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TUESDAY, 2ND JULY 1985

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

## HONOURS AND AWARDS

### AIR FORCE DEPARTMENT

Whitehall, London SW1A 2HB

2nd July 1985

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following award

#### *Queen's Gallantry Medal*

P8207571 Senior Aircraftman (Acting Corporal) Kevin Scott CLARK, Royal Air Force

In the early evening of 9th April 1984, Acting Corporal Clark began a routine fully-armed 12 hours night shift at R A F Stanley. Before dawn on 10 April he was ordered to go to the King Edward Memorial Hospital in Port Stanley where a major fire had been discovered.

With three colleagues, Corporal Clark reached the scene at 0510. The main wing of the hospital was then well alight. Corporal Clark ran to the West Wing which was engulfed in dense smoke and, climbing onto a vehicle roof, entered the building by breaking a first floor window. With the help of an unidentified person, Corporal Clark located two elderly patients in the dark and smoke filled room and carried them to safety. Returning, he tried to enter the corridor but, lacking any form of breathing apparatus, he was driven back by dense smoke. Using a ladder he then re-entered the building from another side and found a patient in a wheel-chair in

a smoke-filled room. With the assistance of a colleague outside the building on the ladder, Corporal Clark broke the window frame with a sledge hammer intending to evacuate the casualty through the window. However, two firemen wearing breathing apparatus entered from the corridor and carried the patient to safety. Corporal Clark then entered the corridor which was filled with thick smoke and found two elderly patients in a side ward. He broke the window for air, checked the patients' pulses and breathing and, finding signs of life in one, obtained assistance in carrying her to safety before returning for the second patient. Sadly, despite the efforts of Corporal Clark and others neither patient could be revived.

With the help of another unidentified person, Corporal Clark then fought the fire from the roof of an adjacent temporary building. When that building caught fire under his feet, Corporal Clark jumped to safety and with a colleague evacuated two nearby houses before assisting in the distressing task of removing bodies from the remains of the hospital.

For about three hours, Corporal Clark was at the forefront of the rescue effort and personally saved three lives. His heroism was not of the impulsive kind. Coolly, with no breathing apparatus, protective clothing or other equipment and without regard for his own safety, he penetrated a dark, smoke-filled and burning building four times. The conditions inside were so bad that they killed two of the patients he rescued, yet he was not daunted.

Corporal Clark is a young man with less than two years' service, yet he behaved in the very highest traditions of Her Majesty's Forces.

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