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**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
4th October 1966.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's New Zealand Ministers, to give orders for the following appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

To be an Additional Member of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order :

(To be dated 29th September 1966)

Captain Graham Douglas BIRCH (30663) Royal New Zealand Artillery (Regular Force).

Prior to his arrival in the Republic of Vietnam in July 1965 Captain Birch held the appointment of Adjutant 16th Field Regiment, Royal New Zealand Artillery. In this and his subsequent employment as Unit Emplaning Officer and Observation Post Officer he was responsible for the detailed planning for the formation and movement of 161 Battery Royal New Zealand Artillery to Vietnam. His aptitude for organisation produced a unique airmobile battery which has proved highly efficient and flexible in all circumstances. His attention to detail and enthusiasm as Unit Emplaning Officer ensured the very successful air movement of the Battery from New Zealand, the first time an operational unit of the New Zealand Army had been so deployed.

He carried out his duties as Observation Post Officer from 1st July 1965 to January 1966 with a high degree of professional skill, enthusiasm and complete disregard for his own personal safety or comfort, but always with concern for his fellow soldiers and those he was supporting.

In January 1966 he assumed the appointment of Battery Captain at very short notice and again displayed his versatility in this exacting post, which entailed extensive duties involving detailed planning and organisation within the framework of 173rd Airborne Brigade, United States Army, both at the unit base and whilst the Battery was deployed in the field. In this, his ardent zeal contributed very materially to the efficiency of the Battery.

His devotion to duty, loyalty and leadership were an inspiration to all who worked with him. His good humour and cheerfulness, particularly in times of stress, contributed greatly to the high morale of the Battery and won for him the high regard and respect of all ranks.

The example set by Captain Birch is in keeping with the highest traditions of the Royal Regiment

of New Zealand Artillery and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit and the New Zealand Army.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Military Medal

22127258 Sergeant Raymond George BINKS, 4th/7th Royal Dragoon Guards, Royal Armoured Corps.

Sergeant Binks commanded an armoured car troop in the Radfan Area throughout the months of February and March 1966. During February his troop was involved in three separate actions in the Habilayn area and throughout each his coolness under fire, his efficiency and enthusiasm, combined with his unfailing good humour, were an inspiration not only to his troop and squadron, but also to the other units with which he worked.

At the beginning of March his troop was sent on detachment to the camp at Al Milah. On the night of Thursday 10th March 1966, this camp came under heavy fire from rockets and small arms. Without hesitation and despite the fact that he was in his tent some hundred yards from his armoured car, Sergeant Binks ran through the area which was being swept by accurate enemy fire and climbed into his car which was itself in an exposed position. At this time the remainder of his troop were pinned to the ground by the concentrated enemy fire. Having got into his vehicle, he loaded and fired the main armament himself and quickly brought accurate fire to bear on an enemy rocket launcher position which was about 300 yards away from him. He quickly silenced it and then engaged a second enemy position further to the East from which he was now being engaged with small arms. This he also silenced. During the lull which followed, the remainder of the crew of his armoured car were able to reach him. There is no doubt that Sergeant Binks' prompt and gallant action played a large part in driving the enemy off and throughout the action he showed great presence of mind and courage whilst under fire.

On 26th March 1966, Sergeant Binks was leading a convoy from Habilayn to Monks Field when his armoured car was blown up on a mine. Despite the very severe shock of the explosion, he immediately and accurately reported the situation over the radio and once again displayed complete calmness in taking charge of the situation and arranging for the convoy to complete its journey.

His conduct throughout the operations in the Radfan was an inspiration to all who had contact with him and was in the highest traditions of the service.