

Grant of 5 year Short Service Commission to Surgn. Lt. D. A. MARTIN, M.B., Ch.B., on 5th Feb. 1968, with seny. 5th Feb. 1968, to be confirmed on completion of training. 24th Apr. 1968.

Grant of 5 year Short Service Commission to Surgn. Lt. C. M. RENDALL, M.B., B.S., on 5th Feb. 1968, with seny. 5th Feb. 1968, to be confirmed on completion of training. 29th Apr. 1968.

Surgn. Lt. (D) J. L. BRADBEER, B.D.S., L.D.S., placed on Emerg'y List on completion of Short Service Commission for period of 4 years. 21st Apr. 1968.

Grant of 5 year Short Service Commission to Surgn. Lt. (D) J. G. NIVEN, on 31st Jul. 1967, with seny. 31st Jul. 1967, to be confirmed on completion of training. 29th Apr. 1968.

Grant of 5 year Short Service Commission to Surgn. Lt. (D) L. C. LANGAN, B.D.S., on 7th Jan. 1968, with seny. 7th Jul. 1967 confirmed on completion of training. 25th Mar. 1968.

Sub Lt. A. P. H. DUNLOP, promoted Lt. with seny. 1st Mar. 1968.

Sub Lts. (S.L.) promoted Lts. (S.L.) with seny. stated:

R. M. A. G. BURLEIGH. 1st Feb. 1968.

T. G. L. BURNE. 3rd Mar. 1968.

N. A. DARK. 8th Apr. 1968.

C. J. CHITTY. 14th Apr. 1968.

Sub Lts. (S.L.) promoted Lts. (S.L.) with seny. 20th Apr. 1968:

M. E. HORWOOD, A. B. PARKIN.

Sub Lt. (S.L.) T. J. WHEELDON, to be promoted Lt. (S.L.) with seny. 26th Apr. 1968.

Actg. Sub Lt. (S.L.) M. R. H. JENKINS, confirmed Sub Lt. (S.L.) 8th Apr. 1968, with seny. 8th Jul. 1966.

ROYAL MARINES

To be promoted Acting Lieutenants (S.D.) 28th Apr. 1968:

RM 9941 Colour Sergeant (C) P. D. MCGUIRE.

RM 13805 Sergeant H. M. G. CLINE.

RM 11228 Sergeant B. P. J. CHAPMAN.

Ply/X 5755 Quartermaster Sergeant A. HILL.

RM 15788 Sergeant S. C. STODDARD.

ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE

In pursuance of Her Majesty's pleasure Captain D. L'ESTRANGE, R.D., R.N.R., has been appointed an Aide de Camp to The QUEEN from the 27th Apr. 1968, in succession to Captain D. K. DUNLOP, R.D.*, A.D.C., R.N.R.

Lt.-Cdr. J. M. LOWRY, R.D., placed on Retired List. 1st Apr. 1968.

Lt.-Cdr. R. J. WILDER, V.R.D., transferred to Spec. Br. 1st Apr. 1968, in rank of Lt.-Cdr. (Sp) with seny. 9th Nov. 1961.

Lt. (S.D.) H. G. FARMER, removed from Active List. 21st Mar. 1968.

Proby. Surgn. Lt. D. D. MEIKLE, apptd. Surgn. Lt. 28th Mar. 1968, with seny. 28th Mar. 1967.

Proby. Surgn. Lt. (D) J. A. THOMAS, apptd. Surgn. Lt. (D) 22nd Feb. 1968, with seny. 22nd Feb. 1967.

Actg. Sub Lts. confirmed Sub Lts. 21st Sep. 1967, with seny. 21st Sep. 1966:

P. R. MOORE, C. R. SEYMOUR.

Sub Lt. (Sp) E. J. T. CLAPP, promoted Lt. (Sp) with seny. 9th Mar. 1968.

ARMY DEPARTMENT

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased on the advice of Her Majesty's Jamaica Ministers to approve the undermentioned award:

Air Force Cross

Captain (temporary Major) Robert James NEISH (JCA/1007), Jamaica Defence Force.

On Tuesday, 16th May 1967, a Fusilier of 1st Bn XX The Lancashire Fusiliers, in Jamaica on Exercise Calypso Hop, fell and injured his back whilst training at an altitude of 6,500 feet in the Blue Mountains. The Unit Medical Officer diagnosed a broken back and ordered that the Fusilier be lifted out in a horizontal position. A decision was made to try and lift him out by helicopter the following morning.

The Fusilier was lying on the edge of a small clearing surrounded by tall trees, on the side of a valley with extremely steep sides and 400 feet below a col at the head of the valley. There was intermittent cloud and winds of up to 25 m.p.h. were blowing up the side of the valley and over the col. The bottom of the valley was 1,500 feet below the injured man.

In order to place the Fusilier on to the stretcher, fixed to the right runner of the helicopter, it was necessary to position the helicopter near enough to the side of the mountain to put the right runner on the ground. However, measurements made by those on the ground proved that due to the steepness of the mountain the tip of the helicopter rotor would hit the mountain before the runner was near enough to allow the Fusilier to be lifted on to the stretcher, let alone place the runner on the ground. Major R. J. Neish, Officer Commanding the Jamaica Defence Force Air Wing, and pilot of the helicopter, gave instructions by radio from the helicopter, to those on the ground, to build a platform in the centre of the clearing, thus enabling the injured man to be brought further out from the side of the mountain. He gave further instructions for a section to be dug out of the side of the hill to accommodate the tip of the rotor.

Returning on the afternoon of 17th May when the work had been done, Major Neish was informed that when the runner of the helicopter was on the platform, the tip of the rotor would be about 3 to 6 feet from the mountain and there would be a gap of 2 to 4 feet underneath the rotor. He was also informed that the platform was not strong enough to take the weight of the helicopter. Major Neish knew well that despite having one runner on the platform the sudden extra weight of the casualty being placed on the helicopter's stretcher would alter the centre of gravity of the helicopter and might cause it to crash. The Fusilier had now been lying on the side of the mountain for 30 hours.

Using another pilot as a crewman to assist him, Major Neish decided to try to lift out the Fusilier. At the first attempt he placed the front of the right runner on to the platform, the left runner being in mid air. A turbulent and gusty wind was blowing, making it extremely difficult for the pilot to control the helicopter. Major Neish slowly edged the helicopter into position until the end of the rotor was four feet from the mountain and there was only two to three feet underneath the rotor.

At the pre-arranged signal those on the platform lifted the Fusilier on to the helicopter stretcher. Unfortunately he was placed too near the rear of the stretcher. This altered the centre of gravity of the helicopter and the tail rotor, despite maximum correction by Major Neish, started to drop down into the valley below the platform. The Fusilier was immediately taken off the helicopter's stretcher and just in time Major Neish regained control and took off, leaving the casualty on the platform.

After circling for several minutes and giving further instructions over the radio to the ground party, Major Neish made a second attempt. Due to the difficult conditions and despite every effort of those on the platform the casualty was again placed too near the rear of the stretcher, thus again unbalancing the helicopter and causing it to go into and out of centre of gravity condition. This time there was neither sufficient time to lift off, nor tie on, the casualty, and the imbalance of the helicopter was further aggravated by the necessity for the crewman to lean out of the helicopter and hold the casualty on to the stretcher. The helicopter was now outside of control limits and it immediately started to back away from the platform and turn to the right inside the confine