

Capt. F. C. TOWNSEND, promoted Local Major. 8th Dec. 1969.

Lts. (Local Captain) promoted Capts., 15th Dec. 1969:

H. St. J. GRAY, I. M. WALDEN.

Lt. B. C. MOLLAN, to be placed on Retired List (own request). 20th Dec. 1969.

Actg. Lt. C. J. TAYLOR, to be placed on Retired List (med. unfit). 17th Dec. 1969.

#### ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE

Capt. H. T. DUFFY, M.B.E., V.R.D., to be placed on Retired List. 22nd Dec. 1969.

Lt.-Cdrs. placed on Retired List on dates stated:

D. A. BREEN, V.R.D. 7th Dec. 1969.

A. N. S. KINNEAR, V.R.D., and Clasp. 14th Dec. 1969.

Lt.-Cdr. (Sp) A. WALLACE, placed on Retired List. 17th Jul. 1969.

Lt.-Cdr. (Sp) W. A. BEARDON, placed on Retired List. 14th Dec. 1969.

Surgn. Lt.-Cdr. E. V. B. MORTON, placed on Retired List. 17th Sep. 1969.

Lt. (Sp) W. A. MILLS, promoted Lt.-Cdr. (Sp) 12th Jul. 1969 with seny. 12th Jul. 1969.

Lt. (Sp) M. V. McDONALD, to be promoted Lt.-Cdr. (Sp) 24th Dec. 1969, with seny. 24th Dec. 1969.

Surgn. Lt. (D) R. A. PEEBLES, promoted Surgn. Lt.-Cdr. (D) 11th Nov. 1969 with seny. 5th Nov. 1969.

Sub Lt. C. R. LEE, promoted Lt. 6th Nov. 1969 with seny. 6th Nov. 1969.

Sub Lts. promoted Actg. Lts. on dates and with seny. stated:

D. A. CARR. 1st Nov. 1969 (8th May 1967).

J. W. S. CLARK. 29th Nov. 1969 (29th Nov. 1969).

Actg. Sub Lts. confirmed Sub Lts. on dates and with seny. stated:

P. V. RICHARDS. 24th Oct. 1969 (25th Mar. 1968).

M. G. McDONALD. 21st Nov. 1969 (27th Oct. 1969).

#### ARMY DEPARTMENT

##### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

16th December 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:*

Lieutenant Christopher Leslie ELLIOTT (483896), Corps of Royal Engineers.

Lieutenant Elliott was a Patrol Commander on a climbing exercise in Northern Italy during July 1969. On 22nd July he took part in a climb in an area of the Mont Blanc range. The party attempting the ascent was six strong on two ropes, with instructors/guides leading on each rope. Lieutenant Elliott was the middleman on the left-hand rope. During the climb the condition of the snow deteriorated rapidly in the hot sun and at 600 feet up the instructors/guides decided to lead the party on to a rock face to the right at about 200 feet from the summit. The rock face at this point was about 60°. As Lieutenant Elliott moved onto the rock face, a large rockfall from above swept through the party, hitting, amongst others, Lieutenant Elliott and the last man on his

rope, who was knocked out and immediately fell. Lieutenant Elliott held the dead weight of this man for 20 minutes, first while he was unconscious and later when he was conscious but delirious and hysterically searching for a foothold. All this time, Elliott remained on crampon points on a rock face and was thus ill positioned for this dangerous and difficult situation. Despite this exhausting and frightening experience, he encouraged and with the aid of Corporal Smith he assisted the injured and panic stricken man who had cuts around his face and a crushed hand, to climb out of danger of further avalanche and up to the summit. This climb of only 200 feet took two and a half hours. The time was then 1430 hours when snow and ice conditions were at their most dangerous. Despite this, Lieutenant Elliott set off with Corporal Smith to summon help for the injured man. Without a guide, he decided on a descent by a route which was unknown to him, down snow and ice slopes which he knew to be in their most dangerous avalanche condition. By taking this rapid route he was able to contact a helicopter before the weather closed in.

Lieutenant Elliott has had four years mountain-eering experience in all conditions in Great Britain, but only two weeks of snow and ice conditions in the Austrian Alps. He displayed initiative and great physical courage following the accident. By his decision to go for help, a helicopter rescued the injured man with three minutes to spare before the cloud closed in.

Without Lieutenant Elliott's action leading to the helicopter rescue, there is little doubt that the safety of the whole party, and particularly the life of the injured man, would have been placed in jeopardy.

##### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

16th December 1969.

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

23792958 Lance Corporal (Acting Corporal) David Robert SMITH, Royal Army Medical Corps attached Special Air Service Regiment.

Corporal Smith was a member of a party on an exercise in Northern Italy during July 1969. On 22nd July 1969, he took part with five others in a climb in an area of the Mont Blanc range. Corporal Smith was the centreman on the right-hand of two ropes, each of which was led by an instructor/guide. The condition of the snow deteriorated rapidly in the sun and at 600 feet up the instructor/guides decided to lead the party on to a rock face to the right and about 200 feet from the summit. The rock face at this point was about 60°. At this moment, as the party moved across, a large rockfall swept through the party, rendering unconscious the last man on the left-hand rope. Smith belayed the third man on his rope to allow himself to descend to the injured soldier, who, it turned out, had received face and neck wounds and had fractured his hand. Seeing that the injured man was now in an extremely hysterical state, Corporal Smith secured his third man on a fixed rope and descended to calm and to give first aid to the injured man, who at that time was being held by Lieutenant Elliott, the Patrol Commander. Corporal Smith with Lieutenant Elliott evacuated the injured man, under most arduous circumstances, to the summit. This climb of 200 feet took two and a half hours to accomplish. With Lieutenant Elliott, he then descended for help down a strange route across ice and snow slopes which he well knew to be in a most dangerous state.

He acted throughout the events after the accident with a steadiness and coolness of judgment far beyond that expected of his rank. His actions in helping to evacuate the injured man from the area of the rockfall were the main factor in enabling the whole party to move quickly out of further danger. Without his advice and moral support the perilous descent down the avalanche prone area to find help could not have been possible. He displayed no hesitation in accepting the task of making the dangerous descent for help with his officer.