



SUPPLEMENT TO  
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TUESDAY, 10TH APRIL 1973

**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

**NAVY DEPARTMENT**

**HONOURS AND AWARDS**

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS  
OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.  
10th April 1973.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the George Medal to the undermentioned:

Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Peter Noel DILLY,  
Royal Naval Reserve.

Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Dilly was a guest member of the British Army Axel Heiberg Expedition an Army adventure training exercise named Exercise Icy Mountain Three. Axel Heiberg is an island in the Canadian Arctic and on 9th August 1972 while leading a party of four back to base camp over a badly crevassed area two of the party, Sergeant Scaife and Sapper Lewis, fell into a deep crevasse. Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Dilly secured a rope at the edge of the crevasse and abseiled down. Having abseiled the full length of the rope he found Sapper Lewis and after administering first aid saw Sergeant Scaife a further forty feet down. Realising the risk he ran Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Dilly took off the rope and climbed down to Sergeant Scaife who died shortly after his arrival. He returned to Sapper Lewis who was in a semi conscious state, carried him to the bottom of the rope and tied him to it. Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Dilly then climbed the hundred and ten feet back to the surface and with the help of Lance Corporal Lane hauled Sapper Lewis to the top.

In view of their own exhausted condition it was clearly unwise for Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Dilly and Lance Corporal Lane to attempt to evacuate Sapper Lewis to base camp. Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Dilly therefore treated Sapper Lewis's injuries and ensured his survival by placing him in a sleeping bag in a tent and then set out with Lance Corporal Lane to alert a rescue party.

In descending the crevasse Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Dilly knew that only one man remained on the surface to do anything should a further accident occur and that once he had removed the rope he was beyond even the help of that one man. The crevasse depth was unknown

since it went well beyond the hundred and sixty feet down where Sergeant Scaife was found. In addition blocks of snow and ice were periodically falling from the sides of the crevasse and Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Dilly was hit by some of these as he climbed to the surface. Throughout the rescue heavy freezing rain fell and Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Dilly spent some two hours in the crevasse soaking wet and with the temperature at or below freezing point. If therefore it had become necessary to leave him in the crevasse he might well not have survived the eighteen hours until the rescue party arrived. Throughout the operation Surgeon Lieutenant Commander Dilly displayed a high degree of skill and courage.

**ARMY DEPARTMENT**

10th April 1973.

**COMMANDS AND STAFF**

**REGULAR ARMY**

Maj.-Gen. J. P. BAIRD, O.H.P., M.D., F.R.C.P. F.R.C.P.(E.D.) (115469) late R.A.M.C. is appointed Director General of Army Medical Services and is granted the acting rank of Lt.-Gen., 5th Apr. 1973.

Maj.-Gen. R. C. FORD, C.B.E. (284433) late R.A.C. relinquishes the appointment of Commander, Land Forces Northern Ireland, 9th Apr. 1973.

Maj.-Gen. E. J. YOUNSON, O.B.E. (158444) late R.A. retires on retired pay, 5th Apr. 1973.

Brig. (Acting Maj.-Gen.) P. J. M. PELLEREAU (222708) late R.E. to be Maj.-Gen., 5th Apr. 1973, with seniority 16th Sep. 1972.

Brig. P. J. H. LENG, M.B.E., M.C. (307865) late Inf. is appointed Commander, Land Forces Northern Ireland and is granted the acting rank of Maj.-Gen., 9th Apr. 1973.

Brig. W. R. ECCLES (308714) late R.A.O.C. retires on retired pay, 5th Apr. 1973.

Brig. B. E. WATSON (90946) late R.A. retires on retired pay, 5th Apr. 1973.

Col. A. P. DIGNAN, M.B.E., M.B., F.R.C.S.I. (410605) late R.A.M.C. is appointed Director of Army Surgery and Consultant Surgeon to the Army and to be Brig., 6th Apr. 1973.