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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

ARMY DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOODSt. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
27th May 1969.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased 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, for Gallantry:

Captain John Roger CHAPMAN (459227) The Green Howards.

On the 18th September 1968, the "white water group" of the Great Abbai Expedition were marching along the bank of the Blue Nile or Great Abbai river. At 1530 hours they came to a tributary called the Abaye river. There was no bridge and the river was in flood, fast flowing and full of cross currents. A short distance downstream there were a series of waterfalls and cataracts.

The members of this group were very tired from their exertions of the previous ten days and the only way to cross the river was by swimming.

During the crossing Corporal I. A. Macleod, Black Watch, was swept away towards a cataract. Captain Chapman, seeing Corporal Macleod's plight and fully realising the danger, although himself fatigued, dived into the torrent, reached Corporal Macleod and, after a struggle lasting several minutes, managed to pull him into the bank on the lip of a cataract some four hundred yards downstream.

At this point Corporal Macleod appeared to be unconscious and in spite of all his efforts Captain Chapman could not hold the body against the force of the water. Before help could reach them Corporal Macleod was swept away and Captain Chapman was only just able to pull himself from the water.

His action was made with complete disregard of his own safety and he must have known that there was every chance that he himself could be swept away.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOODSt. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
27th May 1969.

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

Captain (acting Major) Michael John Vernon HOSKINS (464530) Corps of Royal Engineers.

On the 3rd September 1968, the Government of Brunei requested the assistance of the British Army to deal with an unexploded bomb in a petrol distribution depot in Brunei Town. Major M. J. V. Hoskins was despatched together with Staff Sergeant J. C. V. Wood.

Having uncovered the bomb Major Hoskins identified it as an unexploded American 250 lb. General Purpose Bomb, AN-M57 with a tail impact fuse M115. The fuse arming stem and vane had broken off. This fuse is described in the Bomb Disposal Manual as having a very sensitive cocked striker. The original report had led Major Hoskins to expect a bomb with a nose impact fuse and an exposed striker plate, and he was now faced with a new problem for which he knew the correct immunisation equipment was not available in the Far East.

Rather than delay the disposal of the bomb which was now exposed, and which he knew might well be in a very sensitive state close to the petrol tanks, Major Hoskins decided to remove the fuse by unscrewing it himself by hand. Taking full consideration for the safety of others he remained alone with the bomb, and with complete disregard for his own safety he applied penetrating oil and proceeded slowly to unscrew the fuse. This took some 15 minutes of careful calm work until the fuse was safely extracted.

Major Hoskins showed courage and coolness of a very high order, equal to the finest traditions of Bomb Disposal operations.

This example is only one of a number of bomb disposal operations in which Major Hoskins has demonstrated his qualities. He has been, for the last nine months, in charge of the special team which has dug out and disposed of some four