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FRIDAY, 27TH AUGUST 1965

State Intelligence

HONOURS AND AWARDS

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

27th August 1965.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in operations in the Radfan Area, Western Aden Protectorate, during the period 1st to 15th February 1965.

To be Additional Members of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order, for Gallantry.

Major Michael John BAIZLEY, Royal Marines.

The officer was in command of 'Z' Company throughout Operation CUT. His careful and methodical planning for the first part of the operation led to the most effective use being made of the men under his command in the setting up of the patrol base and the laying of the various ambush positions.

During the second phase, his sound tactics and leadership ensured that the Company group was always on balance. When the Company came under fire his leadership and personal example was an inspiration to all. Without regard for his personal safety he deployed his Company into a position from which it could contain the dissident tribesmen until the arrival of the Hunter airstrikes.

He then skilfully withdrew his Company in accordance with orders received. It was due to his coolness and tactical skill that casualties in the Company remained so low and that the operation was concluded so successfully.

Lieutenant Andrew Campbell LETCHFORD, Royal Marines.

This officer was the Forward Air Control Officer for 'Z' Company Group during Operation CUT. When he was warned to expect Hunter support he quickly reconnoitred a position for his air panels, and found that the only place they could be put and seen clearly by the aircraft was on the flat roof of the house. This house was completely dominated by the enemy and was swept by dissident LMG and rifle fire. Despite this, and with complete disregard for his own safety, he moved out onto the roof and carefully placed out his panels. It was a miracle that he was not hit. He then found that the only position from which he could direct the aircraft was behind the roof of a small out building. This building was also in full view of the enemy and swept by fire. Nevertheless, again with complete disregard for his own safety he took position behind the roof, to find that the difficulty in seeing the enemy position necessitated his head and shoulders being above cover.

Despite this, and the fact that his radio aerial, which was only two feet from his head, was shot away twice, he remained in this position and directed, coolly and calmly, the aircraft strike. It is entirely due to his bravery and skill that the strikes were successful and the enemy fire reduced by two-thirds.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Whitehall, London S.W.1.

27th August 1965.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards for distinguished service in operations in the Radfan Area, Western Aden Protectorate during the period 1st to 15th February 1965.

THE MILITARY CROSS

Lieutenant Douglas John BRAND, Royal Marines.

Lieutenant Brand was Officer Commanding 7 Troop, 'Z' Company, during Operation CUT. Despite very heavy and accurate fire from a party of dissidents this officer, with complete disregard for his own safety and in full view of the enemy, coolly and calmly moved up and down the firing line encouraging his men, checking their positions and controlling their fire. He was an inspiration to the whole of his Troop and it was entirely due to his good tactical foresight, determined control and personal example, that the casualties were kept down to one man. His conduct and bravery in the face of a very determined enemy were in the highest traditions of the service and the resulting excellent morale and determination of his Troop to close with the enemy was entirely due to his personal example.

THE MILITARY MEDAL

Quartermaster Sergeant (acting Regimental Sergeant Major) Robert William SMITH, Royal Marines PO/X 6620.

Q.M.S. Smith was the Company Sergeant Major of 'Z' Company Group during Operation CUT. When the dissident firing started, he was moving with Company Headquarters. He quickly moved forward across an exposed slope and joined the R Group. He then, with great determination and total disregard for his own safety, arranged the move forward and siting of the M.M.G. Section. Having completed this task, in full view of the enemy, and under heavy fire, he moved around the two forward Troops, redistributing ammunition, encouraging the men and assisting the Troop Commanders and Troop Sergeants in the control of their Troops. His conduct was an inspiration to all ranks and proved of immense value to his Company Commander. His bravery, inspiring personality and complete disregard for his own safety, were in the highest traditions of the service.