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TUESDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER, 1956

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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

18th September, 1956.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the British Empire Medal (Military Division) to:—

G.C. 81120 Driver Kweku MENSAH, West African Army Service Corps.

On the 16th May, 1956, at Takoradi, Driver MENSAH was on duty with an ambulance at the Command Ammunition Depot, where ammunition was being loaded on to lorries for dumping in the sea. An explosion occurred at a distance of about 200 yards. He immediately started his vehicle and drove towards the scene. As he approached, the petrol tank of a lorry, loaded with ammunition, burst and sprayed burning petrol over the area including the roof of an ammunition shed. Realising the danger Driver MENSAH moved his ambulance behind the cover of a nearby traverse.

He then ran to a three ton lorry that was close by, helped to hitch on a trailer fire pump and drove it to a static water tank. He parked the lorry under cover and helped the crew to prepare the pump for action. At that moment there was a further explosion of ammunition which showered the countryside with debris. The remainder of the men ran away but Driver MENSAH stayed helping his Commanding Officer to get the pump into action. The trailer pump was found to have been damaged by the explosion whereupon Driver MENSAH seized a chemical fire extinguisher and attacked the fires in his vicinity. During this time explosions were continuing near him and there was an obvious danger that the remaining ammunition in the wreckage of the shed would explode.

Driver MENSAH showed a complete disregard for his own safety. He continued to fight the fires until the civil fire engine arrived when he drove some wounded men to hospital. The example set by this man was an inspiration to the remainder of the Depot Staff and a material contribution to the limitation of the damage done by the fire.

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The War Office, 18th September, 1956.

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

Military Medal.

6480617 Sergeant (acting) (Frederick Cecil ISAAC, The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) Attached The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey).

On the 6th July, 1956, in Johore, Sergeant ISAAC was leading a small patrol of six men through thick undergrowth when contact was made at a distance of from 20-30 yards with a party of Communist Terrorists. The terrorists made off, firing as they went, but Sergeant ISAAC led his patrol forward until the range was again about 20 yards when he ordered his men to open fire. There followed a close range struggle of fire and movement in which four terrorists were accounted for.

During the action one soldier of the patrol was shot in the back and killed. From this Sergeant ISAAC appreciated that there was still another terrorist concealed in the undergrowth. He immediately organised a search, which was successful, for a fifth terrorist was found who opened fire when he realised he could not escape. Once again Sergeant ISAAC pressed the fight to its successful conclusion with the result that the entire party of dangerous terrorists was eliminated.

The success of this action was the direct result of the personal bravery and leadership of Sergeant ISAAC. This N.C.O. in the two and half years he has been a platoon sergeant on operations in Malaya, has spent many hundreds of hours patrolling in jungle and swamp. He has throughout set an example in the highest tradition of his Regiment.

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The War Office, 18th September, 1956.

ROYAL ARMOURD CORPS.

9 L.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

Lt. W. B. NORMAN (362168) resigns his commn., 19th Sept. 1956 and is granted the hon. rank of Lt.

12 L.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS.

Lt. (Hon. Capt.) Sir H. J. Lindores LESLIE, Bt. (96038), from Supp. Res. of Offrs. to be Capt., 9th Aug. 1949. (Substituted for the notifi. in Gazette (Supplement) dated 9th Aug. 1949.)