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FRIDAY, 7th MARCH 1969

State Intelligence

HONOURS AND AWARDS

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

7th March 1969.

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 February 1969)

Corporal Robert John Hanlon, 215804, Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

Australian Infantry Corps.

On 13th August 1968 Corporal Hanlon was on duty as an assistant supervisor during a live grenade practice of a platoon of Corps trainees from Battle Wing of the Infantry Centre being conducted at the Moorebank grenade range, New South Wales. An M26 fragmentation grenade, with a four-second fuse, thrown incorrectly by a trainee, hit the inside front wall of the throwing bay in which Corporal Hanlon was supervising. The grenade rebounded back on to the floor of the throwing bay.

back on to the floor of the throwing bay.

With complete disregard for his own safety, Corporal Hanlon forced the trainee behind the rear blast wall and throwing him to the ground, covered the trainee's body with his own. Corporal Hanlon was not able to gain complete protection for his own body in the several seconds before the grenade exploded. As a result the trainee was unharmed but Corporal Hanlon received wounds to the left foot and ankle and to his lower right leg.

Corporal Hanlon acted with exceptional coolness.

Corporal Hanlon acted with exceptional coolness and professionalism and without doubt saved an inexperienced soldier from serious injury. Such an action was a fine example to other junior non commissioned officers of the Royal Australian Infantry Corps.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1. 7th March 1969.

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

(To be dated 27th February 1969)

Corporal Keith Humphries, A18821, Roya Australian Air Force.

On 10th November 1967 Corporal Humphries and another electrician, were detailed to service power lines which had been torn down during a severe thunderstorm. Corporal Humphries' colleague climbed an electric light pole, fastened his safety belt and proceeded to clear wires from the pole. As he commenced to cut through one wire he received a severe shock, and as a result was left hanging, unconscious, upside down in his harness at the top of the pole.

With complete disregard for his own safety, Corporal Humphries went to his colleague's aid, at the same time calling for help. Corporal Humphries fully realising the danger of the situation, and, despite the weight had the presence of mind to support the body free from the overhanging live wires. When help arrived Corporal Humphries still supporting the unconscious body, gave instructions for mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and, with great difficulty manoeuvred his colleague's body closer to the ladder so that he could be reached. When his colleague had revived Corporal Humphries encouraged him and continued to support him as they descended the ladder to safety.

Corporal Humphries showed courage and coolness throughout the whole rescue operation and it was due to his fine efforts that his colleague was safely