



SUPPLEMENT TO

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

8th August 1967.

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

Leading Seaman Doyle Clement WHITE, 44253—H
Royal Canadian Navy.

At approximately 2030 hours on 18th October 1965, while at sea, two explosions occurred in 12 Mess on H.M.C.S. Nipigon. The force of these explosions blew the locked cover off a tank containing JP 5 helicopter fuel causing a flash fire in the Mess. The compartment directly above the Mess contained ammunition. At the time of the explosions there were eleven men in 12 Mess, one of which was Leading Seaman White. Although burned about the face and hands when escaping from the Mess, Leading Seaman White rushed to the Quartermaster's lobby to inform the lifebuoy sentry of the explosions in order that Command could be informed. He then returned to the area of the Mess to assist where needed but when advised that one man who appeared to be unconscious had not escaped from the Mess, immediately donned a set of breathing equipment and re-entered the Mess. The Mess at this time was filled with fumes from the JP 5 fuel and heavy black smoke. Freeing the unconscious man Leading Seaman White, with the assistance of Able Seaman Gray who had just entered, carried the man to the foot of the hatch and then searched all bunks to ensure no one else was trapped. Then with the assistance of the Able Seaman and other crew members, brought the man up to the mortar well on the deck above. Leading Seaman White then assisted the damage control parties in flooding the JP 5 fuel tank with sea water and the removal of smouldering material. Although burned by the initial flash fire, Leading Seaman White alerted Command, re-entered the fume and smoke filled Mess to rescue a comrade, and did excellent work in a dangerous area which contained an open JP 5 fuel tank adjacent to stored ammunition before obtaining medical attention for himself. This fine display of courage in the face of serious injury or possible death, is a credit not only to Leading Seaman White, but also his ship and the Canadian Forces.

Able Seaman Wendell Tolson GRAY, 49957—H
Royal Canadian Navy.

At approximately 2030 hours on 18th October 1965, while at sea, two explosions occurred in 12 Mess on H.M.C.S. Nipigon. The force of the explosions blew the locked cover off a tank containing JP 5 helicopter fuel causing a flash fire in the Mess. Directly above the Mess was a compartment containing ammunition. At the time of the explosions, Able Seaman Gray was in the main cafeteria. Immediately making his way to the upper deck he was instructed by the Damage Control Officer to break out all available breathing equipment. When informed that Leading Seaman White had entered the Mess to free an unconscious man, he quickly made adjustments to a set of breathing equipment, donned same, and following the Leading Seaman into the Mess, assisted in the evacuation of the man to the mortar well on the deck above. The Mess at this time was filled with fumes from the JP 5 fuel and heavy smoke. Returning to the area, Able Seaman Gray entered the Mess on three successive occasions with fire fighting and other equipment and assisted the damage control parties in clearing the Mess of the smouldering material. Although the youngest man in the group, Able Seaman Gray assisted in the rescue of a comrade, entered the Mess on several occasions where there was an open JP 5 fuel tank, and assisted the damage control parties with the fire-fighting and removal of smouldering materials. His actions throughout this incident, in the face of serious injury or possible death, have brought credit not only to himself, but also to his ship and the Canadian Forces.

ARMY DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

8th August 1967.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's Australian Ministers, to approve the award of the George Medal to the undermentioned:

(To be dated 27th July 1967)

214408 Corporal George William CONSTABLE, Royal
Australian Infantry Corps.

On 29th March 1967, Corporal Constable was the Non-Commissioned Officer on duty in the throwing