

forced by fatigue and lack of fuel to return to the airfield.

More than 40 people lost their lives in the floods and undoubtedly the death roll would have been far higher but for Major Holtom's rescue operation.

The exceptional initiative, skill and tenacity shown by Major Holtom under extremely adverse flying conditions, and his complete disregard for his own safety, undoubtedly resulted in the saving of many lives.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the names shown below as having received an expression of Commendation for Brave Conduct:

Lieutenant Fraser HUGHES, Royal Marines.

During flood relief operations at Ulu Tiram on the 10th December 1969 Lt. Hughes was one of the crew of an assault boat evacuating civilians from houses cut off by flood waters. To reach the houses the boat had to cross a stretch of flood of about thirty yards width, with a depth of water of approximately fifteen feet and a current estimated as between 5-7 knots.

On one trip the boat was loaded with eight children aged from two to six years. On its way from the houses a sudden swirl in the current capsized the boat throwing all the occupants into the water. All were swept down by the current to a line of trees which everyone managed to hang on to.

Whilst other members of the crew secured the boat in shallow water Lt. Hughes repeatedly swam through the fast current and with another member of the crew succeeded in bringing all the children to the boat.

None of the children could swim and all were in an hysterical state. Lt. Hughes completely disregarded his own safety and did not hesitate to plunge into the flood to rescue the children. Due to his quick, unselfish and courageous action the children were saved from drowning.

23856887 Lance Bombardier Michael Roy THOMPSON, Royal Regiment of Artillery.

During flood relief operations at Ulu Tiram on 10th December 1969 L/Bdr. Thompson was one of the crew of an assault boat evacuating civilians from houses cut off by flood waters. To reach the houses the boat had to cross a stretch of flood of about thirty yards width, with a depth of water of approximately fifteen feet and a current estimated as between 5-7 knots.

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21151132 Sapper TIKABAHADUR SAHI, Gurkha Engineers.

On 10th December 1969 the town of Kluang in the Malayan state of Johore was the scene of very severe flash flooding when the Sungai Mengkibol which flows through the town rose as much as ten feet in some places in a matter of a few hours. Rescue teams from The Gurkha Engineers, with assault boats powered by outboard motors, were deployed to evacuate local people from their rickety kampong houses built alongside or even overhanging the river and by now up to their eaves in a torrent of very rapidly flowing water.

Sapper Tikabahadur Sahi was operating the outboard motor of one of the assault boats involved in the rescue operation. Throughout the day until darkness made further operations impossible this young sapper displayed a complete disregard for danger and great skill and coolness, as he manoeuvred his boat through extremely fast flowing and difficult waters. He remained completely undaunted as for many hours, cold and soaked to the skin, he faced considerable hazards in the shape of a racing current

against which at times his motor could barely make headway and a variety of dangerous obstacles, both submerged and floating, ranging from trees, barbed wire fences and dead animals to complete attap roofs travelling downstream at high speed. The competence, good humour and completely unruffled manner in which he navigated his boat among the maze of attap roofed kampong houses, many in a state of collapse or semi-collapse, is worthy of the highest praise and did much to calm the distressed families being evacuated.

Well over four hundred people were rescued from the Yap Tau Sah area by The Gurkha Engineers. Twenty-four lives were lost. There is no doubt that the courageous and devoted efforts of Sapper Tikabahadur Sahi made a substantial contribution towards keeping down the death toll.

21157143 Lance Corporal MILANCHANDRA GURUNG, Gurkha Engineers.

On 10th December 1969 the town of Kluang in the Malayan state of Johore was the scene of very severe flash flooding when the Sungai Mengkibol which flows through the town rose as much as ten feet in some places in a matter of a few hours. Rescue teams from The Gurkha Engineers, with assault boats powered by outboard motors, were deployed to evacuate local people from their rickety kampong houses built alongside, or even overhanging the river, and by now up to their eaves in a torrent of very rapidly flowing water.

L/Cpl. Milanchandra Gurung was operating the outboard motor of one of the assault boats involved in a rescue operation. Throughout the day until darkness made further operations impossible this young N.C.O. displayed a complete disregard for danger and great skill and coolness, as he manoeuvred his boat through extremely fast flowing and difficult waters. He remained completely undaunted as for many hours, cold and soaked to the skin, he faced considerable hazards in the shape of a racing current against which at times his motor could barely make headway and a variety of dangerous obstacles, both submerged and floating, ranging from trees, barbed wire fences and dead animals to complete attap roofs travelling downstream at high speed. The competence, good humour and completely unruffled manner in which he navigated his boat among the maze of attap roofed kampong houses, many in a state of collapse or semi-collapse, is worthy of the highest praise and did much to calm the distressed families being evacuated.

Well over four hundred people were rescued from the Yap Tau Sah area by The Gurkha Engineers. Twenty-four lives were lost. There is no doubt that the courageous and devoted efforts of Lance Corporal Milanchandra Gurung made a substantial contribution towards keeping down the death toll.

9th June 1970.

Brig. Ferdinand Shaw EILOART, O.B.E., late R.A. relinquishes the appointment of Aide-de-Camp to The QUEEN, 5th Jun. 1970, retired.

COMMANDS AND STAFF

REGULAR ARMY

Gen. Sir Geoffrey MUSSON, G.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. (45438), late Inf. relinquishes his appointment as Adjutant-General, Ministry of Defence, 3rd Jun. 1970.

Gen. Sir John MOGG, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. (73153), late Inf. is appointed Adjutant-General, Ministry of Defence, 3rd Jun. 1970.

Maj.-Gen. C. W. WOODS, M.B.E., M.C. (71873), late R.E. relinquishes his appointment as Director of Manning (Army), Ministry of Defence, 5th Jun. 1970.

Maj.-Gen. J. M. SPENCER-SMITH, O.B.E., M.C. (138650), late Ft. Gds. is appointed Director of Manning (Army), Ministry of Defence, 5th Jun. 1970.

Brig. F. S. EILOART, O.B.E. (72433) late R.A. retires on retired pay, 5th Jun. 1970.

Brig. R. S. STREATFIELD, M.C. (76866), late R.A. retires on retired pay, 5th Jun. 1970.

Brig. J. E. HEELIS, O.B.E. (112981) late Inf.: the personal No. is as now shown and not as in Gazette (Supplement) dated 19th May 1970.

Col. G. H. HODGSON, C.B.E. (66101) late Inf.: the personal No. is as now shown and not as in Manning (Army), Ministry of Defence, 5th Jun.