



SUPPLEMENT TO

The London Gazette

of Friday, 15th January 1971

Published by Authority

Registered as a Newspaper

TUESDAY, 19TH JANUARY 1971

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Whitehall, London S.W.1.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards:

Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct

Lieutenant Commander Brian Harold Lithgow
BRAIDWOOD, Royal Navy.

Queen's Commendation for Valuable Service in the Air

Lieutenant Max KENWORTHY, Royal Navy.
Air Mechanician First Class Michael McSORLEY,
L/FX 869388.

On 1st June 1970, R.F.A. ENNERDALE, carrying 42,000 tons of fuel oils, sank in 100 feet of water in the Seychelles and it was decided that immediate action should be taken to release the oil while the South East Monsoon would carry the oil clear of the main islands.

Conventional methods of placing explosives alongside the hull, using boats and divers were impractical in the heavy swell. Lieutenant Commander Braidwood, the Far East Clearance Diving Officer, working with Lieutenant Kenworthy, the senior pilot detached from 847 Naval Air Squadron, devised a method whereby 3 mortar bombs placed on a pallet could be lowered into position on the wreck from a helicopter, the cordtex fuse then being ignited by the crew inside the helicopter. With ENNERDALE lying on her starboard side, and using a Wessex HU Mk. 5 helicopter, this method successfully breached the port tanks, releasing about 12,000 tons of oil.

To reach the starboard side tanks another demolition charge was constructed. To place the charge in the correct position divers secured a 45 foot wire pennant to the top of the wreck and, using a gemini dinghy, joined it to a similar wire lowered from the helicopter. The dinghy raced clear, the helicopter crew lit the cordtex fuse and released the bomb tray which, on its ninety foot pennant, sank down alongside the vents on the lower tanks.

Later in the operation when H.M.S. CACHALOT was unable to fire torpedoes into the wreckage to free oil trapped in the hull, the warheads were taken off the torpedoes, and lowered and detonated in the same way. When some of the warheads failed to explode, Lieutenant Commander Braidwood dived to investigate the reason. At this stage short pre-cut delay fuses were added and Lieutenant Commander Braidwood ignited the fuses on the surface of the sea, while suspended on the helicopter's winch wire. There

was always a swell, often heavy, and diving was dangerous. Faced with a difficult and unusual situation, Lieutenant Commander Braidwood showed remarkable ingenuity and courage.

Throughout this operation Lieutenant Kenworthy's flying skill and courage were of the highest order.

Air Mechanician McSorley was the senior rating in charge of maintenance of the helicopter which was operating 3,000 miles from its base, working initially from a field and later from R.F.A. STROMNESS which is not fitted to operate helicopters for long periods. He flew as a crew member on all demolition and oil slick reconnaissance sorties and his excellent service made an invaluable contribution to the success of this unusual and difficult operation.

ARMY DEPARTMENT

19th January 1971.

COMMANDS AND STAFF

REGULAR ARMY

Lt.-Gen. Sir Victor FITZGEORGE-BALFOUR, K.C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. (53288), late Ft. Gds. is appointed United Kingdom Military Representative on the Military Committee of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and to be Gen. 14th Jan. 1971, with seniority 28th Nov. 1970.

Maj.-Gen. D. B. WORMALD, D.S.O., M.C. (67087), late R.A.C. retires on retired pay, 15th Jan. 1971.

Brig. (Acting Maj.-Gen.) J. H. S. MAJURY, M.B.E. (193883), late Inf. to be Maj.-Gen., 15th Jan. 1971, with seniority 2nd Nov. 1970.

Col. R. R. CROOKS (85563) late R.E. retires on retired pay, 14th Jan. 1971.

ROYAL ARMOURD CORPS

REGULAR ARMY

Lt. C. J. A. HAMMERBECK (478067) R.T.R. to be Capt., 16th Jan. 1971.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

Short Serv. Commn.

2nd Lt. C. M. MCKENZIE (485916) R.T.R. from Active List to be 2nd Lt., 18th Jan. 1971.

2nd Lt. A. J. WHATLEY (485930) R.T.R. from Active List to be 2nd Lt., 18th Jan. 1971.