

- R. W. DENTITH. 21st Apr. 1970 (21st Apr. 1970).
 Sub Lts. (SL) to be promoted Lts. (SL) on dates and with seny. stated:
 G. A. BEDFORD. 22nd Apr. 1970 (22nd Apr. 1970).
 N. D. MORTIMER. 24th Apr. 1970 (24th Apr. 1970).
 H. J. SIDGWICK. 28th Apr. 1970 (28th Apr. 1970).
 Actg. Sub Lt. (SL) B. G. WINWOOD, confirmed Sub Lt. (SL), 24th Feb. 1970, with seny. 9th Jun. 1967, and promoted Lt. (SL), 9th Apr. 1970, with seny. 9th Apr. 1970.
 Actg. Sub Lt. (SL) B. A. REED-BOULTON, confirmed Sub Lt. (SL), 20th Apr. 1970, with seny. 20th Jul. 1968.
 Actg. Sub Lts. (SL) to be confirmed Sub Lts. (SL), 29th Apr. 1970, with seny. 29th Jul. 1968:
 R. W. BULL, D. C. PULLEYN, A. J. WALKER, J. J. WHITE.
 Actg. Sub Lt. (SL) P. FINAN, to be confirmed Sub Lt. (SL), 4th May 1970, with seny. 4th Aug. 1968.
 Actg. Engr. Sub Lts. (SD) confirmed Engr. Sub Lts. (SD), 1st Mar. 1970, with seny. 23rd Sep. 1968:
 C. G. GOODALL, W. E. ROWLEY.

ROYAL MARINES

- Major A. G. BROWN, M.B.E., placed on Retired List. 17th Apr. 1970.
 Capt. (Loc. Maj.) J. C. BEADLE, M.B.E., M.C., promoted Acting Major. 17th Apr. 1970.
 Lt. (Loc. Capt.) M. L. A. MACLEOD, relinquished rank of Local Captain. 20th Apr. 1970.
 Lt. A. T. WILLIAMS, promoted Local Captain. 16th Mar. 1970.
 2nd Lt. G. H. ASHWORTH, withdrawn from training (own request). 13th Mar. 1970.

ROYAL NAVAL RESERVE

- Surgn. Cdr. A. D. C. YOUNG, V.R.D., to be placed on Retired List. 22nd Apr. 1970.
 Lt.-Cdr. B. J. R. BULPITT, V.R.D. and Clasp, placed on Retired List. 11th Mar. 1970.
 Lt.-Cdr. R. LEWIS, placed on Retired List. 19th Apr. 1970.
 Lt.-Cdr. K. E. K. MATTHEWS, to be removed from Active List. 24th Apr. 1970.
 Surgn. Lt.-Cdr. (D) W. M. OLIVER, V.R.D., placed on Retired List. 12th Apr. 1970.
 Lt. P. M. OPPENHEIMER, promoted Lt.-Cdr., 16th Apr. 1970, with seny. 16th Apr. 1970.
 Actg. Lts. promoted Lts. on dates and with seny. stated:
 W. H. TAPSON. 26th Jul. 1969 (26th May 1968).
 J. D. A. ROBBIE. 28th Feb. 1970 (13th Feb. 1969).
 J. P. SWANN. 28th Feb. 1970 (3rd Nov. 1969).
 Instr. Lt. H. R. G. HARRISON, promoted Instr. Lt.-Cdr., 17th Apr. 1970, with seny. 17th Apr. 1970.
 Sub Lt. N. D. EVANS, promoted Actg. Lt., 29th Mar. 1970, with seny. 29th Mar. 1970.
 Actg. Sub Lt. R. J. COVENTRY, confirmed Sub Lt., 5th Apr. 1970, with seny. 5th Apr. 1969.

ARMY DEPARTMENT

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
21st April 1970.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the George Medal to the undermentioned:

Major George Raymond FLETCHER, M.B.E. (377837), Corps of Royal Engineers.

On 1st October 1969, following a report from the Kentish Town Police, Major G. R. Fletcher led

a Bomb Disposal Team to a building site at Burghley Road, Camden. There he found, in an excavation some 10 feet deep, a large object which he was immediately able to identify as a German Parachute Mine. Such mines were fitted with an outstandingly dangerous combination of firing mechanisms. Until evidence is found to the contrary it has to be assumed that any permutation of the following devices may be fitted: a magnetic and/or Acoustic system, a clockwork bomb fuse "booby trapped" with an anti-removal device, a 6 to 80 day timing circuit, and a light sensitive mechanism.

The mine was located within 30 yards of an underground railway, and within 50 yards of a surface railway. Within 150 yards were three high blocks of flats, many terraced houses and two busy roads.

After arranging for the safety of the public by evacuation, Major Fletcher and three of his team started to uncover the mine to establish its exact identity. After about half an hour of very careful work the uncovered nose of the mine revealed that it was a "G" type C. This type contains a charge of 1,536 lbs. of Hexamite explosive. It appeared to be in excellent condition so that the detonating devices had to be assumed to be still active.

Because of the large quantity of explosive and the nature of the site, exploding the mine where it lay was out of the question. There were, therefore, two choices.

- To dig down, uncover and render safe all the detonating devices and then steam out the explosive filling, or
- To leave the mine embedded in the clay and steam out the explosive with the fuze system still intact.

The first course would take some 30-40 hours with the entire team at risk, and cause great inconvenience to the local population and the travelling public.

The second course, which would take about 10-12 hours, would involve two or three people in great but in calculable risk due to the effects of steam and extreme changes of temperature on the presumed intact detonating devices and the hexamite filling. A clock which had stuck would be particularly likely to restart.

Major Fletcher chose the second course. In full co-operation with the Police, Emergency Services and Local Authorities he made his plan, arranging for the maximum safety and minimum inconvenience to all those not required on the site.

At about 1545 hours he himself, with one assistant, removed the filling plate of the mine to gain access to the explosive, then started the slow and dangerous task of steaming out and removing the hexamite. This lasted throughout the night. Adjustments to the steam generators, placing the explosive in sand-bags and removing it, and re-venting of the excavation required Major Fletcher and the minimum number of assistants to approach the mine at never less than half hour intervals. He was therefore exposed to great danger for about a third to a quarter of the entire period of the operation.

At about 0600 hours on 2nd October the mine case was virtually free of explosive. At 0700 the fuze pocket was exploded successfully causing no damage or inconvenience.

As far as records show this was the first occasion since the war that the Army has dealt with a German Parachute Mine.

Major Fletcher was in command throughout. He showed outstanding skill and leadership and by exposing himself to great risk over a long period so as to reduce the risk to others displayed outstanding gallantry in the highest traditions of the service.

23056357 Warrant Officer Class II Stephen David HAMBROOK, Corps of Royal Engineers.

Warrant Officer II Hambrook has been employed as Squadron Sergeant Major in Bomb Disposal since September 1968. During this time he has personally dealt with some 200 missiles and ten bombs. On three occasions he displayed outstanding courage.

In August 1969 he was in charge of a team excavating in search of a buried bomb near Petworth. Because of the particularly wet and marshy conditions specialised pumping equipment had to be in continuous use to prevent the excavation from flooding.

On 9th August a German 250 kilogram bomb was found and a No. 17 clockwork fuze identified in excellent condition. This type of fuze is particularly dangerous as the clock which has stopped can be re-started by any shock, and can then explode the bomb in a matter of seconds. The bomb could