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TUESDAY, 16TH JANUARY 1962

HONOURS AND AWARDS

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

16th January 1962.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's Australian Ministers, to approve the award of the British Empire Medal (Military Division) for Gallantry in recognition of gallant conduct to the undermentioned:

513456 Sergeant William Donald STEWART, Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, Royal Australian Infantry.

859852 Private John Wyndham PAGE, Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles, Royal Australian Infantry.

Near Port Moresby on the morning of 26th February, 1961, a party of the Papua New Guinea Volunteer Rifles approached the Laloki River which was in heavy spate.

Sergeant Stewart and Private Page heard a feeble cry for assistance from an exhausted civilian clinging to a tree in mid stream. Private Page requested permission to attempt a rescue. A rope was tied to him and he entered the water but was quickly swept from his feet and hauled back. He made a second attempt but with similar results. On his third attempt he reached the tree to which the man clung but as he grabbed a branch it broke. His rope became fouled by an under-water obstacle. He was dragged under water.

Sergeant Stewart then entered the water and tried to work his way along the rope but was swept off by the current. With great difficulty he reached Private Page, who by this time was unconscious.

Although exhausted, Sergeant Stewart hung on to the tree with Private Page until more men and equipment arrived to complete the rescue of all three.

Private Page showed great courage and persistence in the face of extreme danger.

Sergeant Stewart, despite what was happening to Private Page, did not hesitate to go to Page's rescue. He displayed courage and resourcefulness of the highest degree and saved the life of Private Page.

WAR OFFICE

16th January 1962.

ROYAL ARMOURED CORPS
4/7 D.G.

REGULAR ARMY

2nd Lt. P. W. FAITH (459854) to be Lt., 16th Jan. 1962.

R. Tks.

REGULAR ARMY

Capt. H. D. F. REYNOLDS (385705) to be Maj., 3rd Jan. 1962.

Lt. M. F. TIMMIS (445988) to be Capt., 16th Dec. 1961, with precedence next below N. H. COCKING (445819).

TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Maj. E. L. S. GJEMRE, M.C., T.D. (78277), having exceeded the age limit ceases to belong to the T.A. Res. of Offrs., 17th Jan. 1962, and is granted the hon. rank of Maj.

Capt. (Hon. Maj.) R. D. NICOL, T.D. (86582), having exceeded the age limit ceases to belong to the T.A. Res. of Offrs., 17th Jan. 1962, retaining the hon. rank of Maj.

Lt. (Hon. Capt.) T. M. PALMER, T.D. (93514), having exceeded the age limit ceases to belong to the T.A. Res. of Offrs., 17th Jan. 1962, retaining the hon. rank of Capt.

R.A.C.

REGULAR ARMY

Short Serv. Commn.

2nd Lt. G. H. BURN (465221) to be Lt., 4th Jan. 1962.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Short Serv. Commn.

Lt. J. B. DALY (459603) from Active List, to be Lt., 17th Jan. 1962.

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TERRITORIAL ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Lt. C. GILL (339616) having exceeded the age limit ceases to belong to the T.A. Res. of Offrs., 17th Jan. 1962, and is granted the hon. rank of Lt.