

made a vital contribution to the success of the entire operation.

*Military Cross*

Lieutenant Ian McLEOD (469053), 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment, The Parachute Corps.

Lieutenant McLeod's work and example during the Radfan operations were exceptional: he patrolled frequently and with success by night, seeking routes for the battalion's advance, searching houses in No Man's Land for documents and arms, while continuing by day to assimilate and assess information coming into his possession.

On 26th May, he was one of a party shot down in a Scout helicopter being wounded painfully in the arm. After a short pause while this was stitched and bound, he immediately returned to duty, undertaking two important patrols despite consistent sniping, which he disregarded coolly. His bravery and determination to perform his duty in the face of fire and other hazards set a splendid example.

*Military Medal*

14475931 Staff Sergeant Thomas Ernest Frederick SILVERSON, 4th Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.

From early in February 1964, until the end of May, Sergeant Silverson commanded a troop of Ferret Scout Cars of B Squadron, 4th Royal Tank Regiment, in the Radfan area, operating continuously against dissident tribesmen.

His courage and fine leadership under fire, his level headed, sound tactical judgment and his magnificent example, which was an inspiration to his soldiers, produced high praise from the Commanding Officers of the two battalions of the Federal Regular Army which he supported during February and March.

On one occasion, Sergeant Silverson averted a very serious situation, by the skilful and courageous manner in which he covered the withdrawal of a company of the Federal Regular Army under heavy fire. His conduct then undoubtedly saved the company from heavy casualties.

Throughout April and May, he continued to lead his troop with the same skill and tireless energy under his own Squadron Commander. His troop's unflinching efficiency and high morale were an inspiration to the rest of the Squadron and to all other troops with whom they worked.

Sergeant Silverson's gallant conduct was a valuable contribution to the success of the recent operations.

*Military Medal*

23716003 Corporal John Daniel McNICOL, 1st Battalion Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment), The Lowland Brigade.

From 29th May until 2nd June 1964, Corporal McNicol was in command of five soldiers who manned Picquet "B", part of the defences of the Thumair area. During the night of 29th/30th May, this picquet effectively engaged with small arms fire several of the enemy killing one and wounding two. This was the first occasion that any of the soldiers concerned had been in action against the enemy. Throughout the action, which lasted for about two hours, Corporal McNicol showed a very high sense of discipline, leadership and command.

During the night of 31st May/1st June, Picquet "B" was attacked by five tribesmen. This attack was repulsed and later 15-20 of the enemy, mainly in small groups, attempted to approach the picquet position. Due to the resolute way Corporal McNicol handled the situation, all attempts to attack or infiltrate into his position were repulsed. The action lasted for over two hours and during this time Corporal McNicol effectively directed supporting fire, from Saladin armoured cars and the company 3 inch mortar detachment, which so harassed the enemy that they eventually retreated in disorder. He displayed a complete disregard for his own personal safety by directing the mortar fire to within 150 yards of his own position in an attempt to kill the enemy. Throughout the night he acted in a cool, calm and calculating manner and displayed the highest qualities of courage. Even when he thought that he was running short of ammunition, he showed no fear whatsoever but was determined to hold his picquet position whatever the cost, and if necessary he was prepared to fight to the last. Corporal McNicol's position was the key one of three and if it had been overrun the other two would have become untenable.

*Military Medal*

23480160 Private (Acting Lance Corporal) James Edward BRUTON, 3rd Battalion Parachute Regiment, The Parachute Corps.

During the Radfan operations Lance Corporal Bruton's company carried out a long night march over difficult country. At first light on 5th May 1964, they encountered and attacked a large group of dissidents in the Wadi Taim. Throughout the day-long action Lance Corporal Bruton displayed courage and leadership of a very high order. In the early stages during a platoon attack Lance Corporal Bruton saw a number of enemy escaping to a flank. He immediately led a successful section attack in which he personally accounted for at least one of the enemy killed.

Later in the day, when his Platoon Commander was killed, Lance Corporal Bruton assumed command of a small party of three wounded and one other. He shouted across to Company Headquarters giving the situation and approximate position of the enemy snipers. He ensured that the wounded were in the best cover available and helped by Private Smith gave first aid to the three wounded.

As the sun grew hotter Lance Corporal Bruton having correctly appreciated that unless the wounded were moved into shade and given further treatment two of them at least would not survive the day, decided that together with Private M. W. Smith he would get them back into the Fort occupied by Company Headquarters.

Having witnessed the accuracy of and the damage inflicted by the snipers Lance Corporal Bruton was fully aware of the dangers of his self imposed mission. His plan which was for himself and Smith to carry one of the wounded each, at the same time helping along the third who was still capable of walking.

In one determined dash Lance Corporal Bruton and Private Smith, each carrying a heavy man and helping the third, covered the distance to the Fort under fire from enemy snipers.

It was undoubtedly Bruton's calculated courage, unselfishness and disregard for his own safety which saved the lives of at least two of the wounded.

*Military Medal*

23547580 Lance Corporal Michael John BAKER, Royal Corps of Signals attached to 22 Special Air Service Regiment.

Lance Corporal Baker was a member of 3 Troop, 22 Special Air Service Regiment engaged in operations against enemy tribesmen in the Radfan Mountains. On the 30th April 1964, 3 Troop having infiltrated through enemy lines some four miles the previous night on a lone mission to mark a Dropping Zone for a parachute drop, was pinned down by heavy enemy fire all day. The Troop finally managed to break out of this position at last light in the face of heavy enemy opposition, from some 20-30 tribesmen. Baker was wounded in the knee by three bullets immediately prior to the breakout. Despite this, he fought his way out with the remainder of the Troop in a fierce hand to hand engagement, and got through the enemy encirclement. On the way back to our own lines, Baker and another man covered the rear of the Troop and, noticing that they were being shadowed by three tribesmen, laid an ambush. They killed two and wounded the third, thereby ensuring the safe withdrawal of the Troop. Lance Corporal Baker managed to reach our own lines, without assistance, and without delaying the progress of the rest of the Troop despite his serious wound. Throughout the action he displayed a devotion to duty and unselfishness which, coupled with his bravery in acting as rearguard for the Troop, although wounded, undoubtedly contributed a great deal towards the successful extrication of the Troop.

*Mentioned in Despatches*

Lieutenant Jeremy Guy RAWLINS (467129), 4th Battalion Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps.

Captain John Keith RIDDELL (433225), Royal Regiment of Artillery, attached Parachute Regiment.

Major John Patrick GROOM, M.B.E. (403475), Corps of Royal Engineers.

1931941 Warrant Officer Class II William Eldred READER, Corps of Royal Engineers.

22800115 Staff Sergeant Donald Fox, Corps of Royal Engineers.

22774245 Sergeant Richard Edward McCanville GILLIES, The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment).