

GERALD BRYAN

Decorated commando who had a close brush with a peer of the realm.

Captain Gerald Bryan, who has died aged 96, was a colonial service administrator who won the Military Cross in 1941 at the Battle of the Litani River in Lebanon. Training with the commandos near Fort William in 1940, he was on a night exercise when he saw a figure striding down the road. Assuming this was one of the "enemy", he wrestled him to the ground. "Do you know who I am?" the man asked. "No," said Bryan. "I'm Lord Lovat," came the reply.

"Do you know who I am?" Bryan riposted. "No," said a bewildered Lovat.

"Thank God!" exclaimed Bryan – and escaped into the darkness.

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