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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.

27th April 1965.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of Gallant and Distinguished Services in the Radfan Area of Southern Arabia.

To be an Additional Officer of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order for Gallantry:

Major (Temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Francis GRAHAM-BELL (408443), Army Air Corps.

Lieutenant-Colonel Graham-Bell was commanding his squadron of fixed wing and helicopter aircraft in close support of the ground forces operating in the Radfan area of South Arabia. The success of these operations depended to a very large extent on these aircraft, which throughout the period operated at full stretch, in every role open to them, in the most hazardous conditions and frequently under fire.

The support given to the Force by the Squadron was of exceptional merit throughout. Pilots and ground crews worked with a morale, bravery and skill which was intensely admired and appreciated by all ranks. Their performance was very largely inspired by the leadership of their Commanding Officer.

Lieutenant-Colonel Graham-Bell was never content to lead from behind; he flew for long periods without relief, was always the first to come forward for dangerous sorties into enemy territory, and on one occasion had his aircraft so badly damaged by enemy fire that it was flown back to base only through his exceptional skill. On another occasion when a helicopter had been forced down by enemy fire, he was the first to get forward on foot into an area still under fire to report on the damage and method of repair. This action, and his skilful diagnosis, enabled a speedy repair and extrication of the aircraft to be made, and had a most important effect on the whole operation, which by that time depended largely on how, or even whether, the aircraft could be recovered.

His leadership at the base also had a profound effect on the morale of the ground crews, and on the confidence of the pilots, the conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Graham-Bell was exemplary and contributed very largely to the success of operations in the Radfan.

To be Additional Members of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order for Gallantry:

Major Antony James Butler STAGG (377693), Royal Regiment of Artillery.

During the first phase of the operations in the Radfan area of Southern Arabia, Major Stagg commanded J (Sidi Rezegh) Battery, 3rd Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery. The Battery was in constant action, day and night, during this time. On numerous occasions it was the skill and foresight of Major Stagg which enabled high explosive or smoke to be fired so effectively in close support of our troops that casualties were kept to a minimum. Major Stagg showed a complete disregard for his own safety and was constantly in forward positions selecting new gun areas or co-ordinating the activities of his OP parties. He had previously so well trained other Arms in the technique of calling for Artillery fire that considerable casualties were caused to the enemy.

His devotion to duty and professional skill were of the highest standards.

Lieutenant (formerly 2670116 Warrant Officer Class I), Arthur Frederick James CHANNON (478270), 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment, The Parachute Corps.

Due to a shortage of officers, WO.I Channon undertook a number of roles outside those usually associated with his appointment, during the Radfan operations. He led several successful patrols and was twice responsible for establishing a small forward battalion group headquarters under fire. All this he accomplished with expertise.

On the last day but one, he was moving forward with a party when he saw a Scout helicopter brought down by sniper fire. Despite this fire, he hurried to give assistance and, though wounded, gallantly continued until ordered back by his Commanding Officer. His fortitude thereafter, though in pain and losing blood, freely was in keeping with the exceptional devotion he displayed during the entire period.

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