

Queen's Gallantry Medal

Q.G.M.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (ARMY DEPARTMENT)

24343227 Sergeant Stephen ALLEN,

Royal Regiment of Artillery.

During an advance to contact on 27 February 1991, two Spartan Air Defence vehicles were hit by tank fire and were burning fiercely. After manoeuvring his Warrior Armoured Personnel Carrier close to the Spartans, Sergeant Allen, without considering his own safety, jumped onto the blazing vehicle to check whether there was anyone in the driver's compartment. Before he had left the shelter of his own vehicle, there was a violent explosion from the rear of the Spartan, showering the Warrior in burning phosphorous and wreckage. Nevertheless, Sergeant Allen continued to climb onto the Spartan despite the intense heat and checked the driver's compartment at considerable personal danger to himself. As a result of this brave action he was able to ascertain that driver's compartment was empty. As he got back into the Warrior there was a further explosion which totally engulfed the front Spartan in flames.

The personal courage displayed by Sergeant Allen was in the highest tradition of both his Regiment and the British Army.

Q.G.M.

24836235 Fusilier Simon BAKKOR,

The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

On 26 February 1991, C Company 3 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers was advancing on the Battle Group's northern flank, destroying enemy artillery. At 1502 hours, two vehicles of 8 Platoon took direct hits from aerial attack. Fusilier Bakkor was the gunner on the second of these vehicles to be hit. As soon as he saw the explosion he left his turret, ran across the open ground between the two vehicles, disregarding the danger of secondary explosion, and mounted the burning vehicle attempting to extricate the gunner. While trying to get the hatches open he was blown from the vehicle by a further explosion which resulted in shrapnel wounds in his thigh. He was subsequently evacuated from the battlefield. Fusilier Bakkor showed considerable courage and a complete disregard for his own safety in his valiant attempt to rescue his colleague. Tragically his efforts were unsuccessful, and resulted in him being wounded. His conduct in this dangerous situation was outstanding and he displayed great courage. His action was instinctive and represents a display of bravery in the face of acute personal danger which is of the very highest order.

Q.G.M.

24344317 Corporal Michael John DRISCOLL,

Royal Corps of Transport.

On 28 February 1991, Corporal Driscoll was in the front of an ambulance on a joint convoy of medical vehicles made up from 142 Medical Company of the 429th Medical Battalion and 24 (Airmobile) Field Ambulance RAMC. At approximately 1500 hrs during poor weather in a sandstorm, the convoy encountered perceived enemy fire. A medical officer occupying the rear vehicle of the convoy had been killed following an explosion which appeared to have

been as a result of a mine. Shortly afterwards, a second explosion was heard off the track near Corporal Driscoll's ambulance. In this instance, a young female medical assistant had sustained a traumatic amputation of a leg with a large open abdominal wound. Four other casualties has been taken, each lying off the track in what now appeared to be a minefield. Corporal Driscoll, despite having sustained a shrapnel wound to his thigh, set out to provide medical care to the wounded, having moved the injured female to a place of safety. He then subsequently directed the evacuation requirements and called for an air ambulance helicopter. After having had his own wound dressed, he refused to board the aircraft until all the wounded had been boarded and, when satisfied, was persuaded to be evacuated to a forward hospital.

Corporal Driscoll's actions in the rescue of the casualty, without hesitation and without regard to his own safety, showed uncommon bravery and were an inspiration to those around him. His subsequent command and control of an extremely confused situation ensured that all casualties received prompt attention and were sustained until the arrival of the casualty evacuation helicopter.

Corporal Driscoll showed great presence of mind and devotion to duty, and behaved in a manner well above that expected of his rank.

Q.G.M.

24645371 Corporal Mark Robert GRIFFITHS,

Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

On 26 February, at about 1200 hours, Corporal Griffiths's vehicle was in a convoy of Tank Transporters moving northwards into Iraq carrying vital replacement armour through the border breach. He was following directly behind the stores vehicle of B Troop when smoke started to come from inside the canopy. The vehicle was brought to a halt but the fire spread quickly through the stores inside which included four jerrycans of fuel, the troops' reserve of ammunition, 66mm anti-tank rockets and L2 hand grenades. In spite of the ferocity of the blaze and the dangerous cargo, Corporal Griffiths leapt into the vehicle and returned time and again to try and recover equipment and stores until finally he had to retire for his own safety.

As the conflagration partially subsided Corporal Griffiths continued to play the most prominent part in tackling the remaining areas still alight. To accomplish this he climbed onto the vehicle with a shovel and began to jettison burning stores.

Through his personal endeavours, and the practical demonstration of the highest standard of leadership, Corporal Griffiths saved the vehicle in question from being totally destroyed by the fire and enabled it to continue throughout the operation. His behaviour throughout this incident, and the personal courage he displayed, as we advanced into Iraq are in the highest traditions of his Corps and the British Army.

Q.G.M.

24472659 Sergeant Trevor Hugh SMITH,

The Royal Anglian Regiment.

On 26 February 1991, C Company 3 Royal Regiment of Fusiliers was advancing on the Battle