

Lieutenant Colonel Scott planned his attack carefully the Battalion took their first objective without opposition. As they moved to take their second objective the Battalion was met by a heavy concentration of artillery, mortar and machine gun fire. Well positioned enemy snipers dominated the difficult, rising ground over which the Guards had to advance, and harassed exposed movement. The nature of the ground on the flanks and the weight of enemy fire upon it made manoeuvre impossible. A battle of attrition developed and the success of the plan hung in the balance. This phase lasted for six hours. Throughout, although almost constantly under artillery fire himself, Lieutenant Colonel Scott led his Battalion in an outstanding manner. He personally directed and encouraged the leading Company Commander and his example and coolness inspired and steadied all around him. He caused artillery fire to be brought down close to his forward troops so that they were able to close with the enemy and defeat them. It was due to Lieutenant Colonel Scott's personal determination and leadership that the Scots Guards were able to achieve a break through at this vital point and so capture their main objective.

The outcome of this engagement, which lasted nine hours, was instrumental in breaking the enemy's will to fight on.

The conduct of the Scots Guards during this protracted and exhausting night engagement was exemplary and much of the credit rests with their Commanding Officer.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Distinguished Service Cross to the undermentioned in recognition of distinguished service during the operations in the South Atlantic:

Distinguished Service Cross

23675237 Warrant Officer Class 2 John Henry PHILLIPS, Corps of Royal Engineers

On 22nd May 1982 Warrant Officer Class 2 Phillips and another NCO of 49 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron Royal Engineers were carrying out explosive ordnance disposal duties in the Falkland Islands. They were tasked to deal with an unexploded bomb in the boiler-room of HMS ARGONAUT. Another unexploded bomb lay in a flooded missile magazine nearby. Working in extraordinarily cramped conditions and in very unfamiliar surroundings Phillips and a NCO successfully remotely rendered safe the bomb which was later removed from the ship. This action enabled the damage to the boiler room to be repaired, so that HMS ARGONAUT regained propulsion and was able to manoeuvre defensively in further air attacks.

On 23rd May 1982, Warrant Office Class 2 Phillips and the same NCO were tasked to neutralise two unexploded bombs in HMS ANTELOPE. The first bomb examined could not be approached until extensive clearance of debris had taken place. They therefore set about rendering safe the second bomb which was situated near the centre of the ship. The bomb had been slightly damaged and was assessed as being in a dangerous condition. They tried three times to render the bomb safe using a remote method, having to approach the bomb after each attempt to adjust the equipment, but on each occasion, the fuse could not be withdrawn. After a fourth attempt, which involved using a small charge, the bomb unexpectedly exploded. The blast was considerable. Despite a blast route of open doors and hatches up through the ship, the fully clipped steel door at the forward end of the passageway, where the bomb disposal team was standing, was completely blown off and nearly bent double. Warrant Officer Class 2 Phillips was seriously injured.

Warrant Officer Class 2 Phillips displayed courage of the highest order and persevered with attempts to defuse the bomb in HMS ANTELOPE fully aware that its condition was particularly dangerous.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the Posthumous award of the Military Cross to the undermentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished service during operations in the South Atlantic.

Military Cross

Captain Gavin John HAMILTON (499793), The Green Howards (Alexandra, Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment)

Between 19th April and 10th June, when he was killed in action, Captain Hamilton and his SAS Troop were responsible for some of the most successful SAS operations carried out in the campaign in the South Atlantic.

Having survived two helicopter crashes in appalling weather conditions on the Fortuna Glacier in South Georgia, two days later Captain Hamilton let the advance elements of the forces which captured the main enemy positions in Grytviken. This action resulted in the total surrender of all enemy forces in South Georgia.

Ten days later, Captain Hamilton led his Troop on the successful and brilliantly executed raid on Pebble Island in the Falklands Islands when eleven enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground. Acting quickly and decisively and with great courage and coolness, he personally supervised the destruction of seven of the aircraft.

Later even though his Troop had lost half of its strength in a helicopter crash the previous day, Captain Hamilton led the remainder of his men on a highly successful diversionary raid on Darwin in order to cover the main amphibious landings on East Falkland. That he was able to do this after such losses is an immense testimony to his resilience and leadership qualities.

Next, Captain Hamilton deployed with his Squadron to a position 40 miles behind the enemy lines overlooking the main enemy defensive positions in Port Stanley. Again, his leadership and courage proved to be instrumental over the next seven days of continuous operations in seizing this vital ground from which the attack on Port Stanley was ultimately launched. On 27th May he identified an enemy probe into the Squadron position and in the ensuing battle captured a prisoner of war. The next night, he and his Troop successfully held off another enemy attack and by doing so enabled 42 Commando to fly in as planned to re-inforce the position—an important step in the repossession of the Falklands. On the following day he ambushed another enemy patrol wounding three and capturing all five members of the patrol.

On 5th June, he was deployed in command of a four man observation patrol into a hazardous position again behind enemy lines on West Falkland to carry out observation of enemy activities in Port Howard. He managed to establish himself in a position only 2500m from the enemy, from where he sent detailed and accurate reports on the enemy.

Shortly after dawn on 10th June he realised that he and his radio operator had been surrounded in a forward position. Although heavily outnumbered, and with no reinforcements available, he gave the order to engage the enemy, telling his signaller that they should both attempt to fight their way out of the encirclement. Since the withdrawal route was completely exposed to enemy observation and fire, he initiated the fire fight in order to allow his signaller to move first. After the resulting exchange of fire he was wounded in the back, and it became clear to his signaller that Captain Hamilton was only able to move with difficulty. Nevertheless, he told his signaller that he would continue to hold off the enemy whilst the signaller made good his escape, and then he proceeded to give further covering fire. Shortly after that he was killed. Captain Hamilton displayed outstanding determination and an extraordinary will to continue the fight in spite of being confronted by hopeless odds and being wounded. He furthermore showed supreme courage and sense of duty by his conscious decision to sacrifice himself on behalf of his signaller.

His final, brave and unselfish act will be an inspiration to all who follow in the SAS.

The QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Military Cross to the undermentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished service during the operations in the South Atlantic:

Military Cross

Major Michael Hugh ARGUE (495605), The Parachute Regiment

Major Argue commanded B Company 3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment throughout the campaign. His leadership, example and skill as a commander were well tested throughout a long, exhausting advance across East Falkland, towards the Brigade Key Objectives. On the night 11th/12th June, his Company had the task of capturing the rocky, fortress-like summit of Mount Longdon, a narrow objective, over 1000 metres in depth. After a swift approach march including several awkward water obstacles, his company approached its objective across very open ground and through moorland known to be mined. They continued to close silently on the mountain top, by now harassed with fixed line machine gun and indirect fire from the enemy and a foothold was gained into the rocks. For the next ten hours, until first light, the company fought grimly forward, closing with each enemy bunker in turn, and needing all their resources of weaponry, minor tactics and sheer courage to overcome a most determined opponent, dug into the rocks in battalion strength along the Mountain top. Snipers continually impeded attempts at flanking movements, whilst heavy machine gun and 120 mm mortar fire was accurate and sustained. The Company took considerable losses in killed and wounded as it moved forward, but steadily advanced Eastwards along the objective. Major Argue was up with his leading Platoon at all times; inspiring his soldiers by his own courage and example. He was able to report clearly and regularly on a most confused situation, and this greatly helped in the accurate engagement of the enemy with support weapons, artillery, mortar and Naval gunfire.

His courage, leadership and example were an inspiration to his soldiers, whose performance that night outclassed all others.