

thousand bombs, mines, torpedo warheads and other assorted explosives from old Japanese dumps on Penang Island. The explosive has been old and often in a very dangerous state, and throughout this exacting task Major Hoskin's leadership and judgement have been of a very high order. He has consistently dealt personally with any situation of more than ordinary danger.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
27th May 1969.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the British Empire Medal for Gallantry (Military Division) to the undermentioned:

23478365 Staff Sergeant George DUNCAN Corps of Royal Engineers.

Staff Sergeant Duncan was a member of the original Bomb Disposal Team Royal Engineers (FARELF) which started the clearance of the World War II Japanese bomb and explosive storage sites on Penang Island in the Spring of 1967, and for the first three months he was the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Team. He served on this task for nineteen months, including the crucial early stages of the work when drills were being established for dealing with hazards largely unknown. During this time he was personally responsible for the process of digging out and disposing of over a thousand bombs and other explosive devices. He displayed determination, energy and loyalty of the highest order, and his exceptional qualities were an inspiration to all who served with him. His courage and coolness in the face of obvious danger were an example to all and it is very largely due to his skill and technical proficiency that the task went so well from the start.

In January 1968, Staff Sergeant Duncan was badly injured when explosive from a sea mine ignited by accident. Whilst in Hospital and whilst recuperating he maintained a close and cheerful interest in the progress of the work and as soon as possible he returned to duty. His ability, devotion to duty and the uncomplaining endurance of tedious and dangerous work made him an outstanding example to all.

23548262 Staff Sergeant John Charles Vernon WOOD Corps of Royal Engineers.

Staff Sergeant Wood joined the Bomb Disposal Team, Royal Engineers (FARELF) in June 1967, and assumed the responsibilities of Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of the Team. Since there was only one officer in the Team he was, effectively, second in command.

He has been closely involved with the digging out and disposal of over three thousand six hundred bombs, sea mines, torpedo warheads and other explosive devices, left in collapsed tunnels on Penang Island by the Japanese at the end of World War II. All these explosive items were at least 25 years old, and many in a critical condition.

He has at all times shown exceptional ability, a very strong sense of duty and unflinching cheerfulness. His skill, courage and determination in all aspects of this hazardous task and his standard of leadership and devotion to duty throughout this continuously testing period of seventeen months have been of the highest order, and in the finest traditions of Bomb Disposal operations.

He has been an outstanding example to the men working with him and a continual inspiration to the whole of the Team.

27th May 1969.

COMMANDS AND STAFF

REGULAR ARMY

Lt.-Gen. Sir Ian FREELAND, K.C.B., D.S.O. (53691), late Inf., relinquishes his appointment as Deputy Chief of the General Staff, 31st Dec. 1968.

Maj.-Gen. J. E. ANDERSON, C.B.E. (67073), late R. Signals, relinquishes his appointment as Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army), 21st May 1969.

Brig. P. F. PENTREATH, M.B.E. (166061), late R. Signals, is appointed Signal Officer-in-Chief (Army), and is granted the acting rank of Maj.-Gen., 21st May 1969.

Col. B. P. TYRWHITT-DRAKE, M.B.E. (66052), late R.E., retires on retired pay, 4th May 1969.

HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY

L.G.

REGULAR ARMY

Short Serv. Commn.

2nd Lt. R. S. GUCEWICZ-BAILLIE (482956) relinquishes his commn., 5th May 1969.

ROYAL ARMOURED CORPS

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Short Serv. Commn.

2nd Lt. E. D. GROUNDS (482519), Q.D.G., from Active List, to be 2nd Lt., 5th May 1969.

Class III

Lt. M. J. FASS (479548) from T. & A.V.R., Category III, R. Berks, to be Lt., 31st Mar. 1969.

Class IV

Maj. T. S. SYKES (413539) from T. & A.V.R., Category III, R. Wilts, to be Maj., 11th Mar. 1969.

Maj. J. MEWSE (228352) from T. & A.V.R., Category III, Devon, to be Maj., 31st Mar. 1969.

TERRITORIAL AND ARMY VOLUNTEER RESERVE

Capt. (Acting Maj.) C. L. STEPHENSON (437441), R.Y.R., from T. & A.V.R., Category III, Yorks Yeo., and at his own request reverts to the rank of Capt., 1st Apr. 1969, with seniority 1st Oct. 1964.

Category III

Maj. (Acting Lt.-Col.) C. B. ALLEN (423173), S.R.Y., retires, 31st Mar. 1969, and is granted the hon. rank of Lt.-Col.

ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY

REGULAR ARMY

Lt.-Col. N. M. R. LEWIS (165492) is appointed to the Special List, 22nd May 1969.

Maj. D. J. BROWNE, D.F.C. (387271), retires on retired pay, 24th May 1969.

Lt. S. T. G. CRACKNELL (479202) resigns his commn., 1st May 1969.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Maj. V. J. H. BENNETT, M.B.E. (105952), ceases to belong to the Res. of Offrs., 28th Apr. 1969.

Short Serv. Commn.

2nd Lt. A. T. H. KNAPP (482527) from Active List, to be 2nd Lt., 5th May 1969.

Class II

Lt. J. A. TAYLOR (470278) from T. & A.V.R. (Unatt'd) and is restored to the rank of Capt., 19th Mar. 1969.

Class IV

Maj. R. H. GREGORY, T.D. (410210), from T. & A.V.R., Category III, to be Maj., 1st Apr. 1969.

Capt. M. R. ROWSELL (442741) from T. & A.V.R., Category III, to be Capt., 1st Apr. 1969.

Lt. P. J. PINDER (474287) from T. & A.V.R., Category III, 4/5 King's Own, and is restored to the rank of Capt., 31st Mar. 1969.

Lt. C. F. C. SPENCER BERNARD (479601) from T. & A.V.R., Category III, to be Lt., 31st Jan. 1969.

TERRITORIAL AND ARMY VOLUNTEER RESERVE

Maj. P. A. VAUGHAN (412089) (Res. of Offrs., Class I) (Unatt'd), retires, 19th Mar. 1969, retaining the rank of Maj.

Capt. J. D. COPLAND (453808) from T. & A.V.R., Category III, 3 R.H.F., to be Capt., 1st Apr. 1969.

Capt. D. DINGWALL (247265) having exceeded the age limit, retires, 1st Apr. 1969, and is re-granted the hon. rank of Maj.

Category III

Capt. C. E. HALL (447595) resigns his commn., 1st Apr. 1969.

CORPS OF ROYAL ENGINEERS

REGULAR ARMY

Maj. G. E. AUSTIN (431434): the notfn. in Gazette (Supplement) dated 6th May 1969, is cancelled.

Capt. A. R. MARLOW (465799) retires receiving a gratuity, 25th May 1969.

Postal & Courier Section

Lt. F. H. LEA (476430) to be Capt., 24th May 1969.

Short Serv. Commn.

Capt. H. L. SANDHAM (447693) relinquishes his commn., 23rd May 1969, and is granted the hon. rank of Maj.