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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

HONOURS AND AWARDS

NAVY DEPARTMENT

Whitehall, London S.W.1.
10th June 1980

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

Captain Nicholas Geoffrey BEYTS, Royal Marines.

For his courage, leadership and dedication to duty whilst commanding the monitoring force team at Assembly Place KILO in Rhodesia between 25th December 1979 and 1st March 1980.

ARMY DEPARTMENT

**CENTRAL CHANCERY OF
THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD**

St. James's Palace, London S.W.1.
10th June 1980.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Queen's Gallantry Medal to the undermentioned:

Lieutenant-Colonel Vivian Howard RIDLEY (426990),
The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment
(29th/45th Foot).

Lieutenant-Colonel Ridley was employed in Rhodesia as the Lieutenant-Colonel Commissioner with the Patriotic Front in the most volatile and tough operational area of the country. He was required to set up an operational Headquarters with a senior Patriotic Front Liaison Officer and to control four Rendez-vous points and two Assembly Places.

During the assembly phase from 28th December to 10th January, Lieutenant-Colonel Ridley displayed initiative and courage of a quite exceptional order. The area to the south west of Umtali was reported by the Rhodesian Forces

to be full of large and active guerilla groups. With his Patriotic Front Liaison Officer he went time and again into the bush, even on one occasion after dusk, to make contact with these groups and persuade them to report to Rendez-vous and Assembly Places. Not only were many of the tracks he used mined, but in the view of the Rhodesians, he was certain to be shot. Both these facts he knew full well but, with total disregard for his own safety, he saw it as his duty to act as he did in order to ensure that the assembly phase in his area was a success. On one occasion Lieutenant-Colonel Ridley journeyed to his destination down a track, which subsequently turned out to be mined, and made contact with a guerilla commander. Not only did he persuade the commander to bring in his group but he also tended to, and evacuated a wounded guerilla who he drove back down the mined tracks to Umtali.

In the areas where he operated, and despite transport being blown up on a mine with many resulting casualties, the assembly phase was a major success with one Rendez-vous point taking in over two thousand men and Assembly Place Foxtrot, with its six thousand guerillas, being nearly three times the size of any other in the country.

After the assembly phase was complete, Lieutenant-Colonel Ridley was immediately present in the Assembly Places under his command whenever a tense or threatening situation occurred, as it often did. Again it was his personal courage and selfless disregard for his own safety which saved one situation after another. The example of courage he displayed was an inspiration not only to his subordinates but also to the Rhodesian Forces and to the Patriotic Front Forces.

Captain Timothy Andrew PARK (495216) The Cheshire Regiment.

Captain Park and his ten man team were deployed into the Chibi Tribal Trust Land, one of the more sensitive and active areas where the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army was operating. It was due to his personal leadership and example that the morale and efficiency of his team was so high and that a number of potentially dangerous situations were successfully resolved without incident.

He commanded the first and the most hazardous convoy of over two hundred guerillas to Assembly Place Hotel. Because of the distance and initial delays, for reasons outside his control, he had to complete the last eighty kilometres of rough road through remote bush in the dark, and on several occasions during the journey his life was threatened. There were only four escorts to his party.

He successfully controlled a very hazardous situation at his Rendez-vous when two guerillas were shot by local Security Forces. It was by his immediate action and personal negotiation with the guerillas, the police and local civil authorities that reprisals were averted and the incident did not escalate.

Throughout the assembly phase he was often under direct threat to his life. He displayed a maturity and calm common sense beyond that expected of his rank and experience.

He successfully retained control of an incident when he was fired at by a farmer while talking to a group of armed guerillas by the roadside. The guerillas were subsequently persuaded by Captain Park to come into an Assembly Place.

As a junior commander throughout these, and many other smaller but potentially hazardous incidents, he retained the

trust and respect of the guerillas with whom he had to deal and he displayed personal leadership of a very high order. His calmness, clear thinking, decisive action and personal courage in hazardous situations were a consistent example to all and a major contributory factor in the success of the operation.

Ministry of Defence,
Whitehall, London S.W.1.
10th June 1980.

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

Lieutenant David Anthony HILL (505270), The Prince of Wales's Own Regiment of Yorkshire.

Major (Local Lieutenant Colonel) Andrew Henry PARKER-BOWLES (465813), The Blues and Royals (Royal Horse Guards and 1st Dragoons).

For courage and devotion to duty while with the Commonwealth Monitoring Force in Rhodesia.

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