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WAR OFFICE

31st May 1963.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Brunei.

Military Cross

Major Ian Donald CAMERON (368409) Queen's Own Highlanders.

While clearing the western extremities of Seria, on the 11th December, 1962, Major Cameron, leading a mixed force of No. 2 Platoon, 1st Queen's Own Highlanders and Brunei Police, came under accurate and sustained fire from at least fifteen rebels holding a large building. Major Cameron coolly manoeuvred his men and, under their covering fire, accompanied by two men, dashed across open ground to hurl tear smoke grenades through the ground floor windows. As the tear smoke failed to dislodge the determined defenders, Major Cameron returned to his own men, and again running the gauntlet of the rebel fire, personally led an assault which broke into the ground floor. Thereafter, with two Highlanders he cleared the building in spite of being twice shot at, at close range, as his small party fought its way up the stairs.

By his personal gallantry dash and initiative Major Cameron inspired his small force to overcome determined rebel resistance during a critical phase in the operations to clear Seria of rebels.

Military Cross

Captain Francis Anthony LEA (440071) 2nd Gurkha Rifles.

During the early hours of the 9th December, 1962, Captain Lea was in command of two platoons, travelling in lorries. On passing the police station in Tutong he was heavily engaged by rebels holding the building. The rebel fire was returned. Just beyond the police station further heavy fire from two long shop houses was opened on the convoy. Captain Lea's driver was hit and his vehicle, out of control, went into a drain under one of the shop houses. The remainder of the convoy not knowing what had happened went on.

Two of the small party were wounded but Captain Lea, removing all equipment, withdrew them into a small building and kept them concealed. Though enemy patrols searched for three hours they were not located.

At dawn the remainder of the company returned to clear the village. Under Captain Lea's command 7 rebels were killed and 108 prisoners were taken at a cost of eleven casualties.

Throughout the action Captain Lea displayed courage and skill. He set a fine example and by his determined action in the morning quelled the rebellion in Tutong. But for his gallant leadership the situation there would have been very serious.

Military Medal

21134686 Lance Corporal (acting Corporal) THAPA SOMBAHADUR 2nd Gurkha Rifles.

At about 3 a.m. on the 9th December 1962, C Company were ambushed by rebels at Tutong. Sombahadur, in his company commander's land rover, was wounded. The vehicle ran off the road and crashed. Corporal Sombahadur though severely wounded in the buttocks and thighs removed his radio equipment and took up a defensive position with the rest of the party.

Several rebel patrols searched for them but, despite his wounds, Sombahadur made no sound and did not give the position away. Moreover he himself took up a fire position to fight back if necessary.

In the morning when the remainder of the company cleared the village Sombahadur joined in although hardly able to move. He then worked hard to repair his set and contact headquarters, despite the fact that he had lost much blood and was in a weak condition.

Corporal Sombahadur showed great courage and determination under enemy fire in a critical situation. He kept calm and overcame the pains of his wounds to ensure the safety of others. He set a fine example of gallantry and devotion to duty.

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct

23880980 Gunner John David THOMAS 145 (Maiwand) Commando Battery, Royal Artillery.

For his gallantry and determination in Brunei on the 28th December, 1962, in plunging into a flooded river and rescuing a comrade from drowning.

Mentioned-in-Despatches

Col. (T/Brig.) A. G. PATERSON, O.B.E., M.C. (380841), Staff.

Lt.-Col. B. H. J. A. O'REILLY, M.B.E. (112902), Royal Army Service Corps.

Lt.-Col. H. G. W. SHAKESPEAR, M.C. (380241), Gurkha Rifles.

Lt.-Col. W. G. MCHARDY (108205), Queen's Own Highlanders.

Lt.-Col. H. J. SWEENEY, M.C. (204283), 1 Green Jackets.

Maj. J. D. MOSTYN, M.B.E. (397994), 1 Green Jackets.

Maj. J. A. LLOYD-WILLIAMS, M.C. (328002), 2 Gurkha Rifles.

Maj. A. H. WIGRAM (180431), Royal Artillery.