



The London Gazette

Published by Authority

Registered as a Newspaper

TUESDAY, 17TH JUNE 1980

State Intelligence

Buckingham Palace, London S.W.1

17th June 1980

The PRINCE OF WALES has been pleased to appoint Captain Robert Sturdee Mason, Welsh Guards, to be an Equerry (Temporary) to His Royal Highness in the room of Captain Timothy Philip George Newling WARD, M.V.O., Welsh Guards, who relinquishes the appointment on completion of his tour of duty.

(1 SI)

HONOURS AND AWARDS

Government House,
Suva
17th June 1980

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's Fiji Ministers, to approve the award of the Military Cross in recognition of services with the Fiji Infantry Regiment serving in the Lebanon as part of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force.

(To be dated 15th May 1980)

Military Cross

Lieutenant Savenaca Uluibau DRAUNIDALO (21680) Fiji Infantry Regiment.

On 22nd August 1979 a checkpoint situated on an important road junction was attacked by over 20 Armed Elements using automatic weapons and rocket propelled grenades (RPG). Reinforcements mounted in armoured personnel carriers from a neighbouring battalion were halted by RPG fire short of the checkpoint and could not effectively contribute to its defence. Immediately assessing the danger to the checkpoint and the section manning it, Lt. Draunidalo manned a General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG) (sustained fire) on the roof of a nearby building and engaged a group of 15-20 who were assaulting the checkpoint from the West. He caused them heavy casualties. The support he provided was so effective that this

assault was halted and the group withdrew. The Armed Elements retreated towards Lt. Draunidalo's position, but, in keeping with the United Nations Rules of Engagement in such situations, Lt. Draunidalo fired over the heads of the retreating force thus avoiding unnecessary deaths once it was clear the assault had failed. There is no doubt that the integrity of the checkpoint was saved by Lt. Draunidalo's effective and timely intervention and his subsequent action avoided challenges as to the degree of force used by the UN.

Two days later, after moving to another location to assume command of two platoons at another threatened checkpoint, Lt. Draunidalo's escort was ambushed a short distance from where he left the vehicles; three soldiers were killed and two wounded. Lt. Draunidalo took command of the UN elements in the area and quickly won the respect of all. Lt. Draunidalo's subsequent role in negotiating at grave confrontations between United Nations troops and volatile adversaries resolved matters without prejudicing the integrity of his unit's mission. Lt. Draunidalo's presence in the Al Bazuriah area was largely responsible for its subsequent stability.

Throughout his one year tour Lt. Draunidalo was a constant source of inspiration to those who served with him. His diligence, bravery and dedication were in the highest traditions of the Infantry and significantly contributed to the achievement of the United Nations Mission in his unit's operational area. (2 SI)

CROWN OFFICE

House of Lords, SW1A 0PW
11th June 1980

The QUEEN has been pleased by Warrant under Her Royal Sign Manual dated the 11th day of June 1980 to appoint James MITCHELL, Esquire, to be a Social Security Commissioner with effect from the 16th day of June 1980.

D. M. P. Malley
(2 SI)