

silhouetted by his headlights, signalled that the enemy should surrender. When he got close, they came forward to him and he motioned them to lie down so that he could search them.

One of his prisoners was an officer who spoke English. Corporal Anderson bluffed and told him to tell the others to come forward, as an artillery barrage was soon to be fired on the position. When he did so, another 19 came forward to give up.

It should be stressed that, throughout the incident, Corporal Anderson had no idea of his location or the size of the enemy objective. He did, however, realise that he was totally unsupported, with no help available even indirectly. The position he had captured and cleared was part of the 4 Brigade objective. It is ironic that four minutes after they had left the position it came under heavy artillery bombardment prior to 4 Brigade's assault. As a direct result of his determination to persuade the enemy to surrender, he effectively captured a company strength position with one tank and one personnel carrier. He also prevented the bloodshed that the artillery would have wrought had the position not already been vacated.

At the time of the incident it was totally unclear as to what resistance the enemy were likely to mount, as the Battle Group had not been involved in any direct action. Corporal Anderson's conduct in an uncertain and difficult situation was decisive.

M.M.

24762822 Lance Corporal Ian Michael DEWSNAP,
Corps of Royal Engineers.

Lance Corporal Dewsnap was a Plant Operator Mechanic in 73 Squadron during Operation Granby. He operated a Medium Wheeled Tractor carrying out a variety of earth moving tasks.

During the advance of 4th Armoured Brigade on the night of 26/27 February 1991, engineer support was required to cross a pipeline obstacle. 73 Field Squadron was tasked to provide maintenance support for two crossings and Lance Corporal Dewsnap was deployed to the southern one. Although some protection at the crossing points was expected, when Lance Corporal Dewsnap arrived, he found he was on his own.

An hour before first light, Lance Corporal Dewsnap, in total isolation and without radio communications, was suddenly faced with approximately 30 armed Iraqi soldiers. They were slowly moving towards his position but his escape route to the North was cut off. As they drew near he realised the Iraqis were surrendering and with great composure and presence of mind, he gathered them together in one group and disarmed them. As daylight broke, a further large armed group of about 60-70 Iraqis approached in a more menacing manner. Lance Corporal Dewsnap, still alone, acted on instinct, fired several rounds over the heads of the group and ordered the enemy soldiers to lay down their weapons. This they did. He then herded the prisoners together, now numbering 90-100, and started to move them as a group to the northern crossing. Shortly after moving out he was met by a fellow operator, who assisted him in moving the prisoners to a temporary prisoner of war cage.

Lance Corporal Dewsnap, a young soldier of only 20, acted alone with great control and composure in the face of overwhelming enemy numbers, whose intentions were by no means clear.

M.M.

24780087 Private Thomas Robertson GOW,
The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment).

On 26 February 1991, 1 Royal Scots Battle Group was ordered to attack an enemy position in Southern Iraq as part of 4th Armoured Brigade's thrust East. B Company was tasked to assault a platoon objective which was well established and dug in. A preliminary phase of the operation had confirmed that there were T-55 tanks in the area. The position was subjected to an intense artillery bombardment which, combined with a strong wind, produced appalling visibility.

Five Platoon of B Company carried out a rolling assault on the northern end of the position whilst the remainder of the company provided fire support. As the attack proceeded it became apparent that at least one of the vehicles was too well dug in to be reached by Warrior Armoured Personnel Carriers.

Private Gow, who was acting as the section second in command, immediately appreciated the situation and saw that the momentum was being lost. On his own initiative, he ordered his fire team to cover him and crawled forward towards the vehicle. Despite the fact that mines and bomblets had already exploded on the objective, he got to a position within 20 metres of the enemy vehicle and destroyed it with his Close Assault Weapon and finished it off with a grenade. He then followed up by charging two bunkers, clearing them with grenades, without regard to the ammunition exploding around him. He captured three officers and four soldiers.

Private Gow had been in action for 24 hours and his section had already been involved in an assault before. The initiative, aggression and determination displayed by this brave man during this action exceeded that expected of his rank and experience.

M.M.

24751995 Lance Corporal Kevin Melvin Simon REID,
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

On the morning of 27 February 1991, 7th Armoured Brigade resumed its bold outflanking manoeuvre deep into Iraqi territory. As the leading battle groups advanced towards the Kuwait border, 10 (Assaye) Air Defence Battery was given the vital task of defending the supporting logistic units.

At 1445 hours, as the Battery was approaching the Wadi Al Baten, the Javelin detachments of A Troop came under accurate tank fire. Almost immediately, a Spartan vehicle received a direct hit and burst into flames. Although the driver and operator managed to escape, the vehicle commander, Bombardier York, was trapped and unable to release himself. Lance Corporal Reid was near the vehicle when it had been hit and could see that Bombardier York required immediate assistance. With total disregard for his own safety, Lance Corporal Reid immediately went to Bombardier York's assistance and tried to free him. Throughout, Lance Corporal Reid and the vehicle were under accurate tank fire, and a second Spartan only three metres away was hit and set on fire.

Although his first attempt to free Bombardier York failed, he ignored the rapidly growing flames and fought