

danger in a clash between rival factions which resulted in the death of several persons. Unarmed and unprotected except by a steel helmet, which was dented during the action, he made several arrests and assisted in others.

On 28th September 1970, during serious rioting, he saw a vicious crowd attacking two Royal Marines. One Marine had been kicked and beaten unconscious; the other had his back to a wall fighting to retain his rifle. Though he risked being shot if they obtained the rifle, R.S.M. Poole ran alone into the mob, dragged them off the Marine with the rifle and, standing astride the unconscious man, held off the attackers with his pistol until help arrived. There is no doubt that he saved the men from grave injury.

Throughout the period he exerted a steadying effect wherever he appeared and by his bold and courageous action averted clashes on numerous occasions.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

5th October 1971.

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

24101868 Private Dorian Stephen BENNETT, Royal Regiment of Wales.

During rioting in the Falls Road area of Belfast in the early hours of 8th February this year, Private Bennett and four companions left their armoured vehicle after two nail bombs had been thrown at it. Bennett fired at and gave chase to a man who tried to throw a grenade. The patrol came under fire from three men and Bennett fell with a bullet in his right arm. He regained his feet and engaged the attackers, hitting one man and possibly a second, and then returned to the rest of the patrol. Although badly affected by the wound, Bennett engaged a further group who attacked with firearms and nail bombs and is thought to have hit one of them. He remained with the patrol until a replacement arrived and only then agreed to go back for medical attention.

By his courageous example and prompt action, Private Bennett saved his patrol from further casualties and his refusal to retire for medical aid ensured that the patrol was not weakened at a critical time. Throughout the action, he showed initiative, courage and devotion to his comrades and to his duty to a high degree.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

5th October 1971.

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

23898645 Staff Sergeant (Acting) Michael Francis NUGENT, The Royal Anglian Regiment.

During four months in Belfast, Staff Sergeant (then Sergeant) Nugent formed and commanded six snatch squads, each of twelve men in two vehicles, which were responsible for 170 of the 198 arrests made by the battalion, and several times prevented the escalation of rioting.

An action on 14th January this year was typical of many he led personally. In Ballymurphy two barricades set on fire by rioters were suspected as being part of a ruse to draw troops into an ambush. Sergeant Nugent mounted a move to take the crowd from four directions and himself went forward to act as a decoy. His counter-ruse worked, five arrests were made and the mob was dispersed, though Sergeant Nugent was badly burned by a direct hit from a petrol bomb and narrowly missed injury by a man with an axe.

Sergeant Nugent's consistent bravery and inspiring leadership, in the face of danger from firearms and bombs and other missiles, were in the very best traditions of the service.

24154237 Private David Alan BENNETT, The Queen's Regiment.

On 5th February 1971, Private Bennett was a member of a section guard in the Ardoyne district of

Belfast, in a position subjected to stoning by rival factions. During the night, the guard was faced by a crowd of about 100 and for ninety minutes, was the target for nail bombs, pistol and rifle shots and automatic fire from less than 60 yards. Throughout the engagement, Bennett kept cool and, on his own initiative, tried to set up a position from which to engage the gunmen.

On the following day, Private Bennett was in an observation post in the Old Ardoyne. At midnight, he came under fire from four gunmen using a machine gun, two rifles and a pistol. Thirty shots hit his sandbagged post over a 90-minute period and another 30 hit the building nearby. Throughout the engagement, Bennett accurately reported the gunmen's positions to his company headquarters and frequently had to expose himself in order to observe them.

Private Bennett's conduct and fearless devotion to duty during both incidents were a tremendous example to his comrades.

5th October 1971.

COMMANDS AND STAFF

REGULAR ARMY

Maj.-Gen. J. M. MATHESON, O.B.E., T.D., Q.H.S., M.D., M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. (69803), late R.A.M.C. retires on retired pay, 30th Sep. 1971.

Brig. H. C. JEFFREY, Q.H.S., M.B., F.R.C.P. (78767) late R.A.M.C. to be Maj.-Gen., 1st Oct. 1971.

Col. I. U. YOUNG, M.B. (64939) late R.A.M.C., retires on retired pay, 1st Oct. 1971.

HOUSEHOLD CAVALRY

L.G.

REGULAR ARMY

Special Reg. Commn.

Lt. C. KNOX (489005) resigns his commn., 10th Sep. 1971.

Short Serv. Commn.

22205085 W.O.I Charles Johnstone RODGER (492265) to be 2nd Lt., 1st Sep. 1971. To be Lt., 1st Sep. 1971.

R.H.G./D.

REGULAR ARMY

Lt. E. N. BROOKSBANK (474356) to be Capt., 4th Oct. 1971.

ROYAL ARMOURED CORPS

REGULAR ARMY

Capt. D. B. M. GORDON (469006) 14/20 H. retires receiving a gratuity, 30th Sep. 1971.

The undermentioned Capts. retire receiving a gratuity, 2nd Oct. 1971:

D. N. CANNON (466443), Q.O.H.

M. J. PARKER, M.B.E. (469075), Q.O.H.

P. R. LOYD (472572), Scots D.G.

The undermentioned 2nd Lts. (on probation) (University Cadetship) to be 2nd Lts. (on probation), 1st Aug. 1971:

William Roderick MACDONALD (486336) R.H.

David Peregrine WALSH (486343) Q.D.G.

Charles Michael Cady BYFORD (490202) Q.O.H.

Special Reg. Commn.

Lt. J. S. KNIGHT (487937) Q.O.H. to be Capt., 1st Oct. 1971.

Short Serv. Commns.

Capt. E. G. CAMP (482487) R.T.R. relinquishes his commn., 1st Oct. 1971.

23204271 W.O. II Ian EDMENSEN (492293) 5 Innis D.G. to be 2nd Lt., 26th Aug. 1971. To be Lt., 26th Aug. 1971.

Short Serv. Limited Commn.

2nd Lt. (on probation) D. E. KEMP (491001) Q.O.H. commn. is terminated, 1st Oct. 1971.

TERRITORIAL AND ARMY VOLUNTEER RESERVE

Lt. J. N. R. BISHOP (480988) Mercian Yeo., from Res. of Offrs., Class IV, to be Lt., 1st Aug. 1971, with seniority 1st Aug. 1970.

ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY

REGULAR ARMY

Capt. C. P. BENTLEY (468945) retires receiving a gratuity, 1st Oct. 1971.