

of efficiency to which he had trained his men was clearly shown by their alertness on patrol, and in observation posts by day and by night, and in their quick reaction to terrorist attacks. His tactical handling of the battalion and the organisation behind his operational control were only achieved by a remarkable capacity for work.

His quiet determined approach led him to ignore the risk of assassination during the many visits he made, very often at night, to small parties of soldiers in isolated and dangerous areas in the back streets of the native quarters.

He took over command of Aden Brigade for four weeks immediately after the rioting in the Federal Forces and the Crater murders and disturbances, when the terrorists took over the town. His calmness and handling of the difficult and delicate situation not only contributed to the maintenance of law and order in the other areas of Aden, but enabled a situation to be created whereby British Troops re-entered Crater without loss of life. His period in command of the Brigade coincided with a most difficult and politically delicate period of the emergency; the way in which he took over his duties quickly earned the trust and confidence of his superiors, his staff and the units under his command and was a measure of his ability and dedication to his task.

His professional ability, high sense of duty, quiet determination and disregard for his own safety both when commanding his own battalion and while temporarily commanding the Brigade have been in the very highest traditions of the service.

#### *Distinguished Service Order*

Lieutenant-Colonel Michael John Hatley WALSH (364588) The Parachute Regiment.

On arrival in Aden, Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh was immediately ordered to take up defensive positions in Sheikh Othman and Mansoura which comprised the battalion area. This was a completely new tactical concept resulting from a rapidly deteriorating operational situation.

On 1st June 1967, the terrorists carried out a series of heavy attacks on the observation posts and a continuous fire fight took place all day. During this period Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh visited the posts and mobile units, directing operations from his Rover vehicle. He was under fire many times throughout the day and his coolness and leadership was an inspiration to all his soldiers. This, together with his skilful handling of the battalion group enabled the situation to be stabilised and defeated the terrorists' attempt to take over the town.

On 5th June 1967, a major attack was made by the terrorists on the Sheikh Othman Police Station. Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh immediately dispatched a platoon to the area. At the same time the force occupying the disused Mission Hospital on the fringe of Sheikh Othman was pinned down by heavy terrorist fire and unable to assist in the relief of the Police Station. Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh immediately ordered a company from the battalion base and personally led this force into the Mission Hospital and under heavy and continuous fire relieved the hard pressed force in the Hospital. Having secured the Hospital, Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh reorganised the defence of the perimeter and spent the rest of the day, frequently under fire restoring the situation throughout his area. His complete disregard for his own safety and skilful handling of the many components of his battalion group won him the admiration of all ranks.

At 1030 hours on 20th June 1967, the Federal Guard stationed at Champion Lines, which is adjacent to 1st Parachute battalion's main base, mutinied and brought increasingly effective and heavy fire to bear on Radfan Camp, the battalion main base. In order that the situation might be restored Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh immediately gave orders that fire was not to be returned and that all ranks should take cover. Disregarding the latter part of his own orders, he visited the positions on the perimeter, including the guard-room which was under extremely effective fire, and talked and joked with the soldiers whilst explaining the vital reasons why fire should not be returned. There is no doubt that his presence and handling of this situation had a stabilising effect on his soldiers and prevented the aggravation of a most difficult situation. In addition he brilliantly organised the sending of one of his companies to secure Champion Lines, which was completely successful.

By his outstanding devotion to duty, personal bravery and exceptional powers of command,

Lieutenant-Colonel Walsh has contained the situation in Sheikh Othman whilst never departing from the principle of minimum force.

#### *Military Cross*

2nd Lieutenant Richard Derek Lloyd VAUGHAN-GRIFFITH (482861) The Queen's Own Hussars.

During the morning of 8th September 1967, in the built up dormitory area of Mansoura in Aden, a fourteen-man patrol of 1st Battalion, The Lancashire Regiment reported that they had come under heavy fire from a number of points and had been forced to take cover in two houses.

A half troop of the Queen's Own Hussars commanded by Second Lieutenant Vaughan-Griffiths set out from a firm base to give them supporting fire. The troop leader could not determine the exact location of the patrol as it was out of communication with its company base. With his armoured car and scout car he scoured the area of the patrol's intended sweep; and in a section where there was some red smoke he saw a beret sticking out of a window on a stick. Reversing his Saladin armoured car toward the house under heavy small arms fire from approximately ten firing points, he determined by personal contact that the patrol was in two groups, the location of the second group being unknown to the first.

Acting on his own initiative, he called up a Saracen Armoured Personnel Carrier from his base which he then ordered to reverse up to the house and embussed the half patrol which included two casualties. He positioned his two cars between the terrorist fire and the house to act as a shield during embussing whilst he returned the fire. He evacuated the half patrol to a safe base and then immediately returned to locate and rescue the remaining section. From intermittent infantry radio reports he determined their general area and once more under heavy fire repositioned his Saracen, ordered his scout car to cover certain firing points while he dealt with others. The remaining infantry were subsequently embussed and escorted to safety without further casualties.

The operation lasted two hours; during this time Second Lieutenant Vaughan-Griffiths, whilst his armoured cars were frequently under heavy and accurate small arms fire acted with great initiative, personal bravery and presence of mind. His only concern, in spite of operating his cars with no infantry support in an area with a known anti-tank mine threat, and while vulnerable to surprise short range bazooka and grenade attack, was to rescue the infantry patrol before they suffered further casualties. That he achieved this self-set task successfully under the most difficult operational conditions is the measure of his outstanding example of courage, leadership and determination.

#### *Military Cross*

Lieutenant Michael John CONROY (480271) Corps of Royal Engineers.

Lieutenant Conroy was in command of a party which had set off from Hailayn, South Arabia to carry out repair work on the road from Hailayn to Aden. The party consisted of a convoy of engineer equipment, tippers, small vehicles and a Saracen armed personnel carrier. It also included two small piquets of Federal National Guard. At about 0815 hours the leading group of vehicles ran into a strong dissident ambush and came under heavy fire from close range and from the surrounding Jebels with rockets, machine gun and rifle fire.

On hearing the firing Lieutenant Conroy, travelling with the second group of vehicles halted them and reported the contact to his Headquarters. He found that he was unable to contact the ambushed vehicles by radio. So regardless of his own safety he drove his rover group into the ambush area to take command, even though he knew that he would be under heavy fire. By this time many men were injured and the 300 yards length of the ambush was under constant and accurate fire. Lieutenant Conroy first reorganised the men for their better protection and, in order to bring effective fire to bear on the enemy, he brought forward a light machine gun which he sited before handing it over to a soldier and despatched another soldier to establish contact with the Federal National Guard piquet who had taken up fire positions in the jebel above him. He then called for Hunter Strike aircraft by radio.

By this time he and his radio operator were wounded and Lieutenant Conroy moved the latter to a safe area. He then returned to his wireless