



SUPPLEMENT TO

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TUESDAY, 28TH MAY 1968

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

ARMY DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

28th May 1968.

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

23222364 Sergeant James Hall MATCHETT, The Welch Regiment.

On Monday, 4th December 1967, Sergeant Matchett was in command of a patrol of the Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Battalion, The Welch Regiment, visiting Pak Fu Shan Police Post on the Hong Kong/China border.

A party of Chinese policemen inadvertently entered the minefield which surrounded the post, and one policeman was severely injured when a mine exploded. A European Inspector was also severely injured while attempting, with the aid of Sergeant Matchett and other soldiers, to rescue the first man. Sergeant Matchett, although himself shaken and slightly injured by the second explosion, immediately took charge of the rescue operation.

After telling those in the minefield to remain absolutely still, he carefully worked his way to them, avoiding several mines on the way. He raised the least injured man to his feet and, after making sure he could walk, led him step by step out of the minefield. He then returned through the minefield to the other injured a second and third time, making a further careful check of the area each time. He administered first aid to the two badly wounded policemen, each of whom had lost the lower part of his leg, and in turn carried them out of the minefield.

Throughout the incident Sergeant Matchett acted with complete disregard for his own safety, well knowing that one false step would result in very serious injury to himself and further injury to those already injured. His calm, unselfish and courageous conduct was in the highest traditions of the Service.

28th May 1968.

Maj.-Gen. Robert Arthur SMART, C.B.E., M.B., M.R.C.P., D.P.H., late R.A.M.C., is appointed Honorary Surgeon to The QUEEN, 26th May 1968, in succession to Col. Richard Ernest WATERSTON, M.B., F.R.C.S., retired.

Col. George Alfred STEELE, T.D., M.B., D.P.H., R.A.M.C., T. & A.V.R., is appointed Honorary Physician to The QUEEN, Territorial and Army Volunteer Reserve, 1st Apr. 1968, in succession to Col. Harold Sydney DAVIS, M.B., M.R.C.P., tenure expired.

COMMANDS AND STAFF

REGULAR ARMY

Maj.-Gen. Sir John NELSON, K.C.V.O., C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C. (53116), late Ft. Gds. retires on retired pay, 27th May 1968.

Brig. (Acting Maj.-Gen.) J. H. S. READ, O.B.E. (73055), late R.E. to be Maj.-Gen., 27th May 1968, with seniority 2nd Apr. 1968.

Col. R. E. WATERSTON, M.B., F.R.C.S. (68582), late R.A.M.C., retires on retired pay, 26th May 1968, and is granted the hon. rank of Brig.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

The undermentioned Offrs. having attained the age limit for liability to recall cease to belong to the Res. of Offrs. on the dates shown:

Maj.-Gen. S. MOORE-COULSON, C.B., E.R.D. (47984), late R.A.E.C., 26th May 1968.

Brig. R. B. MUIR, C.B.E. (52021), late R.E., 25th May 1968.

Col. A. H. DANGERFIELD, O.B.E. (52444), late Inf., 27th May 1968.

Class IV

Col. A. F. DABORN, O.B.E., T.D. (320279), late Inf., from T. & A.V.R., Category III to be Col., 1st Apr. 1968.

HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY

L.G.

REGULAR ARMY

Capt. (Q.M.) A. G. THOMSON (456291) to be Maj. (Q.M.), 27th May 1968.

ROYAL ARMOURED CORPS

REGULAR ARMY

Maj. R. V. G. BROWN (397192) R.T.R., retires on retired pay, 25th May 1968.

Lt. P. M. ROE (479585) 11H, to be Capt., 21st May 1968.

Short Serv. Commn.

14191257 W.O. 1 (R.S.M.) Piers Anthony SYKES (485611) 15/19H. to be 2nd Lt., 15th Apr. 1968. To be Lt., 15th Apr. 1968.