

So complete was the surprise achieved that the two enemy groups continued firing for some thirty minutes after the patrol had extricated itself. The patrol gained such surprise by its stealth and by its quick and violent action.

This remarkable success was entirely due to the initiative, determination, coolness under fire and great courage of this gallant Gurkha officer who has always been an inspiration to his men.

Military Cross

Major Duncan Ross GREEN (384213), 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles.

Major Green has been either commanding a Company or filling the appointment of battle second-in-command. Throughout he has set a high standard of leadership and a marked determination to close with the enemy.

During operations in the Kalabakan area he personally hunted a party of enemy which resulted in his shooting two of them at close range and the capture of the third. By his leadership and complete disregard of personal safety, troops under his personal command eliminated enemy infiltrators in the river and swamp complex to the South of Kalabakan and later in the Estate area to the North of Tawau.

During operations in the Labis area of Johore which resulted in the elimination of a force of 96 Indonesian parachutists, Major Green again inspired the officers and men under his command by his leadership, tactical ability and disregard for personal safety.

During operations in Sarawak he has again shown a high standard of leadership and aggressive spirit, whenever the circumstances permitted.

Throughout continuous operations Major Green has set a standard of leadership to be emulated by his friends and to be feared by the enemy. His determination to close with the enemy and his complete disregard for personal safety has been an example to all ranks of the Battalion.

Military Cross

Lieutenant (temporary Captain) Michael Ormond St. MARTIN (456667), 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles (now Regular Army Reserve of Officers).

On 3rd February 1965 in the Lundu District of Sarawak, Captain St. Martin, the Officer Commanding D Company 2/10 Gurkha Rifles was given the task of destroying an enemy force established on the Sarawak border. The enemy were 70 well trained regular troops, heavily armed with a high proportion of automatic weapons.

The operation necessitated the most detailed planning, preparation and reconnaissance. Captain St. Martin himself led three most important reconnaissances and gained the vital information of the enemy dispositions on which he made his plans.

After a long and difficult approach march and despite the complete surprise which he had so carefully achieved he found the enemy unwilling or unable to withdraw or surrender. They fought back with tenacity and with courage, suffering severe casualties in the process. An entrenched enemy medium machine gun, well sited on a hill some 1,000 yards from the main position and separated from it by a river, was able to concentrate very heavy fire on the centre and one flank of our attack. Enemy counter attacks were repulsed with serious losses.

The main battle raged round a small knoll in the centre of the enemy position where they were strongly entrenched and after repeated and determined attacks the enemy were annihilated. Captain St. Martin personally conducted every aspect of the battle. He was never further than 20 yards from the enemy positions and his presence, encouragement, orders, apparent immunity to enemy fire and obvious disregard of his own safety inspired his company to their greatest efforts. He was always to the fore where the firing was heaviest and his leadership, daring and bravery were so infectious that his men responded nobly.

On a later occasion whilst on patrol Captain St. Martin's platoon was attacked and again by his powers of leadership and command he disposed of the enemy who fled, leaving 10 dead.

Captain St. Martin's outstanding leadership and courage in these successes, which were achieved without loss to his own men, were an inspiration to all.

Distinguished Conduct Medal

22290559 Warrant Officer Class II John WILLIAMS, The Parachute Regiment.

In the early morning of the 27th April 1965, Company Sergeant Major Williams was in his company base defended only by the Company Headquarters, a mortar section and one weak platoon of young soldiers, when they came under heavy attack by a force of Indonesian infantry more than 150 strong who were powerfully supported by rocket launchers, mortars, rifle grenades and machine guns from the surrounding hills.

The position was vulnerable and overlooked, the enemy fire intense and accurate, and there were several casualties. Company Sergeant Major Williams immediately took charge of the defence, controlled the defensive fire and steadied the young soldiers who were defending the base. He then moved round the position with complete disregard for his own safety, attending to the wounded, reorganising sections to meet each attack and, at one stage, took over a two inch mortar from the wounded mortarman and fired illuminating bombs to light up the battlefield.

The enemy assault was rapid and determined, penetrated the inner wire and carried a mortar pit. A quickly organised section counter-attack had several casualties and was pinned down by enemy fire. Company Sergeant Major Williams then ran across the open ground under heavy fire to man a machine gun position from which he could fire into the mortar pit—and it was under cover of his fire that the enemy were ejected.

A second attack then developed directly against Company Sergeant Major Williams' position and he found himself under heavy fire from automatic weapons and rocket launchers at point blank range. He, himself, was hit by splinters and blinded in one eye, the radio set by his side was hit and the weapon he was using received direct hits on two occasions. He nevertheless continued to engage the enemy and was instrumental in breaking up the attack that had been pressed with fanatical determination. He killed one enemy soldier, who had a rocket launcher, within a few feet of his post.

He then reorganised the position, reported to his company commander and immediately took out a patrol to attack two more enemy parties which had again approached the perimeter. On his return, he was ordered to lie down and receive medical attention for his eye.

Throughout the whole action, Company Sergeant Major Williams showed outstanding bravery and devotion to duty, continually moving from one post to another under heavy fire—reorganising the defence, directing fire, carrying ammunition, attending the wounded, inspiring the men and setting a magnificent example to all ranks. The successful defence of the position against great odds was largely due to his courage, his example and leadership and to his own direct intervention in the battle at every crisis and at every point of maximum danger.

Military Medal

22561756 Sergeant Edward LILLICO, The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers (serving with Special Air Service Regiment)

Sergeant Lillico was in command of a Special Air Service patrol engaged in border surveillance on the Indonesian/Sarawak frontier. On the morning of 28th February, the patrol was moving through jungle when they made head on contact with a party of enemy. The enemy opened fire immediately, and both Trooper Thomson and Sergeant Lillico, the lead scout and second man respectively, were both badly wounded. They returned the fire, killing two Indonesians. Lillico then ordered Thomson, who he thought could crawl, to get back to the emergency rendezvous. He himself could hardly move as his leg was paralysed by the wound, but managed to drag himself out of the immediate contact area into some bamboo cover where he lost consciousness. He remained in this position till the following morning when he dragged himself some 4-500 yards to the top of a near-by ridge where he hid. Shortly after he reached this area he heard a helicopter and switched on his Sarbe beacon to attract its attention. At the same time he realised he was very close to the enemy, as he heard and saw Indonesian soldiers, and on the approach of the helicopter one of the enemy climbed a tree some 40 yards away from him to look around.