



SUPPLEMENT TO

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TUESDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER 1972

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

## NAVY DEPARTMENT

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of The Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct to the undermentioned:

Lieutenant Richard Cormac CLIFFORD, Royal Marines.  
RM 22871 Corporal Thomas JONES.

Captain Robert Keith Hacon WILLIAMS (474410),  
Royal Army Ordnance Corps.

23531893 Staff Sergeant Clifford Reginald OLIVIER,  
22 Special Air Service Regiment.

On the morning of 18th May 1972, a team of Service personnel was sent to deal with a bomb threat in the Queen Elizabeth II which at that time was in mid-Atlantic on her way to Europe. To get the team on board the ship a parachute drop into the sea was necessary.

The two Royal Marines members of the team were responsible for ensuring that the two Army bomb disposal experts together with their equipment arrived on board the ship; thereafter they were to assist them in locating and dealing with any bombs that might have been aboard.

During the flight it was discovered that Captain Williams had little parachuting experience and none of parachuting into the sea.

On arrival over the ship weather conditions were found to be adverse and it was necessary for the aircraft to carry out several trial runs before the jumps could be made.

The team faced three problems: the presence of an inexperienced parachutist, adverse weather conditions requiring a drop from minimum height through cloud, and the carriage of unusually heavy and bulky loads. There is no doubt that under ordinary conditions the mission would have been abandoned but in view of its urgency and importance it was decided to proceed with the operation despite the risks to those involved.

On the fourth run over the ship Staff Sergeant Oliver and Corporal Jones dropped with the heavy equipment and on the seventh run the two officers dropped. Lieutenant Clifford supervised Captain Williams' parachute drill and when they arrived in the sea he supported him until they were picked up.

Once on board, the team immediately started their search of the ship and the suspect cargo. The courage and determination of all four members of the team in the face of unusual and hazardous conditions resulted in the successful execution of this operation.

## MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

## ARMY DEPARTMENT

12th September 1972.

## COMMANDS AND STAFF

## REGULAR ARMY

Maj.-Gen. M. S. HANCOCK, C.B., M.B.E. (73072), late R. Signals, relinquishes the appointment of Vice-Quarter-Master-General, Ministry of Defence, 9th Sep. 1972.

Maj.-Gen. R. M. SOMERVILLE, O.B.E. (126254), late R.A., is appointed Vice-Quarter-Master-General, Ministry of Defence, 9th Sep. 1972.

Col. G. C. A. GREENWOOD, O.B.E., M.C. (91364), late R.A., retires on retired pay, 10th Sep. 1972.

Lt.-Col. R. G. ROBINSON, M.B. (411553), from R.A.M.C., to be Col., 10th Sep. 1972.

## ROYAL ARMOURED CORPS

## REGULAR ARMY

Maj. W. K. TROTTER (393890), R.H., retires on retired pay, 6th Sep. 1972.

## TERRITORIAL AND ARMY VOLUNTEER RESERVE

Lt. (Acting Maj.) A. G. BUCHANAN (449698), S.R.Y., is granted the acting rank of Maj., 1st Sep. 1971. To be Capt., 21st May 1972, retaining the acting rank of Maj.

2nd Lt. (on probation) C. J. B. BROMFIELD (490298), R.Y., from T.A.V.R., General List, to be 2nd Lt. (on probation), 13th Jul. 1972, with seniority 23rd Jun. 1970.

Noel Frederic Augustus PAGE-TURNER (448513), Wessex Yeo., to be 2nd Lt. (on probation), 28th Jun. 1972.

## ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY

## REGULAR ARMY

The undermentioned 2nd Lts. (on probation) (University Cadetships) to be 2nd Lts. (on probation) on the dates shown:

Keith Henry Neville PRENTICE (488202), 1st Aug. 1972.

Cameron McCallum CLARK (488208), 7th Aug. 1972.

William Arthur Hugh TOWNEND (488203), 31st Jul. 1972.