

The Division, led by Brigadier Cordingley's Brigade into Saudi Arabia, and again into action, has benefited greatly from all that he has done throughout Operation Granby.

D.S.O.

Major General Rupert Anthony SMITH, O.B.E.,
Q.G.M. (477836),

Late The Parachute Regiment.

Major General Smith has led the largest British armoured force deployed in action since World War II. He has done so with consummate skill and outstanding personal leadership and under direct enemy fire.

Within two weeks of taking over 1 Armoured Division in Germany, Major General Smith was despatched to the Gulf to command 35,000 men and women making up the British Ground Force contribution to Operation Granby. The force was made up of a wide variety of individuals, many never having served together before. He was given a two Brigade Division with exceptionally strong artillery and engineer support. Although he did not know it at the time, he had only six weeks to pull his force together, train it, and deploy it some 350 miles, and set up a close working relationship with the Americans under whose tactical control he was placed.

By the time the war started he had achieved all of these targets and had a first class fighting Division under his command.

During the land battle his Division was given a key role in the US VII Corps battle which involved a rapid exploitation of the minefield breach and a rapid advance to destroy some three Iraqi divisions. Failure to achieve it would have destroyed the main thrust of the Commander in Chief's battle plan and could have resulted in grave and heavy US casualties.

With consummate personal attention to the detailed planning, and with outstanding personal leadership, Major General Smith swept his command through the breach and attacked the Iraqi division in detail. He personally led from the front with fearless disregard for the enemy anti tank fire, and despite the high threat of chemical weapons being used. With outstanding skill, and no little personal bravery, his Division achieved its objectives, secured the flank of VII Corps and enabled the main thrust of Desert Storm to sweep through and destroy the Iraqi rear divisions.

Major General Smith has led the major British land force operations on Operation Granby with a level of skill and personal bravery that is a credit to our nation.

D.S.O.

One Distinguished Service Order was awarded to a Member of the Special Air Service Group.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL, LONDON S.W.1

29th June 1991

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 Gulf:

Military Cross

M.C.

Lieutenant Anthony Guy BRISELDEN (520464),

The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers.

For conspicuous gallantry in Southern Iraq on 26 February 1991. Lieutenant Briselden, Battle Group Anti Tank Platoon Commander, was deployed with one of his Milan sections as part of a reconnaissance screen to the flank of the Battle Group as it advanced. The Reconnaissance Group encountered an occupied enemy defensive position. On orders, Lieutenant Briselden led his small force to conduct a dismounted assault against the fortified enemy position. The situation was confused, and sporadic enemy fire from the position was impeding the progress of the advance. On dismounting from their Warrior Armoured Personnel Carrier, the section took cover and were reluctant to move forward. Assessing the situation, and realising the need to take effective action to seize the initiative, Lieutenant Briselden crawled forward alone over 30 yards of exposed ground to clear single handedly the first enemy bunker. This he did successfully by the use of grenades. He immediately continued his attack on a second bunker with complete disregard for his own personal safety. By this time the men of Lieutenant Briselden's platoon, inspired and motivated by his exceptional personal example, had moved forward to support him in clearing the remainder of the position which was subsequently rendered inactive. Lieutenant Briselden's actions were in the highest traditions of the Service and resulted in a successful action. That success at the early stage of the Battle Group's operation had a significant effect on morale throughout the unit and inspired all those who heard about it.

M.C.

Major Simon James KNAPPER, M.B.E. (499735),

The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's).

On commencement of the land campaign, A Company 1st Battalion the Staffordshire Regiment was attached to the Scots Dragoon Guards Battle Group. In the initial advance to contact on the night on 25 February 1991, the Battle Group came across two enemy positions; one based around an important communications site, the other near a vital well source. Major Knapper's Company was ordered to destroy the enemy on both positions. The enemy were supported by armour, with automatic weapons and were dug in in bunkers, and there was always the danger of mines. The first attack on the communications site took place in the dark, involving a three-phase operation with troops dismounting just short of the objective. The second objective was attacked in daylight; the enemy strength was not known but it was assumed to be a Company plus. During both attacks Major Knapper showed considerable personal gallantry under fire. He directed his platoons to eliminate enemy positions and destroy enemy equipment in a calm, authoritative manner, very much leading from the front. His platoons had to fight from position to position using grenades and small arms. Under his leadership, the platoons pressed home their attacks, causing casualties amongst the enemy, and capturing some 60 enemy prisoners of war. No attempt was made to count enemy dead for fear of booby traps. However, three of Major Knapper's soldiers were wounded in this difficult and confusing action.

Major Knapper's personal bravery and leadership under fire was inspirational.