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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the undermentioned awards in recognition of gallant conduct in Aden:

Military Cross

Major Glyn David Neil WILLIAMS (420960), The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment (Berkshire and Wiltshire).

Serving with Special Air Service Regiment

On the morning of 2nd February 1966, a troop of D Squadron, Special Air Service Regiment, who were operating in Haushabi Country West of Al Milah, reported a gang of 12 uniformed dissidents moving to the North West.

Since the enemy were not within range of the patrols Major Williams immediately gave orders for his reserve troop to be lifted by Scout helicopters into a cut-off position to the North of the enemy. This was done and a fire fight developed. The gang then scattered and would undoubtedly have escaped had not Major Williams with great initiative and determination repositioned his remaining three troops to encircle them using the flight of Scout helicopters supporting him. Contact was maintained with the enemy until the late afternoon by which time 4 had been killed and a further 4 wounded, including two important leaders, thus accounting for two thirds of the gang.

Throughout this highly successful operation Major Williams unhesitatingly exposed himself to enemy fire and his contribution was at all times outstanding. His personal courage, skill and resourcefulness was an inspiration to his Squadron and an example set in the highest traditions of the service.

Distinguished Flying Cross

Major Donald Christopher CROUCH (407795) Royal Tank Regiment Serving with Army Air Corps.

On the morning of 2nd February 1966, D Squadron, Special Air Service Regiment, who were operating South West of Al Milah reported a party of approximately twelve armed men moving away from their positions to the North. Since it was essential that this party be definitely identified as dissidents before fire could be opened, Major Crouch, whose flight of three aircraft was in direct support of D Squadron, was requested to carry out a reconnaissance of the area. He embarked additional Special Air Service men in the three helicopters, took off, and led them at low height, to the reported location. Upon rounding a bend in the Wadi, they sighted the armed party, who immediately scattered, and opened fire on the aircraft, hitting Major Crouch's machine. The fire was from rifles and a light machine gun. With this positive indication, the three helicopters, taking advan-

tage of dead ground, deployed their Special Air Service lifts in cut-off positions very near, and to the North of the enemy. D Squadron was re-deployed by the flight to encircle the enemy, and additional troops were air-lifted from Habilayn to reinforce the position from 1st Battalion King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. A running fight then continued for the rest of the morning and afternoon to eliminate the scattered dissidents.

Throughout the whole of this period Major Crouch was almost continually in the air over the battle area controlling his flight in the redeployment and reconnaissance necessary to track down the remnants of the gang. During this phase of the operation his aircraft was again holed. Later in the morning with complete disregard for his own safety he successfully evacuated a badly wounded Non Commissioned Officer of D Squadron from a very exposed position under enemy fire and his aircraft was hit for a third time. The action ended at dusk and was an outstanding success. Four dissidents were killed including two important gang leaders, and at this date it is known that a further four were wounded. Major Crouch's handling of his flight throughout the operation was outstanding and its success could not have been achieved without his aircraft. The example set by his own personal courage and initiative was an inspiration to all both in the air and on the ground and in the highest traditions of the service.

Military Medal

23887331 Trooper Brian Astor DODD, The Parachute Regiment.

Serving with Special Air Service Regiment

On the morning of 2nd February 1966, 12 armed dissidents were observed moving North up the Wadi Bilih. Because they were out of range Trooper Dodd's Troop, which was in reserve, was immediately air lifted by Scout to seal off the enemy's escape route. Trooper Dodd was one of a patrol of 4 dropped off in this manner.

During the initial engagement Trooper Dodd, despite being under heavy and accurate fire from the enemy, fearlessly exposed himself and knocked out two of the enemy by his own rifle fire. During this action Trooper Dodd and another soldier became separated from their patrol but throughout he continued to show exemplary coolness and determination and on his own initiative engaged a second party of enemy with his M 26 energa projector.

Later in the morning Trooper Dodd was a member of a patrol sent in to clear up a further pocket of enemy. His performance was again outstanding. He definitely killed one member of this enemy group and again showed great coolness and initiative when assisting in the recovery of the two enemy dead which resulted from the action.