

In addition to his personal courage Major Mackay displayed high moral courage when faced with situations where firm and timely action prevented the spread of terrorism and he was required to execute difficult orders which carried grave responsibility. His tactical control and expertise were outstanding and his personal example was an inspiration to his officers and men in the highest traditions of the British Army on Internal Security duties.

#### *Military Cross*

Captain Edward Charles LODEN (464666) The Parachute Regiment.

Captain Loden is the Intelligence Officer of the 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment stationed in Aden. This young Officer, besides carrying out his normal task, showed exceptional coolness, courage and devotion to duty on three separate occasions during June 1967.

On the 1st June 1967, the terrorist organisation in Aden called a general strike. Early that morning shooting broke out in Sheikh Othman and a violent battle was fought all day between a large number of terrorists and roof top observation posts manned by 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. By early afternoon our positions were short of ammunition, Captain Loden, who knew the best routes and entrances to all the observation posts, immediately offered to take an armoured vehicle and replenish all our positions with ammunition and water. Regardless of his own personal safety and often having to expose himself to sniper fire, he succeeded in his task. His action helped considerably to ensure the victory of our troops in Sheikh Othman that day. Finally that evening Captain Loden was placed in charge of a group of armoured vehicles sent to recover the observation post parties and replace them with fresh troops. This recovery operation was carried out skilfully and without incident. Throughout the whole day this young Officer's conduct and personal bravery was of the highest order. He set a fine example and was an inspiration to all.

In June 1967, Captain Loden, acting on his own initiative, obtained information that a certain house in Sheikh Othman was being used by terrorists as headquarters. He followed this up and, by the 27th June, he was able to give his Commanding Officer complete details. Acting on this information an operation was ordered for late that night. The raid, carried out by a platoon of D (Patrol) Company, 1st Battalion, The Parachute Regiment and a platoon of 1st Battalion, The King's Own Royal Border Regiment, was directed and co-ordinated by Captain Loden. It transpired that the house was being used by the National Liberation Front as a secret hide-out in which to keep kidnapped members of the Front for the Liberation of Occupied South Yemen, the rival terrorist organisation. On the arrival of our troops the National Liberation Front guard shot his four prisoners, killing two and wounding two. He then tried to escape but was shot and captured. The whole operation was carried out with great skill. Its success was primarily due to Captain Loden's determination and perseverance in gaining the information and following it through with a well directed and co-ordinated raid.

On Tuesday 20th June 1967, Captain Loden was commanding one of three officer led patrols sent out of Radfan Camp in armoured three ton vehicles, to search for and recover, wounded and dead in the area of the sand dunes outside Champion Lines following the mutiny of the Federal National Guard. In spite of the area still being under fire the Officer personally recovered bodies from an exposed three ton vehicle belonging to 60 Squadron, Royal Corps of Transport. Throughout Captain Loden showed considerable personal bravery and a high standard of leadership.

#### *Military Cross*

Lieutenant James Alastair MCGREGOR (474006) The Parachute Regiment.

Lieutenant McGregor was the Commander of a detachment of the Mortar Platoon, First Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, which was due to take over duties in the observation post in the tower of Sheikh Othman Police Station on 7th September 1967. As there was to be a general strike on that day, the detachment was ordered to its task twelve hours early at short notice.

At 2200 hours, when the detachment arrived at the Police Station, the observation post was under

spasmodic fire, which continued throughout the night. At first light the enemy fire became both heavy and accurate. Four times armoured cars had to be deployed to relieve the pressure, and restore the fire initiative. During the day Lieutenant McGregor displayed great coolness and leadership. His professional skill, fire control and observation was an inspiration to all his men.

On 9th September 1967, Lieutenant McGregor was still with his detachment in the Police Station, when intense interfacional fighting broke out. For long periods of time the observation post was in cross-fire of small arms, blindicide rockets, and mortars, and the security of the garrison of the Police Station gave grounds for concern. Under Lieutenant McGregor's leadership his men maintained an extremely high standard of alertness and observation, and their reading of the situation provided much valuable information, which was gained often under heavy fire.

During 9th-11th September 1967, Lieutenant McGregor worked in very close liaison with the Civil Police in the preparation and production of a peace broadcast, which eventually led to a cease fire. He then volunteered to remain in the Police Station so as to make best use of the liaison, which he had set up during his stay, as another general strike had been called for on 12th September 1967.

From 6th September until he was relieved on the night 11th-12th September, Lieutenant McGregor handled the situation with skill, firmness, tact and enthusiasm. During the first thirty-six hours his coolness, control and professional skill set a fine example under heavy fire. At no time did he show anything other than complete confidence, and his actions throughout showed a clear understanding of the military and political situations. Lieutenant McGregor's leadership, encouragement and the discipline of his men did much to maintain the morale and loyalty of the Civil Police at a very difficult time.

#### *Military Cross*

2nd Lieutenant Nicholas Embleton EMSON (482168) The Parachute Regiment.

Second Lieutenant Emson is the Platoon Commander of 8 Platoon, "C" Company, First Battalion, The Parachute Regiment. On Thursday 1st June 1967, there was a general strike throughout Aden. "D" Company, with under command 8 Platoon, was deployed in roof top observation posts throughout Sheikh Othman. Second Lieutenant Emson was in command of Observation Post 12. Shortly after first light all observation posts were engaged by accurate and intensive small arms fire, in many cases from as close as 50 yards range. This fire fight went on continuously for nearly five hours. Tragically 8 Platoon's machine gunner was fatally wounded and shortly after it became impossible for the armoured cars to give the observation post supporting fire. Orders were given for the position to be evacuated and the Platoon to move to another nearby observation post. After seeing his casualty safely evacuated by armoured ambulance Second Lieutenant Emson successfully withdrew the platoon without incident. Throughout the remainder of the day and until long after last light his platoon continued the fight from their new position.

Second Lieutenant Emson's personal example and leadership was an inspiration to his men. Throughout the day his courage and coolness under fire was in the highest traditions of the Army.

On Tuesday 20th June 1967, Second Lieutenant Emson's Company was the Internal Security Company in Radfan Camp. That morning there had been an armed uprising of the Federal National Guard in nearby Champion Lines. "C" Company of the King's Own Royal Border Regiment were ordered to move to these lines to secure the main armoury and to restore law and order. In doing this they suffered a number of casualties. In addition there were unconfirmed reports of other British casualties lying out in the sand dunes, an area still swept by fire from Champion Lines.

Second Lieutenant Emson was ordered to take one of three officer led patrols to go out, search for and recover any wounded or dead in the area. He took a party of four men and an armoured 3 ton vehicle. They found two wounded soldiers but soon after came under heavy fire. This punctured the radiator and front tyres causing the vehicle to slew across the road and face directly towards