



SUPPLEMENT TO

# The London Gazette

of Friday, 7th January 1966

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TUESDAY, 11TH JANUARY 1966

## CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

11th January 1966.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the George Medal to the under-mentioned:

23237829 Sergeant Patrick HANLON, The Royal Irish Fusiliers.

On the morning of Saturday the 28th of August 1965, Sergeant Hanlon was playing in a soccer game on the Battalion Sports Field which is situated approximately half a mile away from Trenchard Barracks in Celle.

Adjacent to the Sports Field there was a German civilian biscuit factory under construction. At 1140 hours that morning the top storey of this building collapsed whilst civilians were still at work in the building.

The sound of the tremendous crash stopped the football match and both teams ran towards the building to give help.

On arrival at the site it was discovered that the German office workers and men on the ground were so shocked that no rescue action was being taken. Two parties, each under an officer, started to clear debris and free men at ground level. Meanwhile Sergeant Hanlon realising that there were several men trapped at the top of the building amongst the demolished masonry, sought out the crane driver and encouraged him to operate his crane.

Sergeant Hanlon emptied the crane bucket of its load of cement, climbed into the bucket and directed it to the top of the demolished part of the building. This involved a lift of about 100 ft. off the ground. He then got out of the bucket and set about searching for and releasing the injured civilians who were trapped in the debris. While he was doing this there was the continuous threat of a further collapse of the building. During the course of approximately ten trips he returned with seven injured or shocked civilians whom he had rescued, and one dead. On each occasion he placed the injured man in the bucket itself while he returned holding on to the outside. On some occasions he was assisted by an Italian Works Foreman who helped him to release those that were trapped.

Independent of any other rescue work, the part played by Sergeant Hanlon was directly instrumental in preventing further loss of life, either through delay in assistance to the injured or as a consequence of panic amongst those who were stranded or trapped.

He was indifferent to the height he had to travel up and down in the crane and ignored personal risk from a further collapse of the building.

By his presence of mind, prompt action and disregard for his own safety, Sergeant Hanlon not only saved life, but by his very act of rescue eased the tension and reduced the atmosphere of shock. He set an example which encouraged further rescue operations to proceed without delay.

On the arrival of the German Fire Brigade and Civil Defence units the soldiers on the ground were asked to move clear of the area, but no attempt was made to relieve Sergeant Hanlon of his work.

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

11th January 1966.

### COMMANDS AND STAFF

Lt.-Gen. Sir Charles HARRINGTON, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., late Inf., relinquishes his appointment as Commander-in-Chief, Middle East Command, 25th Nov. 1965.

### ROYAL ARMOURED CORPS

10 H.

#### REGULAR ARMY

Maj. N. B. R. BUDD (418206) retires receiving a gratuity, 18th Dec. 1965.

Lt. D. C. EDWARDS, M.A. (466445), to be Capt., 9th Jan. 1966.

15/19 H.

#### REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Lt.-Col. J. D. BUTLER (378163) (Emp. List 1) having attained the age limit ceases to belong to the Res. of Offrs., 9th Jan. 1966.

R.T.R.

#### REGULAR ARMY

Lt. D. H. WHEELER (458921) to be Capt., 9th Jan. 1966.

#### REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Capt. (Hon. Maj.) W. K. C. PULTENEY (67086) having attained the age limit ceases to belong to the Res. of Offrs., 13th Jan. 1966.

### ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY

#### REGULAR ARMY

2nd Lt. C. J. MUTTON (472257) to be Lt., 3rd Nov. 1965.

#### Short Serv. Commn.

Capt. L. G. THOMAS (331463) relinquishes his commn. on completion of service, 12th Jan. 1966, and is granted the hon. rank of Capt.