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*The War Office, 24th February, 1956.*

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Malaya:—

*Bar to the Military Cross.*

Major James Michael SYMES, M.C. (94905), Royal Hampshire Regiment.

On 10th December, 1955, in the late afternoon, information was received that a number of Communist terrorists were believed to be encamped in the jungle. Major SYMES was put in command of a composite force of one of his own platoons and two from another company and left camp at 2330 hrs. that night with a guide. Having crossed a deep and flooded river in pitch darkness on foot the Company moved some 4 miles through rubber to the jungle edge.

The whole of the 11th was spent fruitlessly in trying to locate a jungle track which the guide was supposed to know. This entailed continuous movement from dawn to dusk through thick jungle over precipitous and very high hills. Despite determined efforts the track was never found and the force spent a frustrated and most uncomfortable night in pouring rain.

Early on the 12th Major SYMES and the guide carried out yet another personal reconnaissance and found the camp. Major SYMES and the guide working to a preconceived plan succeeded in placing with infinite care a cordon of two and a half platoons round three sides of the camp taking four hours over the positioning. The remaining half platoon led personally by Major SYMES then assaulted under sten gun fire through the gap. Despite the fact that at least two communist sentries were in position the operation achieved complete surprise and after half-an-hour's fighting eleven communist terrorists including an important official were killed and one was wounded and captured.

The whole operation reflects the greatest credit on Major SYMES and the men under his command. Its success was due entirely to his meticulous planning, determined leadership and wholly admirable execution.

*Military Medal.*

22820763 Corporal John Henry WHEELER, Royal Hampshire Regiment.

On 12th December, 1955, a composite Company located a communist terrorist camp on a steep hillside in very thick jungle. After 4 hours of

movement carried out in complete silence a cordon was placed in position round the camp using two and a half platoons. The camp was then assaulted by the remaining half platoon.

Corporal WHEELER owing to a shortage of N.C.O.s in his platoon was commanding two sections. He and his two sections crawled into position within sight of the camp down a very steep spur and he personally placed each man in position moving silently and with infinite care. He and his men then remained in position without movement for rather over two hours until the camp was assaulted from the opposite side. As soon as the assault party opened fire the terrorists in the camp fled firing as they ran. Six of them endeavoured to escape through Corporal WHEELER's party and all were shot dead, Corporal WHEELER himself killing at least one. As a result of this most successful engagement twelve terrorists were killed or captured out of a total of thirteen or fourteen in the camp.

Corporal WHEELER's leadership, steadiness under fire and devotion to duty was not only an inspiration to his men but played an indispensable part in the success of this most successful operation.

*Military Medal.*

23034259 Corporal (acting) Harry Thomas SMITH, Royal Hampshire Regiment.

On 12th December, 1955, a composite Company which included No. 10 Platoon located a communist terrorist camp on a steep hillside in very thick jungle. After 4 hours of movement carried out in complete silence a cordon was placed in position round the camp using two and a half platoons. The camp was then assaulted up hill by the remaining half platoon.

Corporal SMITH commanded a section of the assault party and was one of the first to enter the camp. He was fired on by a communist with a shotgun and by another with a sten and was very slightly wounded under the arm. He continued to lead his section with complete disregard for his wound or for his personal safety and himself captured a wounded terrorist hiding in a very thick area near the camp which had already been searched by the other two platoons. As a result of this most successful engagement twelve terrorists were killed or captured out of a total of thirteen or fourteen in the camp.

Corporal SMITH's example of dash, personal bravery and devotion to duty was an inspiration to his section.