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TUESDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER 1973

State Intelligence

HONOURS AND AWARDS

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
25th September 1973.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's Australian Ministers, to approve the award of the George Medal to the undermentioned:

(To be dated 13th September 1973)

Corporal Patrick TAU-GAU, Australian Cadet Corps.

On 28th August 1972, a party of twenty-nine school cadets was flying home from annual camp, in a transport aircraft in Papua New Guinea. Also in the aircraft were three crew members, one Army Officer and a Cadet Officer of the School at which the Cadets were students.

The aircraft crashed and burned on a remote jungle-clad mountain range in the Papua New Guinea Highlands. Five Cadets escaped death in the crash. The other twenty-four persons were killed and their bodies burnt and mutilated. Of the five who escaped death in the crash, one died later in hospital, after having spent three days alone lying beside the wreckage.

Despite his injuries and the horror of the crash, Patrick Tau-Gau, time after time entered the burning aircraft and pulled out six of the boys in an attempt to save their lives. Of these only one boy lived, but Patrick Tau-Gau did as much as was humanly possible to save the others. Throughout this period he stayed calm and collected. He and the remaining three survivors made a plan and put it into effect. He left a message at the crash site to inform search parties where he and the remaining three boys had gone, he gathered essential articles such as food, water, a compass

and some clothing and the four boys set out to walk through what is some of the most rugged country in the world.

After three days, they were found by searching aircraft, and on being picked up by helicopter Patrick Tau-Gau guided the pilot back to the scene of the crash. Without his guidance, the wreckage might never have been located.

By his actions, his commonsense and his courageous behaviour he set a very fine example not only to his family and school but to all young men of Australia.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

London, SW1A 2AH.

25th September 1973.

The QUEEN has been pleased to approve the award of the Colonial Police Medal for Gallantry to Inspector David Wilfred Frederick O'Brien and Inspector John Reid of the Royal Hong Kong Police Force.

These officers joined the Royal Hong Kong Police Force on 3rd August 1972, completed 6 months' training at the Police Training School and passed out on 27th January 1973. As a final part of their training, probationary inspectors join a Continuation Training Course which is intended to familiarise them with various practical aspects of police work in all parts of the Colony.

At about 0058 hours on 16th February 1973, when all the members of the course, in plain clothes and unarmed, were in Wanchi Division with the object of visiting and checking known haunts of bad characters, the party entered the Golden Bell Billiard Saloon, 52 Jaffe Road, 3rd Floor.

As they conducted a search of the persons, Mak Wing-fai, aged 19 years, dashed out of the side door immediately pursued by Inspectors O'Brien and Reid. At street level Mak fired one shot at the officers which passed Mr. O'Brien's shoulder. The chase resumed and after a few yards Mak again turned and fired a second shot at Mr. O'Brien who felt something hit him in the left chest. The