

M.C.

Captain (Acting Major) Vincent James Tobias
MADDISON (507057),

The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars.

When The Queen's Royal Irish Hussars passed through the border minefield and into Iraq on 25 February, the Battle Group was led by Major Maddison's Squadron, spear-heading 7th Armoured Brigade's breakout to the east. The immense speed at which the Squadron drove forward set the pace for the entire Division. In the first British contacts of the war, Major Maddison pressed his Squadron on relentlessly, fixing and destroying a number of enemy positions. At nightfall, in pitch darkness and driving rain, Major Maddison's Squadron made contact with an enemy force of brigade strength. Over a four hour period the Squadron manoeuvred, probing the position. Although fighting almost blind, Major Maddison accurately determined the size and extent of the position, enabling the Brigade Commander to co-ordinate an attack. During the course of this operation, Major Maddison identified an enemy armoured counter-attack. He reacted immediately, deploying his Squadron into a counter-penetration position from which 14 enemy tanks were destroyed. The counter-attack was consequently broken up, an action which played a vital part in the success of the Brigade attack. At first light, Major Maddison again manoeuvred his Squadron forward, destroying a further 12 enemy tanks and capturing some 50 prisoners.

Three hours later, the Squadron was again in contact, fighting on the right flank of a Battle Group attack. For a second time, Major Maddison detected an enemy counter-attack, which he halted with rapid manoeuvre and accurate fire. During this action, a number of enemy tanks were destroyed and some 80 prisoners captured.

Throughout the campaign, during which Major Maddison's Squadron advanced some 300 kilometres in four days, he commanded with outstanding leadership and great courage.

M.C.

Major John POTTER (509149),

The Royal Highland Fusiliers
(Princess Margaret's Own Glasgow and Ayrshire
Regiment).

Major Potter commanded B Company in 1 Royal Scots Battle Group during the campaign. The Battle Group was in contact with the enemy for the majority of the time and B Company was left in front throughout. 1 Royal Scots attacked three major objectives and Major Potter's Company was heavily involved. Wherever his Company was, his vehicle could always be seen in the midst of the action. He moved around constantly encouraging, leading, directing and chastising, without regard for enemy fire or mines.

The first engagement for the Battle Group in Southern Iraq began with tanks engaging an enemy artillery battery. The night was pitch dark and rain obscured the image intensification sights of the Warrior Armoured Personnel Carrier. B Company moved forward to either force a surrender or to complete the destruction of the enemy. There were reports of mines in the area and enemy had been engaged just to the North.

Major Potter co-ordinated a violent concentration of fire onto the objective and shortly after, the enemy began to surrender. Major Potter used headlight signals to encourage the others and soon the position was secured. Later, at another position, after a surrender, Major Potter gave clear instructions for the tending of enemy wounded and the burial of the dead. Under pressure to press on, he ensured that the worst of the wounded were carried forward with the Battle Group.

During the Battle Group attack on yet another position, Major Potter led his Company through a turmoil of dust, direct and indirect fire, to execute a classic rolling up operation. His awareness and steadiness helped him ease his company into position to exert an unsurvivable concentration of firepower. He executed the operation with ruthless efficiency and quickly redeployed to cover A Company's impending attack.

Following a further four attacks, and during a Battle Group replenishment, Major Potter's Company observed another enemy position which it immediately attacked and soon overcame. By this time Major Potter's Company had been in action or on the move for 48 hours and had had little sleep.

Major Potter's leadership was outstanding. He was cool under fire, calm in contact, resolute in danger and pursued the enemy with clinical ruthlessness. He was an example to all who knew him.

M.C.

Major John Matthew ROCHELLE (499763),

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

On the outbreak of the land campaign, Major Rochelle's C Company formed a part of the 1 Staffords Battle Group. On the evening of 26 February 1991, after being in contact for some 24 hours, Major Rochelle was ordered to move his Company to a Counter Penetration position. It was during this move that his Company was surprised by an enemy force of about two Companies. After a fierce exchange of fire a large number of enemy started to surrender. At this stage another group of enemy opened fire from the flanks using small arms, anti tank weapons and grenades, killing one member of Major Rochelle's Company. The Company then assaulted these positions, which included buildings. During these assaults, Major Rochelle controlled his Company, calmly pressing home the attacks to clear these areas using small arms, grenades and mortars. His bravery and firm leadership under fire enabled the Company to restore what was, by then, a difficult and confused situation in the dark. The end result was considerable enemy casualties, both killed and wounded, and some 300 enemy prisoners taken.

M.C.

Captain Norman Graeme Scott SOUTAR (508898),

The Royal Scots (The Royal Regiment).

Captain Soutar commanded A Company of 1 Royal Scots Battle Group. Fifteen enemy positions were attacked by the Battle Group in all, and Captain Soutar's Company was involved in about half of these.