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FRIDAY, 3RD OCTOBER 1969

State Intelligence

HONOURS AND AWARDS

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

3rd October 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 under-mentioned:

(To be dated 2nd October 1969.)

Staff Sergeant James Robert BARBER (310358),
Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps.

On 19th February 1969, Staff Sergeant Barber was driving to the Ammunition Point at Nui Dat when a bay of ammunition caught fire and exploded. A series of explosions followed which resulted in ammunition being scattered over a wide area and numerous fires being started. Staff Sergeant Barber, who as Ammunition Technician was responsible for the operation of the Ammunition Point, despatched his driver and vehicle to raise the alarm while he proceeded on foot to ensure that all personnel were safe. Having established this, he then surveyed the area to determine whether any other bays of ammunition were threatened. Although both high explosive and white phosphorus ammunition were still exploding and debris and unexploded ammunition falling around him he completed this hazardous task.

He realised that the ammunition bay adjacent to the one burning was in danger of being ignited. This bay contained predominantly white phosphorus ammunition and if it caught fire the remaining bays of ammunition would have been set off. With complete disregard for his own personal safety, Staff Sergeant Barber moved up to the threatened ammunition bay as soon as the immediate fire had been subdued. He then calmly and efficiently inspected its contents and dragged clear a number of smouldering cases of ammunition. Throughout the entire operation he was in grave danger of ammunition in this and the adjacent bay exploding from the heat it had absorbed in the initial fire.

By his cool and courageous actions Staff Sergeant Barber prevented the fire spreading to the remaining twenty tons of ammunition stored in the Ammunition Point and so averted a major disaster. He was subsequently injured while destroying ammunition which had been damaged during the fire and explosions.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

3rd October 1969.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's Australian Ministers, to award the Imperial Service Medal to the following officers on their retirement:

(To be dated 2nd October 1969.)

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Norman Thomas RICHARDS, Inspecting Officer Grade 3, Department of the Navy, Naval Ordnance Inspection Branch, Maribyrnong, Victoria.

Leonard Henry STEELE, Leading Hand, Electrical Mechanic, Department of the Navy, Garden Island Naval Dockyard, Sydney, New South Wales.

PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE

CHURCH PATRONAGE ACT 1870

Notice is hereby given that Her Majesty in Council was pleased on the 24th September 1969 to make an Order in Council approving a Scheme framed by the Church Commissioners for effecting a transfer of the patronage of the benefice of Knotting and Souldrop in the diocese of Saint Albans.

Copies of the said Order may be obtained on application to the Church Commissioners, 1 Millbank, Westminster S.W.1.