



SUPPLEMENT TO

# The London Gazette

of Friday, 18th August 1967

Published by Authority

Registered as a Newspaper

TUESDAY, 22ND AUGUST 1967

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

## ARMY DEPARTMENT

### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

22nd August 1967.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in recognition of gallant conduct in Aden:

*To be an additional Member of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order, for Gallantry:*

Lieutenant Brian Anselm Robert HARRINGTON-SPIER (470081), 3rd (16th/44th Foot) Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

Lieutenant Harrington-Spier commands 15 platoon, D Company, 3rd (16th/44th Foot) Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

As the result of freak floods, five days general strike and intensified terrorist activity, the streets in the native town of Sheikh Othman were littered with rubbish and debris. The terrorists were using the rubbish as cover for mines and on 4th April 1967, a Saladin armoured car was blown up on an anti-tank mine hidden in the rubbish. One of the tasks of 3rd Royal Anglian was to ensure free access through the streets of Sheikh Othman for wheeled armoured and soft skinned vehicles.

On the morning of 6th April 1967, Lieutenant Harrington-Spier and his platoon were ordered to clear the roads of mines in a part of Sheikh Othman. This was a tricky operation as it was known that enemy snipers and grenadiers were active in the area. The task was carried out by half platoons moving up parallel streets, Lieutenant Harrington-Spier directly commanding one half and his platoon sergeant the other.

After a period of sporadic firing three grenades were thrown at Lieutenant Harrington-Spier's half of the platoon. The grenadiers were supported by automatic fire from seven terrorist roof top positions. In the initial encounter one soldier was slightly wounded and one terrorist grenadier was shot but managed to make good his escape into a mosque. Lieutenant Harrington-Spier, finding his small force pinned down by heavy enemy fire, ordered his platoon sergeant to outflank the enemy positions with the other half of his platoon, but they too were soon pinned down by automatic fire. At this stage

a half troop of armoured cars was ordered forward to help extricate the platoon.

Lieutenant Harrington-Spier first organised the withdrawal of his platoon sergeant's force. He indicated enemy positions to the armoured cars and engaged them himself from several positions to cover the withdrawal of his men. He then led the armoured cars to his own party and supervised their withdrawal, he himself remaining behind to the last to cover his men out of the ambush area. During these tricky operations he was under automatic fire and was also the target of a further grenade attack.

Throughout this action Lieutenant Harrington-Spier moved about his platoon with complete disregard for his own safety and his inspired leadership, personal courage and tactical good sense extricated his platoon from a carefully laid terrorist ambush with only one slight casualty. Such was the morale of his platoon and his own exuberant determination that his platoon was quickly re-committed to the area.

### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

22nd August 1967.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the British Empire Medal for Gallantry (Military Division) to the undermentioned in recognition of gallant conduct in Aden:

23945669 Corporal John Michael VALENTINE, 3rd (16th/44th Foot) Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

Corporal Valentine was point section commander of 15 Platoon, D Company, 3rd (16th/44th Foot) Battalion, The Royal Anglian Regiment, when his platoon entered Sheikh Othman on a street clearing operation on the morning of 6th April 1967.

After patrolling for twenty-minutes, his section was suddenly subjected to a simultaneous grenade and automatic fire attack. As the grenade exploded, causing one minor casualty, Corporal Valentine saw the grenadier and, with another soldier, opened fire at the fleeing target. The grenadier was wounded but managed to reach the safety of a nearby mosque. The terrorist fire positions on the rooftops were neutralised and Corporal Valentine continued his advance. However, within a few minutes his section again came under heavy automatic fire and rifle