

By his untiring energy, complete lack of regard for his own safety and comfort, and outstanding powers of leadership Major de Candole has earned the trust and respect of the many units with whom he has worked. He has been animated by the determination to ensure that his squadron should provide the maximum effort and most effective support possible, and has employed great ingenuity and hard work to achieve far more than his command was organised for. In the process he himself has shown exceptional devotion to duty and inspired in his squadron a pride and "panache" which has been largely responsible for the very high standard of operational efficiency which it has achieved.

This was particularly evident during the civil disturbances attendant upon the presence of the United Nations' Mission in Aden. Major de Candole's squadron was then deployed at full strength in Sheikh Othman and Crater in support of two British battalions. The support given over this difficult period was quite outstanding, and for four days and nights his patrols were constantly under grenade and small arms fire. Throughout, Major de Candole's own tireless example of coolness and determination were an inspiration to his squadron, and were typical of the very high personal and professional standards set by this officer.

Military Cross

Captain John Michael BECKINGSALE (456268), Royal Regiment of Artillery.

Captain Beckingsale has commanded a Troop of E Battery Royal Horse Artillery in South Arabia since September 1965.

He has spent sixteen months of this tour on operations up-country, and has acted as Forward Observation Officer and Artillery Adviser to three British battalions in the Radfan, and five Federal Regular Army battalions in Dhala, Beihan and other areas of the Federation.

From October 1965 to January 1966 he provided protection for units of the Royal Engineers working in the Wadi Matlah, and carried out no less than eighty separate picqueting operations.

Later in the same year he took part in fifteen helicopter-borne operations into the Wadi Tayn and Jebel Radfan areas, flying into dissident territory and bringing immediate and accurate artillery fire to bear in support of the infantry companies involved.

He has come under close enemy fire on many occasions particularly during regular dissident mortar and machine-gun attacks on Dhala, when his cool and efficient handling of the defensive artillery has won great praise from the Arab commanding officers concerned.

He has in no way been affected by the physical strain of long and intense operations in the most severe of climates, and he has accompanied patrol after patrol for many hundreds of miles across the mountains of South Arabia showing outstanding powers of endurance and a devotion to duty under the permanent threat of enemy action which could not be surpassed.

Military Cross

Major Courtenay Ernest WELCH (379637), The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers.

Major Welch has commanded X Company for the past ten months on Internal Security operations in the Crater District of Aden State.

Whilst commanding his company he has been personally subjected to grenade attacks, and recently on many occasions to sniper fire.

In order to command his company most effectively, he has used as a Command Vehicle a Landrover, which has been necessarily parked on the highway in Crater town and consequently a constant target for terrorists. His steadfastness under these many attacks and his cool calm directions, have resulted in his company accounting for twenty-eight terrorists. In addition by his quick follow-up action he has himself been involved in many of these successes.

His great robustness and disregard for his own safety together with his calm and professional approach to the situation have been an inspiration to his men, and to others on the battalion net.

His actions have been in the highest traditions of the British Army and make him most worthy of recognition.

Distinguished Conduct Medal

24029338 Fusilier John DUFFY, The Royal Northumberland Fusiliers.

On the 20th June 1967, a Sioux Helicopter of the Queen's Dragoon Guards was detailed to remove a Royal Northumberland Fusilier picquet from Temple hill overlooking Crater. The pilot, Sergeant Ford, lifted one man out on the first run, and returned for the remaining two, Corporal Keithley and Fusilier Duffy, and their radio. Whilst taking off the second time the aircraft came under fire, the pilot was hit in the knee, shattering his kneecap. He tried to continue but lost all tail rota control and had therefore to put the aircraft back on the ground. The aircraft slid on the flat ground and over the edge of a gully below where it burst into flames. In the crash Fusilier Duffy was slightly hurt but Corporal Keithley lost a leg severed below the knee and had the other leg completely shattered. Fusilier Duffy, under fire, despite the fact that the aircraft was burning, with the danger of a fuel explosion, helped the pilot out of the wreckage clear of the aircraft. He then returned to the aircraft and dragged Corporal Keithley away. He returned a third time, retrieved the radio from the wreckage, set it up and informed his base about the incident.

But for Fusilier Duffy's action, both Sergeant Ford and Corporal Keithley would certainly have perished in the wreck. His action with the radio resulted in a quick evacuation of the wounded to hospital.

By his calmness and determination Fusilier Duffy saved the lives of two soldiers under the most dangerous conditions and is worthy of recognition.

Military Medal

23209198 Lance Corporal (acting Corporal) James Kenneth LEWIS, Irish Guards.

On the night of 20th April 1967, Lance Corporal Lewis was a member of an ambush patrol in the Radfan Mountains.

At approximately 2300 hours he heard the noise of a body of men approaching the ambush position. He immediately indicated this to the patrol commander who was thereby able to alert the remainder of the patrol. It soon became clear that the body of men was a strong dissident band and that it was advancing straight into the planned killing zone. However, on drawing close to the ambush position it diverged from the anticipated route and away from the patrol commander's line of fire. It therefore fell to Lance Corporal Lewis as second in command of the killer group to spring the ambush. By this stage however the leading dissidents were almost on top of his flank of the ambush. Realising the serious position in which the ambush was now placed Lance Corporal Lewis stood up in full view of the enemy in order to engage them more effectively, and opened fire at point blank range. Throughout the action he continued to jump up and down from his position in order to bring maximum fire to bear on the enemy, and to secure his flank. Each time he stood up he exposed himself to the intense fire which was brought to bear on his position. At the same time as he was engaging the enemy he was relaying details of enemy movements to his patrol commander, thereby enabling him to get a clearer picture of the situation.

When the patrol commander finally ordered the position to be abandoned Lance Corporal Lewis helped to ensure that the immediate withdrawal was carried out in an orderly fashion, despite heavy follow up fire from the enemy. At the rendezvous he assisted the patrol commander to rally the patrol with great calmness and firmness.

By his actions during the ambush Lance Corporal Lewis held the position together at the critical point of attack, preventing it from being overrun, rallied those immediately around him, and by his fearless exposure to enemy fire inspired his group to fight through to the bitter end. In the withdrawal, by his calm and firm action he rallied and steadied the patrol when it became apparent that severe casualties had been suffered.

Throughout the engagement Lance Corporal Lewis displayed outstanding leadership and exceptional courage. The success of the ambush in which four dissidents were reported killed and seven wounded owes much to the gallant and selfless actions of this non-commissioned officer.