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## State Intelligence

### HONOURS AND AWARDS

#### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD

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

16th June 1981

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

(To be dated 13th June 1981)

(21998) Lance Corporal Netani NAVUTOVUTO, Fiji Military Forces,

On the night of 17th September 1980 an Israeli amphibious raid, with land and naval artillery support, into the Palestinian-controlled enclave surrounding the city of Tyre, including targets close to Fiji troop positions, resulted in a number of civilian casualties. Hearing that a Lebanese woman with a bullet lodged in her arm had been evacuated under fire to a forward platoon position of the Fiji Battalion, Lance Corporal Navotovuto volunteered to go forward to give medical help. In spite of intense artillery fire and showing great resourcefulness, he removed the bullet and stemmed the loss of blood. In rendering this assistance he acted beyond the normal call of duty and his usual responsibilities, and there is no doubt his brave and skilful actions saved the life of the woman. (1 SI)

Government House, Suva  
16th June 1981

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's Fiji Ministers, to approve the award of the Military Cross to the undermentioned:

(To be dated 13th June 1981)

Captain Epeli Gavidi GANILAU (21534), Fiji Military Forces,

Captain Ganilau displayed conspicuous leadership, skill, and bravery during his 12 months as a Company Commander from August 1979. His unit having killed a leading Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) guerrilla commander during a confrontation in late August 1979, Captain Ganilau redeployed his troops and took personal

command in anticipation of a retaliatory attack, and by effective leadership, and professional skill and commendable coolness under fire successfully defended his company positions without casualties to his troops.

Captain Ganilau displayed these personal qualities repeatedly during his 12 months operational service. In September 1979 he was ordered to halt an infiltration by a heavily armed group of PLO guerillas. His skilful deployment of his troops having blocked the guerillas in a tactically disadvantageous position, he revealed his position, and, after speaking to the opposing commander persuaded the group to surrender. As a result of Captain Ganilau's professional handling of a dangerous situation no casualties were sustained by either side, an all too rare example of how to implement UN field policy on not using firearms.

Captain Ganilau's consistently outstanding leadership, his dedication and personal example, which always transcended his regard for his personal safety, were a credit to his regiment, the Royal Fiji Military Forces and to the United Nations Interim Force in the Lebanon. (1A SI)

Government House, Suva  
16th June 1981

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's Fiji Ministers, to approve the publication of the undermentioned names as having been Mentioned-in-Despatches:

(To be dated 13th June 1981)

Second Lieutenant Samuela Alivereti SAUMATUA (21523), Fiji Military Forces.

As Intelligence Officer with the 1st Battalion Fiji Infantry Regiment for 12 months from June 1979, Second Lieutenant Saumatua was responsible for collection, collation, interpretation and dissemination of operational intelligence on various armed factions in South Lebanon. His provision of accurate and timely intelligence not only enabled the Battalion to defend itself but also to anticipate armed confrontations and their worst consequences.

2nd Lieutenant Saumatua's high professional standards and efficiency made him an invaluable member of his own unit and also of UNIFIL which frequently relied on his evaluation of tactical intelligence. 2nd Lieutenant Saumatua's skill, dedication and efficiency contributed significantly to his Battalion's excellent operational record.