



SUPPLEMENT TO

# The London Gazette

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TUESDAY, 13TH APRIL 1965

## CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.  
13th April 1965.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's Australian Ministers, to approve the award of the George Medal to the undermentioned:—

Major George Michael PLUNKETT (337600) Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps.

At 10.35 p.m. on the 19th June 1964, a military vehicle driven by Sergeant J. Gilbert, with Sergeant K. Hay as passenger, was involved in a collision with two civilian motor cars. All vehicles were extensively damaged and the military vehicle burst into flames. The petrol tank of the Army Car was ruptured and although the contents were leaking, the fire had not reached this point but ignition was imminent.

Major George Michael Plunkett, of the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps, on hearing the crash went quickly to the scene and at considerable personal risk and unaided, rescued the badly injured Sergeant Hay. Major Plunkett then returned to the vehicle and after great difficulty, finally wrenched open the damaged door and endeavoured to free Sergeant Gilbert who was enveloped in flames. Unfortunately the Sergeant being pinned in his seat was not easily freed. Major Plunkett continued in his efforts and had almost removed Sergeant Gilbert clear of the wreckage by the shoulders, when he found that Sergeant Gilbert's feet needed freeing before he could be extricated completely. Meanwhile in response to his cries for assistance, Craftsman John Leslie Hood freed the Sergeant's feet and pushed him towards the car door, thereby allowing Major Plunkett to drag Sergeant Gilbert from the wreckage. Major Plunkett suffered burns to the hands and face as a result of his actions.

Unfortunately Sergeant Gilbert succumbed to the burns and injuries he had received, but Sergeant Hay lived and owes his life to the quick thinking, selfless and courageous actions of Major Plunkett. There is little doubt that had Major Plunkett not acted as he did, Sergeant Hay would have suffered a fate similar to Sergeant Gilbert.

## CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.  
13th April 1965.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's Australian Ministers, to approve

the award of the British Empire Medal for Gallantry (Military Division) to the undermentioned:—  
18204 Sapper Peter Jeffrey WOODS, Royal Australian Engineers.

At about 2114 hours on 10th October 1964, at Jervis Bay during Exercise Long Shot, an accident occurred on a pontoon some thirty feet below the gunwales of a merchant ship being discharged by military labour. It was a moonless night and visibility was restricted due to the limited lighting on the pontoon and shadows cast by the bulk of the freighter.

The derrick of the ship supported five steel transoms and these were being lowered to the deck of the pontoon. Due to swing of the load coupled with movement of the pontoon caused by swell and wind, Sapper Charles Clarige, a deckhand on the pontoon, was hit by the transoms, and held against the side of the ship. When the load swung off him the pontoon again moved and he dropped into the sea between the pontoon and the ship. Sapper Clarige was in dual danger of losing his life. Should the craft move together again he would have been crushed and although he was wearing safety clothing to keep him afloat, he most assuredly would have drowned, as he was lying face down and unconscious in the water.

Without thinking of his own safety and with a full knowledge of the possibility of the craft grinding together again, Sapper Peter Jeffrey Woods dived into the sea fully clothed and brought Sapper Clarige safely back to the pontoon. The quick thinking and prompt action of Sapper Woods undoubtedly saved the life of his comrade.

That Sapper Woods is only a moderate swimmer further emphasises the gallant nature of his action.

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

13th April 1965

### TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Col. (Hon. Brig.) L. C. DUNN, T.D., D.L. (38031) late R.A., having attained the age limit for liability to recall retires from the T.A., 10th Apr. 1965.

### ROYAL ARMOURED CORPS

14/20 H.

### REGULAR ARMY

Capt. Alexander Frederick PREVETT (469334) from Short Serv. Commn. to be Lt. (Q.M.), 13th Mar. 1964, with precedence in R.A.C. next above T. A. FERRIER, M.M. (472674), Q.R.I.H. To be Capt. (Q.M.), 30th Oct. 1964.