While on night duty in the Dock area of Wallasey, Constable Liston and another Constable, saw a man who was a deserter from the Army and who was suspected of housebreaking offences. They arrested him and took him towards the sub-station. When about 30 yards away from the office, Constable Liston, who was holding the prisoner, was dealt a severe blow on the side of his face from behind. He turned and saw his assailant was the brother of the prisoner. Liston, still retaining his grip on his captive, fought him off; but another man then attacked the other Constable with an open razor. He knocked the officer down and slashed his head and face, which were covered in blood. The prisoner's brother also ran at the prostrate Constable and commenced to kick him on the head, face and shoulders. Constable Liston still gripping his prisoner, went to his colleague's assistance.

Resisting the attacks of the man with the open razor, he fought both men one handed with such skill and courage that they broke off the encounter and ran away.
Liston lifted up his severely injured Comrade and continued to the sub-station, the prisoner in one hand and holding the Constable with the other. Arriving at the sub-station, he secured the prisoner and at once joined the search for the two men who were later arrested.

By his determination, Coolness and Courage in tackling two desperate men, one armed with a razor, Constable Liston set an outstanding example of devotion to duty.