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HONOURS AND AWARDS

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The QUEEN has been graciously pleased, on the advice of Her Majesty's Fiji Ministers, to approve the awards of the Military Cross, Military Medal and for the publication of the names of those Mentioned in Despatches:

Military Cross

Captain (Temporary Major) Jioji Konousi KONROTE (20852), Fiji Infantry Regiment.

During the year from July 1980 that Major Konrote was a company commander of 1st Battalion Fiji Infantry Regiment with the United Nations Forces in the Lebanon he repeatedly demonstrated his courage and dedication to duty. By diplomacy and sound tactics and by vigorous patrolling he brought under U.N. control a once lawless area previously dominated by armed factions. In September 1980 during heavy Israeli shelling he personally supervised a successful field surgical operation on a seriously wounded Lebanese woman. In December he personally rushed reinforcements to a company post under heavy fire from Palestinian small arms and rocket-propelled grenades, and negotiated a ceasefire. On 30th January 1981 he commanded a patrol to intercept a group of Palestinian soldiers superior in both numbers and firepower and successfully persuaded them to withdraw from the UNIFIL area.

Major Konrote's example during his tour of duty was an inspiration to all members of the Battalion.

Military Medal

Lance Corporal Viliame SAVU (19575), Fiji Infantry Regiment.

During the year from July 1980 that Lance Corporal Savu was a section second-in-command with the 1st Battalion, Fiji Infantry Regiment on active service in the Lebanon he proved himself a reliable junior leader by his dedication and bravery. On 13th January 1981 when a battalion post came under intense Palestinian small arms, automatic and grenade fire, Corporal Savu's machine gun covering fire enabled the rest of the platoon to withdraw and deploy safely on high ground nearby. On 29th May armed Palestinian and Lebanese National Movement men

attacked a checkpoint commanded by Corporal Savu. Although immediately hit in the leg he refused to leave his post or have the Medical Officer come to his aid. By cool leadership and effective fire orders Corporal Savu inspired his small group to repel repeated attempts to encircle and overpower the checkpoint, and the attackers finally withdrew having suffered casualties both killed and wounded. Lance Corporal Savu on all occasions displayed the highest sense of duty and personal bravery.

Mention in Despatches

Captain (Temporary Major) Tomasi KOROVIKATURAGA (21321), Fiji Infantry Regiment.

During the year from September 1980 that Major Korovikaturaga commanded B Company 1st Battalion Fiji Infantry Regiment in the Lebanon he successfully used tactically sound planning, aggressive patrolling and bold deployments to contain and remove illegal new positions of the Palestinians and their allies trying to gain control of an area east of B Company's area. On 17th January he commanded the successful clearance of a guerrilla camp, and his subsequent tactical deployment of snap road blocks and observation posts prevented its re-establishment. On 20th January when three B Company posts came under heavy fire he deployed his reserves to reinforce the posts and controlled their fire, and subsequently negotiated a ceasefire.

His overall performance as a Company Commander was a great credit to himself, his unit and to Fiji.

Lieutenant Ioane NAIVALURUA (22552), Fiji Infantry Regiment.

Lieutenant Naivalurua proved a very effective platoon commander during his year's service in the Lebanon with 1st Battalion, Fiji Infantry Regiment from June 1980. On 17th January 1981 he commanded assault troops with such dash and vigour that an unauthorised Palestinian post was successfully dislodged without serious fighting. In March he commanded an infantry platoon as part of the UNIFIL Force Mobile Reserve to prevent Christian Militia disruption of deployment of the Lebanese Army into the UNIFIL operational area. Lieutenant Naivalurua and his men took up blocking positions by night in difficult rocky terrain, and by subsequent persistent patrolling and tactical positioning of observation posts frustrated all Militia attempts to interfere with the UNIFIL-Lebanese Army operation. On 19th April he deployed a patrol to stop an infiltrating group of heavily armed Palestinians and used his reserve