

Champion Lines. The next burst of fire entered the drivers visor, the hatch of which had been jammed, wounding the driver and three men in the vehicle. Second Lieutenant Emson, without thought of his own safety, pulled the driver out of his seat and managed to turn the vehicle out of the direct line of fire. He then took over the radio and, even though his head set was shot off his head, undaunted continued to pass clear and concise reports back to Battalion Headquarters. Finally, when the firing ceased, he supervised the recovery of his disabled vehicle and the evacuation of his wounded men to hospital. Throughout the action, this young Officer showed exceptional bravery and devotion to duty. His courage and quick action undoubtedly saved many men's lives.

Military Cross

Reverend Robin ROE (445206) Chaplain to the Forces 3rd Class Royal Army Chaplains' Department.

The Reverend Roe volunteered for duty as a Chaplain with the 1st Battalion The Lancashire Regiment in order to accompany the Battalion on a nine month operational tour in Aden. Throughout the tour he has created a deep impression on all ranks in the Battalion by his example, courage and force of personality. Where ever the soldiers have been in action no matter how dangerous or unpleasant the task, he has always been there or has been quickly on the scene.

During the Battalion's operations in Tawahi he accompanied patrols on numerous occasions in and out of the slum area and grenade alleys, both by day and by night, sharing with the men the threats of the terrorist weapons with a coolness that inspired in every man a tremendous self-confidence. He was always quickly on the scene of an incident ready to give assistance to any casualties, and on at least two occasions involving grenade attacks, he was involved in the incidents themselves.

He played a particularly gallant part during the "Aden Mutiny" on 20th June when, oblivious to the heavy fire being directed at the camp, he attempted to drive about 400 yards across open desert to the scene of an incident where several men had been killed and some badly wounded. He was turned back forcibly by another officer only after he personally had been shot at and his Land Rover hit by machine gun fire. He then devoted his attention to assisting the Medical Orderlies inside camp with the local casualties until it was possible to recover the victims of the main attack.

With the change of operational commitment to Al Mansure, a hostile area much given to heavy shooting exchanges, the Reverend Roe has gone far beyond the call of a Chaplain's duty to assist and inspire the men of the Battalion in the time of danger. He has accompanied men on patrol in the face of strong enemy reaction on numerous occasions, at least three of which were under extremely heavy small arms fire and accompanied by grenade attacks. By virtue of his appointment he has not been able to retaliate even to defend himself, nevertheless he has shown complete disregard for his own safety, and has displayed a coolness and air of confidence which has inspired every officer and soldier around him. His concern for the safety of the soldiers, particularly on becoming casualties, has become a byword to every man in the Battalion, and his comfort to next of kin of men seriously wounded or killed in action has had the most profound effect in the maintenance of morale in the Battalion.

His courage and example in the face of danger has been outstanding and his infectious enthusiasm and confidence under all conditions has been an inspiration to the whole Battalion.

Distinguished Flying Cross

Lieutenant (acting Captain) David John RALLS (472605) Royal Corps of Transport (serving with Army Air Corps).

Early in the morning of 30th May 1967, a convoy of Royal Engineer vehicles was ambushed by a dissident force of about thirty men in the Wadi Matlah in the Haushabi province of the South Arabian Federation. An urgent call was received at the command post of 13 Flight Army Air Corps at Habilayn for two helicopters; one in an armed role and the other to evacuate casualties. Although not officially on stand-by Lieutenant Ralls and his gunner were air-borne in an armed Scout over Habilayn in seven minutes.

He reached the ambush position five minutes later. As he was unable to get in touch by radio with the ambushed troops, Lieutenant Ralls landed in what appeared to be dead ground in order to obtain an up-to-date report. The aircraft was immediately shot at and Lieutenant Ralls took off to pinpoint the source of fire.

Firing at the Scout continued, but it was some minutes before the enemy position was located. In order to indicate the target to Fighter Ground Attack aircraft which were over the area, Lieutenant Ralls flew over it and his gunner engaged it. At this stage his Scout was hit by enemy small arms fire. Notwithstanding, Lieutenant Ralls circled to drop a smoke grenade to mark the enemy position and then directed three Hunter strikes on to it.

When the strikes were completed, Lieutenant Ralls tried to observe their effect and again came under fire from an unseen position. He continued to engage the enemy, who could be seen in the area of a cave, until the arrival of troops from 45 commando Royal Marines in a Wessex helicopter. Although still under fire, the Scout led the Wessex in to a landing point just above the cave. As a result of this operation three enemy dead were subsequently recovered.

Lieutenant Ralls then landed in the ambush position and, after lifting out four of the casualties, he returned to Habilayn to re-fuel. It was then discovered that owing to the damage it had suffered from enemy fire, his aircraft was no longer air-worthy. With his gunner, Lieutenant Ralls transferred to another Scout and immediately returned to the area of operations, where throughout the day he provided general support for the follow-up troops. This support involved many landings in very rugged terrain calling for considerable skill and courage on his part.

The very high temperature and the height of the jebels on which this operation took place made flying most difficult. Coupled with the resolution shown by the enemy, this made conditions extremely hazardous.

Throughout the day, under the most exacting circumstances, Lieutenant Ralls displayed the highest standards of flying. Largely due to his determination, coolness, and military judgment it was possible to extricate the engineers from the ambush position. Furthermore his control of the strike aircraft and his selection of a landing point for the Wessex were instrumental in causing at least two, and probably more, enemy casualties.

The courage, flying skill and initiative displayed by this very junior officer throughout the action were of the highest order and a magnificent example and encouragement to all troops in the operation.

Military Medal

23659685 Corporal (acting Sergeant) Ian Roderick SCOTT, Corps of Royal Engineers.

On the morning of 30th May 1967 Sergeant Scott was in command of the leading group of a convoy moving down the Wadi Matlah, South Arabia. At about 0815 hours the vehicles ran into a strong dissident ambush and came under heavy fire from rockets, machine gun and small arms fire. Both the leading vehicle and Sergeant Scott's vehicle were hit and many casualties were sustained by the men as they dismounted to take up fire positions.

Although under heavy fire from only 30 or 40 yards distance, Sergeant Scott first called the roll to establish who was wounded, then organised the men so that they could bring effective fire to bear. Six men were lying injured and two men were killed in an area swept by heavy fire. Sergeant Scott personally assisted the wounded to a safer area and administered first aid. After helping one seriously injured man to safety he was himself wounded.

For about twenty minutes he, with one other unwounded soldier, kept up a continuous fire at any enemy who moved. After a lull in the firing a dissident group attempted to assault their position, one reaching the road. This assault Sergeant Scott and his companion beat off. Then regardless of his own safety he made his way to the radio vehicle which was in an exposed position, only to find that the radio had been damaged. Though pinned down by enemy sniping he returned the fire and contrived to encourage his men and the wounded, until reinforcements arrived to drive the enemy back; this being accomplished some two hours after the ambush was sprung. It was not until he returned with the remainder of his troop to the unit base, that he,