Lieutenant to present the commendations.

- Recipients will be called out, individually and in groups, to receive their commendations. Recipients will be photographed receiving their certificates.
- At the conclusion of the presentation, Master James Dunn will address the recipients and guests, followed by The Lord Lieutenant.
- Recipients and their guests are then invited to join The Lord Lieutenant, and official guests, for a finger buffet.
- Further photographs will be taken at this time.

4.30pm The Lord Lieutenant for North Yorkshire departs.

5.00pm End of Proceedings.

## **Certificates of Commendation**

Certificates of Commendation are awarded to members of the public, rail staff, fire officers and police officers, who have shown outstanding courage or particular skill.

It is important to thank members of the community who actively help the fire and police service to carry out their duty, as well as those who show great courage and initiative in helping others during a major emergency.

Certificates of Commendation serve to recognise such people and to express thanks and appreciation for the consent, goodwill, and active co-operation of citizens.

## **The Great Heck Rail Crash**

At 6.12am on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2001, a Land Rover pulling a trailer on the westbound M62 motorway in North Yorkshire, left the carriageway and ended up fouling the main southbound line. Almost immediately afterwards, the 04.45 GNER passenger train from Newcastle to London King's Cross struck the Land Rover, partially derailing the driving cab. Some fifteen seconds later, the passenger train struck an oncoming freight train carrying coal. The two trains were derailed, killing the coal train driver and the passenger train driver, together with eight other people on the passenger train, including rail crew members. Eighty six people were injured, some severely.



## **Chief Constable's Commendation Recipients:**

### **Mr Eric Andrew Booth**

Mr Booth is commended for his actions immediately following the collision. After aiding a female passenger in escaping from a carriage, he ran up the railway in search of a functioning signal box and alerted the signalmen he found there to the magnitude of the crash. He then spoke to a signalman at Doncaster and informed him of the location of the crash before returning to the site of the crash.

### **Mr Martin Gaunt**

Mr Gaunt is commended for his actions immediately following the collision. Despite sustaining a broken arm, Mr Gaunt ran to Northern Straw in order to call the emergency services. When he realised that had been done, he returned to the scene and helped several passengers pass safely through downed electric lines and down an embankment. Mr Gaunt showed several people to the safety of Northern Straw. He then alerted a nearby paramedic to the location of a trapped passenger before being taken to hospital himself.

### **Mr Richard Genner**

Mr Genner is commended for the way in which he assisted his fellow passengers immediately following the collision. Despite injuries to himself, Mr Genner helped clear wreckage from several passengers trapped in his carriage and remained in the carriage to comfort and reassure them.

### **Mr Laurence Gunson**

Mr Gunson is commended for the assistance he provided a fellow passenger immediately after the collision. Having suffered an undiagnosed broken neck and badly injured shoulder himself, Mr Gunson spent an hour and a half comforting a fellow injured passenger while the two of them, trapped in a carriage, awaited emergency services.

### **Mr Peter King**

Mr King is commended for the way in which he assisted his fellow passengers immediately following the collision. Despite sustaining injuries himself, Mr King removed wreckage from seriously injured passengers, comforted them, administered first aid to them and kept them conscious until emergency teams arrived. In spite of the danger to himself, Mr King refused to leave his travelling companions until emergency services had arrived.

### **Mr Nev Lyon**

Mr Lyon is commended for his actions immediately following the collision. His carriage having been overturned, Mr Lyon helped extricate a man trapped between what had been the ceiling and the luggage racks by clearing the debris covering him. Hoping to prevent further injury to the passenger, Mr Lyon encouraged the man to remain still until emergency teams arrived. Upon exiting the carriage, he informed a passing fireman of the location of another man he believed to be trapped under the wreckage of another carriage.

### Mr Kenneth Mellor

Mr Mellor is commended for his actions immediately following the collision. After escaping his carriage, Mr Mellor ran to a nearby farm yard to find ladders with which to free other trapped passengers in a nearby carriage. When the first ambulance arrived, Mr Mellor directed it to the best access route to the site and remained on the road to direct subsequent ambulances. Upon returning to the farmhouse, Mr Mellor comforted a passenger there.

### Mr Brian Patterson

Mr Patterson is commended for his actions immediately following the collision. After escaping his own carriage, Mr Patterson comforted a severely injured man who had been thrown from the train. He then helped several other passengers in a different carriage to escape by smashing a window. He returned several times to comfort the severely injured man, provided him with a jacket in order to keep warm in the freezing weather, and later led fire-fighters to him. Mr Patterson then comforted a passenger anxious about the welfare of her travelling companion.

### Mr Richard Simpson

Mr Simpson is commended for the way in which he assisted his fellow passengers immediately following the collision. Following the crash, Mr Simpson informed his fellow passengers that they would be safer staying in the carriage. He then exited the carriage himself and went to the aid of passengers trapped in other carriages where he administered first aid to several passengers. Seeing that emergency services had arrived on the scene, he apprised a fire officer of the location and condition of the injured passengers he had treated. Mr Simpson joined the fire crew and helped them administer first aid to several passengers remaining in train carriages and assisted in removing passengers from the wreckage.

### Ms Emma Kirvan-Taylor, (to be received by Mr and Mrs Kirvan)

Ms Kirvan-Taylor is commended for the way in which she assisted passengers immediately after the crash. Despite being badly injured herself, she managed to free herself from a pile of debris. Once free, she comforted passengers in the buffet car, before exiting the train through a broken window. Ms Kirvan-Taylor then reassured injured passengers outside the train and led a group of them to a place of safety. She then went back to the train to assist more people.

### Mr Raymond Leslie Brindley, (to be received by Mr Ashley Brindley)

Mr Brindley is commended for his actions immediately following the collision. Having established that there was no danger of fire within the coaches, he advised passengers to keep calm and stay inside the coach. Mr Brindley then alighted from the coach he was in and ran to the contact the signaller on the signal phone. Having done this, he subsequently directed the arriving emergency services to the scene, and then helped with the removal of injured passengers from the train.



### Mr Thomas Waller

Mr Waller is commended for the way in which he assisted his fellow passengers immediately after the collision. After escaping from his carriage, Mr Waller helped another passenger exit the train and then dialled 999. He also assisted another trapped passenger by giving her his coat to ward off the cold.

### Mr David Ward

Mr Ward is commended for the way in which he assisted his fellow passengers immediately following the collision. After helping a passenger exit the carriage, Mr Ward dialled 999 to inform the fire brigade of the accident. Mr Ward then comforted a carriage full of trapped passengers, telling them help was on the way. He then assisted 8-10 passengers in exiting another carriage and directed them toward Northern Straw.

### Mr Michael Wilson

Mr Wilson is commended for the way in which he aided his fellow passengers immediately following the collision. After phoning emergency services, Mr Wilson comforted a severely injured man and gave him the lining out of his own jacket in order to help keep the man warm. Mr Wilson then flagged down an emergency vehicle and informed the officer of the location and condition of the trapped man. He then made numerous trips guiding several passengers to the Northern Straw offices.

### Mr Malcolm Bramley

Mr Bramley is commended for his assistance at the scene of the collision. He arrived at the site after the crash and helped to rescue an injured train driver using a rope he had provided. He helped place the driver on the stretcher and carried the stretcher to a waiting ambulance. Mr Bramley then assisted in directing traffic at the site.

### Mr Thomas David Bramley

Mr Bramley is commended for his assistance at the scene on his property. After dialling 999 to inform the authorities of the crash, he and other family members aided a fireman in the rescue of a trapped train driver, Mr. Andrew Hill, and provided general assistance at the site.

### Mrs Fiona Claire Bramley

Mrs Bramley is commended for her assistance at the scene on her property. She helped care for and comfort several of the passengers who had come to take refuge in her mother's house.

### Mr Gregory Cooper

Mr Cooper is commended for the way in which he assisted several of his fellow passengers immediately following the collision. After phoning 999, he climbed into several carriages in order to assist injured passengers and removed wreckage in order to help passengers exit the train. He also comforted one injured, trapped passenger and helped another suffering from chest pains. Next, he directed a paramedic to these injured passengers and then, aided by a fireman, assisted in the removal of another injured passenger from the wreckage of a nearby carriage. Subsequently, he escorted four passengers to safety through downed power lines and across an embankment. He then returned to Northern Straw and cleared equipment in the area in order to open a workshop to cater to the injured. He continued to work to comfort passengers in this makeshift clinic.

### Mr John Dunnington

Mr Dunnington is commended for his prompt and effective response to the collision. Having arrived to work at Northern Straw after the crash, Mr Dunnington worked to assist and comfort the injured passengers and to open rooms in Northern Straw to allow passengers to escape from the cold.

### Mr Gerald Hall

Mr Hall is commended for his prompt and effective response to the collision. After hearing the crash, Mr Hall went to the site and directed several disoriented passengers to the Northern Straw makeshift facility. He helped to transport an injured woman to safety and informed newly arrived paramedics of the location of the site. Mr Hall then returned to Northern Straw and worked to reassure and comfort the injured passengers he found there. He then opened another Northern Straw shed to provide shelter for injured passengers. Having done this, Mr Hall assisted in moving scrap and debris, allowing Ambulance access to the last shed where many of the most seriously injured lay.

### Mrs Susan Lynn Hall

Mrs Hall is commended for her prompt and effective response to the train crash. After hearing the crash, Mrs Hall went to the site and provided blankets and warm clothing for the survivors. She further comforted the injured and provided them with hot drinks until they were taken to hospital.

### Miss Stephanie Hall

Miss Hall is commended for her prompt and effective response to the train crash. Following the collision, Miss Hall, without prompting, went to see what assistance she could provide. She then returned to her house to collect and provide facilities to administer hot drinks to the injured.

### Mrs Sharon Matthews

Mrs Matthews is commended for her prompt and effective response to the collision. As a Registered Nurse, Mrs Matthews, a local resident, was anxious to help when she heard of the incident. Once at Northern Straw, she assisted emergency personnel and comforted the injured.

### Mrs Lynn Margaret Patrick

Mrs Patrick is commended for her prompt and effective response to the collision. Upon hearing of the crash, Mrs Patrick, a Registered Nurse, went to the scene in order to determine if her medical skills could be of some use. Discovering that her skills were indeed needed, Mrs Patrick returned to her village in order to inform her friend and fellow Registered Nurse that they were needed at the crash site. Mrs Patrick went on to assist and comfort the injured passengers being housed at Northern Straw.

### Mr John Peter Smith

Mr Smith is commended for his prompt and effective response to the collision. Upon being notified of the crash, Mr Smith travelled to the scene and assisted the paramedic in recovering Mr. Andrew Hill, surviving driver of the freight train.

### Mrs Karen Dawn Smith, (to be received by Mr Smith)

Mrs Smith is commended for her prompt and effective response to the collision. Upon being notified of the crash, Mrs Smith travelled to the scene and helped care for and comfort several of the passengers who had come to take refuge in her mother's house.

### Mr Arnold Whittles

Mr Whittles is commended for his prompt and effective response to the train crash. After informing emergency services of the location of the crash, Mr Whittles, with help, obtained ladders which he used to evacuate trapped passengers from the train. He also cleared a safe route to his home which he had opened up to the passengers and led an elderly passenger there. Subsequently, he returned to the site of the collision and convinced an injured passenger to exit the carriage and helped her to the Northern Straw offices. He returned to the site, helped several other passengers out of the carriage and led them to the Northern Straw Depot. He also assisted a paramedic in carrying a stretcher and comforting its injured occupant.

### Mrs Gillian Whittles

Mrs Whittles is commended for her prompt and effective response to the train crash. After dialling 999 to inform emergency services, Mrs Whittles opened her house in aid and comfort to fourteen of the passengers.

## **Chief Fire Officer's Commendation Recipients:**

Sub Officer Colin Hunter  
Fire-fighter Lenny Baxter  
Fire-fighter Mark Blackburn  
Leading Fire-fighter Tony Walker  
Fire-fighter Mark Reynolds

are commended for displaying professionalism as members of the first attendance crews and dealing with the consequences of the serious accident which presented numerous complex problems, at the same time as assisting casualties in a compassionate and supportive manner.

**Assistant Divisional Officer Graham Buckle**

ADO Buckle is commended for displaying professionalism as the initial officer in charge, in that a complex and distressing incident was controlled in a manner that was compassionate and supportive to casualties whilst providing an Incident Command Structure that enabled oncoming resources to be used to best effect.

**Senior Fire Control Operator Phillipa Michael  
Fire Control Operator Helen Sterling**

are commended for displaying professionalism in dealing with the initial stages of a complex and distressing incident, mobilising and controlling the required resources from three Fire Services and other Emergency Services, throughout the day.

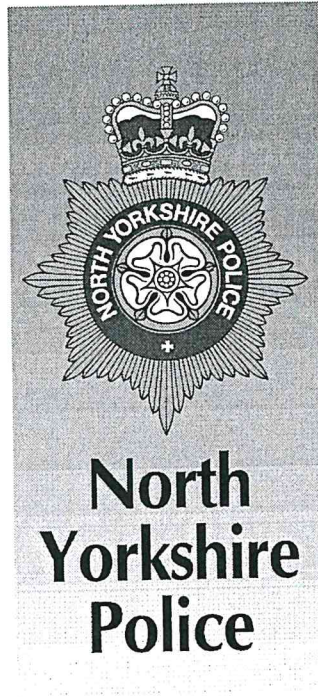
**Senior Fire Control Operator Jan McCormack  
Fire Control Operator Paul Hart**

are commended for displaying professionalism in dealing with a complex and distressing incident, mobilising and controlling the required resources from three Fire Services and other Emergency Services, throughout the day.

**Sub Officer John Blake  
Leading Fire-fighter Andrew Ramsbottom  
Fire-fighter Michael Wells**

are commended for displaying professionalism and dedication in providing Incident Command Support throughout the first 24 hours of a complex and distressing incident.

## Chief Constable's Commendation



### North Yorkshire Police

The North Yorkshire Police service is commended for its highly professional response to the rail crash. Their unstinting efforts, during the subsequent investigation, and sensitive and compassionate care of both relatives and victims was exemplary. North Yorkshire Police responded swiftly in the immediate aftermath, liaising with other emergency services and authorities. The dedication, tenacity, and thoroughness of North Yorkshire Police's involvement in the case led to a successful prosecution.



## **Chief Constable's Commendation Recipients:**

Superintendent 2843 Martyn Ripley

Supt. Martyn Ripley is commended for his leadership and co-ordination skills following the crash. He carried out his role of Incident Officer, (known as 'Silver'), working tirelessly and methodically to co-ordinate the recovery procedures and scene management. He regularly liaised with the other emergency services and other agencies to ensure a unified approach was maintained, and remained highly motivated and professional during harrowing and distressing events.

PC 3394 William Alexander Gow Marshall  
PC 3732 Richard Andrew Mitchell  
PC 1684 Richard David Waterhouse

Acting Inspector 2208 Rae William Jiggins  
PC 3654 Stuart Brian Airs  
PC 3268 Ian James Burditt  
PC 3343 Ian Farrow  
PC 0134 Lynne Suzanne Frearson

PC 0116 Becky Jane Jackson  
PC 3298 James Alistair Lyon  
PC 0323 Kay Denise Clifforth  
PC 3414 Alan Muggleton  
PS 4002 Christopher John Pearson

PC 1781 Christopher Roy Price  
PC 3615 Luke David Simpson  
PC 0322 Catherine Elizabeth Trunley  
PC 3500 David Andrew Webb  
PC 3613 Hugh Weir  
PC 0451 Kathleen White

are commended for conducting search duties for five days, working long hours in difficult and demanding conditions under intense media coverage whilst away from home. They had to contend with extreme weather conditions and a hazardous working environment. Throughout this period the officers showed outstanding professionalism and motivation in conducting the duties required.



PC 1273 Graham Hempstead  
PC 3750 William John Pearson

are commended for initially conducting search duties for eight days, working long hours in difficult and demanding conditions under intense media coverage whilst away from home. At extremely short notice they agreed, without thought for themselves, to extend their duties by a further five days, during which they contended with extreme weather conditions and a hazardous working environment. Throughout this period the officers showed outstanding professionalism and motivation in conducting the duties asked of them.

Inspector 3013 Graham John Fair  
PS 1807 Stephen Simcox  
Acting PS 3471 John Anthony Price  
PC 1749 George Albert Nicholson

PC 3720 Gareth Mark Wilson  
PC 1527 John Duffy  
PC 3219 Brian John Dickinson  
PC 3498 Michael Cook

Acting PS 3400 Gary Peter Sims  
PC 3756 Michael Scott Wakefield  
PC 0370 Leigh Michaela Reid

PS 1184 Derek Gavin O'Mara  
PC 3729 Stephen John Strong

are commended for conducting search duties to recover property, working long hours in difficult and demanding conditions under intense media coverage whilst away from home. They had to contend with extreme weather conditions and a hazardous working environment. Throughout this period the officers showed outstanding professionalism and motivation in conducting the duties required.

5110 Donna Marie Henshaw  
5334 Angela Jaqueline Jutta Knowles

are commended for working exceptionally long hours, without breaks, in very stressful circumstances to ensure that the people at the incident site were supplied with equipment, clothing, accommodation, and other requirements during the whole of the incident. Their commitment and dedication was exceptional.

Inspector Stephen Gregory, Metropolitan Police  
PC 176 TX David Thrower, Metropolitan Police  
A/DS 3167 Jeffrey Richard Hull

are commended for attending the scene and assisting the recovery teams in difficult and dangerous circumstances. They deployed invaluable recovery techniques, risk assessment, and identification skills whilst working long hours for the duration of the scene.

### Detective Sergeant 1075 Ian Michael Capewell

DS Capewell is commended for his management of the forensic, recovery, and technical teams of officers for the full duration of the scene. He maintained a high professional standard and continuity of evidence throughout, thereby ensuring that all available evidence was recovered.

PTO 5879 Leslie Armstrong  
PTO 5875 Jarrod Haughton  
PTO 5825 Michael John Price  
PTO 5863 Roy Phillips Sloane

PC 1471 Colin Darling  
PC 3082 Roger Ernest Kendall  
PC 2555 Stuart David Peers  
PC 1343 Neil Ralph Simmonds

are commended for working in a highly professional manner recovering all available forensic evidence in difficult and dangerous conditions, and extreme weather conditions. The technical, photographic, and video evidence was recovered to a high standard, thereby assisting the investigation team.

### Detective Superintendent 2332 Nick Bracken

Det. Supt. Bracken is commended for his actions following the crash in which he led the police investigation team in the role of Senior Investigating Officer. He worked tirelessly and enthusiastically throughout a lengthy investigation, liaising with a wide range of organisations. His leadership and direction were of a high standard and his work received favourable comment from a number of those directly involved in the crash.

### Detective Chief Superintendent Graham Sunderland, West Yorkshire Police

DCS Sunderland is commended for his actions following the crash. He liaised with the Coroner and the Pathology team ensuring a co-ordinated approach. DCS Sunderland's professional behaviour led to speedy identifications.

### Detective Chief Inspector 2032 Daniel Snee

DCI Snee is commended for his role as Deputy to the Senior Investigating Officer during protracted enquiries. He worked tirelessly and enthusiastically throughout the investigation and displayed initiative and enthusiasm in co-ordinating a complex number of enquiries.

### Detective Constable 2398 John Chisholm Mushett

DC Mushett is commended for the effective and thorough way he carried out his duties co-ordinating the corporate compliance procedure. He also worked tirelessly and enthusiastically to assist both the SIO and deputy SIO.

**Police Sergeant Michael Peck, Humberside Police**

Sgt Peck is commended for his actions following the crash. Together with colleagues, Sgt Peck undertook examinations into the road vehicle in order to prepare evidence for Court. At Court, Sgt Peck was commended by the defence barrister, which subsequently led to a commendation by the Judge.

**Police Constable 757 Steve Shone, Humberside Police**  
**Police Constable 1269 Craig Brack, Humberside Police**  
**Vehicle Examiner 8875 Ian Charlton, Humberside Police**

are commended for their actions following the crash. Together, they undertook examinations into the road vehicle in order to prepare evidence for Court. During the investigation, they worked in a professional and commendable manner.

**Detective Constable 0132 Cathryn Elaine Shaw**

DC Shaw is commended for the way in which she performed her duties as Family Liaison Officer, displaying considerable dedication and sensitivity whilst liaising with bereaved families. She worked with considerable compassion in a manner which the Attorney General's office considered worthy as a model for the future.

**Superintendent 2709 Tony Thompson, (to be received by James Dunn)**

Former Supt. Thompson is commended for the way in which he performed his duties as media liaison officer, dealing with the unrelenting demands of reporters, and his role in liaising with victims and families affected by the crash. His professionalism in carrying out his tasks was exemplary and in the highest traditions of the Police Service.

## **In memoriam**

### **A Chief Constable's Certificate of Commendation is awarded posthumously to Mr Carlo Evans**

At 6.12am on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2001, a Land Rover pulling a trailer on the westbound M62 motorway in North Yorkshire, left the carriageway and ended up fouling the main southbound line. Almost immediately afterwards, the 04.45 GNER passenger train from Newcastle to London King's Cross struck the Land Rover, partially derailing the driving cab. Some fifteen seconds later, the passenger train struck an oncoming freight train carrying coal. The two trains were derailed, killing the coal train driver and the passenger train driver, together with eight other people on the passenger train, including rail crew members. Eighty-six people were injured, some severely.

Mr Evans is commended for his actions immediately following the collision. After phoning 999, Mr Evans called the York signal box in order to alert them of the crash and ensure that no other train came down the line. He then flagged down a nearby driver, asked him the exact location and rang emergency services in order to update them. Mr Evans then returned to the site and helped several passengers escape the wreckage and helped secure the site by making dangerous debris safe. He then aided firemen and paramedics with their equipment. Subsequently, Mr Evans went to the Northern Straw depot in order to comfort and assist further the injured passengers brought there.

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