



SUPPLEMENT TO

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TUESDAY, 26TH SEPTEMBER 1972

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

ARMY DEPARTMENT

HONOURS AND AWARDS

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of The Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct to the undermentioned:

Captain Robert Keith Hacon WILLIAMS (474410),
Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

23531893 Staff Sergeant Clifford Reginald OLIVIER,
22 Special Air Service Regiment.

Lieutenant Richard Cormac CLIFFORD, Royal Marines.
RM 22871 Corporal Thomas JONES.

On the morning of 18th May 1972, a team of Service personnel was sent to deal with a bomb threat in the Queen Elizabeth II which at that time was in mid-Atlantic on her way to Europe. To get the team on board the ship a parachute drop into the sea was necessary.

The two Royal Marines members of the team were responsible for ensuring that the two Army bomb disposal experts together with their equipment arrived on board the ship; thereafter they were to assist them in locating and dealing with any bombs that might have been aboard.

During the flight it was discovered that Captain Williams had little parachuting experience and none of parachuting into the sea.

On arrival over the ship weather conditions were found to be adverse and it was necessary for the aircraft to carry out several trial runs before the jumps could be made.

The team faced three problems: the presence of an inexperienced parachutist, adverse weather conditions requiring a drop from minimum height through cloud, and the carriage of unusually heavy and bulky loads. There is no doubt that under ordinary conditions the mission would have been abandoned but in view of its urgency and importance it was decided to proceed with the operation despite the risks to those involved.

On the fourth run over the ship Staff Sergeant Oliver and Corporal Jones dropped with the heavy equipment and on the seventh run the two officers dropped. Lieutenant Clifford supervised Captain Williams' parachute drill and when they arrived in the sea he supported him until they were picked up.

Once on board, the team immediately started their search of the ship and the suspect cargo. The courage and determination of all four members of the team in the face of unusual and hazardous conditions resulted in the successful execution of this operation.

26th September 1972.

COMMANDS AND STAFF

REGULAR ARMY

Maj.-Gen. M. W. HOLME, C.B.E., M.C. (117134) late Inf. retires on retired pay, 25th Sep. 1972.

Brig. (Acting Maj.-Gen.) R. E. WORSLEY, O.B.E. (240132) late R.A.C. to be Maj.-Gen., 23rd Sep. 1972, with seniority 27th Jul. 1971.

Brig. (Acting Maj.-Gen.) J. M. W. BADCOCK, M.B.E. (233401) late R. Signals, to be Maj.-Gen., 25th Sep. 1972, with seniority 1st Dec. 1971.

Brig. D. J. St M. TABOR, M.C. (237402) late H.Cav. is appointed Defence Attache, Paris and is granted the acting rank of Maj.-Gen., 23rd Sep. 1972.

Brig. D. E. BALLANTINE, O.B.E., M.C. (85673) late Inf. retires on retired pay, 24th Sep. 1972.

Col. H. W. B. HANCOCK, M.C. (75256) late Int. Corps retires on retired pay, 21st Sep. 1972.

Col. L. G. S. THOMAS, O.B.E. (258927) late R.E. retires on retired pay, 22nd Sep. 1972.

ROYAL ARMOURED CORPS

REGULAR ARMY

2nd Lt. Anthony Howard ELLIOT-SQUARE (489898) R.T.R. from Short Serv. Commn. to be 2nd Lt., 18th Jul. 1972, with seniority 24th Oct. 1972.

ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY

REGULAR ARMY

Lt.-Col. I. L. SIMPSON (380135) is appointed to the Special List, 24th Sep. 1972.

Lt. K. G. DINGLE (482717) from Res. of Offrs., to be Lt., 23rd Aug. 1972, with seniority 27th Mar. 1970.

Lt. James Nicholas Charles d'APICE (487828) from Short Serv. Commn. to be 2nd Lt., 18th Jul. 1972, with seniority 22nd Apr. 1970. To be Lt., 18th Jul. 1972, with seniority 21st Feb. 1972.