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CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
 OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

11th May, 1956.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the British Empire Medal (Military Division) to the undermentioned in recognition of Brave Conduct during a Tank accident in Libya:—

22486387 Corporal (acting) Vivian Charles Edward HAMMOND, 5 Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.

On September 6th, 1955, Corporal HAMMOND was commanding a tank which was taking part in a night exercise. During the exercise, the tank commanded by his troop leader fell down a disused well and landed on its turret seriously injuring his troop leader, killing the wireless operator and trapping the driver and gunner inside. As soon as the necessary equipment had arrived HAMMOND was lowered, at his own request, to the bottom of the well a distance of some 90 ft. He then took the necessary steps to ensure the comfort of his troop leader and to maintain the morale of those trapped inside. He was responsible for placing his troop leader, who had fractured his spine, on a stretcher and securing him to it, so that he could be winched to the top of the well. He then remained at the bottom of the well until the two men in the turret were rescued, a total in all of approximately six hours. After he had returned to the surface, volunteers were asked for to recover the body of the operator which had been trapped between the turret and the ground. HAMMOND volunteered and was again lowered down the well to do a most distasteful and trying job.

During the time he was down the well, there was a grave risk of fire caused by leaking petrol and the fact that the batteries had broken loose. Corporal HAMMOND knew this. His courage in the face of great personal danger was magnificent and his behaviour and example throughout this most trying time was beyond reproach.

23233624 Trooper Graham LUCAS, 5 Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.

On September 6th, 1955, Trooper LUCAS was driving his troop leader's tank on a night exercise. During the exercise his tank fell down a disused well some 90 ft. deep and landed on its turret seriously injuring his troop leader, killing the wireless operator and trapping the gunner and himself inside. As the tank was falling LUCAS had the presence of mind to put the vehicle in neutral and switch off the ignition. Although he also managed to lower his seat he was knocked unconscious when the tank hit the bottom. On regaining consciousness he climbed through to

the turret and gave assistance to the gunner who was injured and was the only other living member of the crew left inside. He used some of his own clothing to ensure that the gunner was warm and comfortable.

After about six hours most of which was in pitch blackness the recovery crew managed to lift the tank very slightly. Unfortunately they could not lift it high enough to enable the trapped men to escape. LUCAS thereupon set to, to dig away the earth with his hands in order to produce a hole large enough to enable them to get out. When this was completed he assisted the gunner, who was suffering from severe shock, to the hole and then with help from outside managed to get him through the gap. Only after the gunner had been rescued did LUCAS himself get out of the tank.

During the six hours that he was inside the tank, Trooper LUCAS knew full well that there was a great risk of fire, and that if fire broke out he would have no hope of escaping.

Nevertheless his first thought was for his injured comrade and his whole bearing and personal courage throughout this dangerous, trying and frightening experience was of the very highest order.

The War Office, 11th May, 1956.

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

Military Medal.

22959772 Corporal John James CLARKE, The Royal Hampshire Regiment.

At 1215 hours on 14th March, Corporal CLARKE was in command of a patrol of five soldiers, one Sarawak Ranger and a police detective.

Corporal CLARKE found a three-day old track which he followed for some two hundred yards. He then heard voices. Taking one soldier and the Sarawak Ranger he crept forward until he could see, some thirty yards away on the far side of a belt of swamp, a cleared area in which figures were moving about.

He left two soldiers with the Police Detective, briefed his assault group of three soldiers and the Sarawak Ranger and then charged straight at the camp, through the swamp, leading the charge himself. Any attempt at cordoning was precluded due to the smallness of his party and because it would have been impossible to move through the swamp without noise.

The terrorists immediately opened fire with rifles on Corporal CLARKE and his party but the assault continued into and through the camp. Two terrorists were killed, and a third was wounded: a blood trail