

At the first position in Southern Iraq, Captain Soutar's Company was the right forward Company within the Battle Group. Shortly after midnight on a dark and very wet night, B Company assaulted a position, and whilst they reorganised, A Company was pushed forward with some tanks. Enemy guns were identified and, whilst the tanks destroyed them, Captain Soutar led a dismounted assault to clear enemy bunkers from around them. The area, according to a recently captured enemy prisoner of war, contained mines. The position was systematically cleared with grenades.

Later, at another position, Captain Soutar led his Company into a mounted assault. He chose to advance rapidly into his own artillery barrage in order to ensure the shock action of his attack. The enemy were at rifle point when they recovered. During reorganisation, his vehicles ran over a number of anti personnel mines and bomblets but Captain Soutar calmly shepherded them to safety.

Thirty-two hours after the Battle Group left its original forming up point Captain Soutar's Company was still attacking. He was always forward and always ready to lead, whether mounted or on foot. He had trained his Company to be ruthless and they used their weapons to shocking effect and with chilling precision.

However, there were times when Captain Soutar personally put himself at risk in order to encourage the speedy surrender of enemy to allow the advance to continue.

He was a bold leader: decisive, brave, fit and not afraid of violence. He never placed himself at less risk than those he led and he offered a fine example of true leadership in battle.

#### M.C.

Second Lieutenant Richard Edmund TELFER  
(531931),

The Royal Scots Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers  
and Greys).

On Monday 25 February 1991, Second Lieutenant Telfer was commanding a troop of three Challenger tanks advancing East, as part of the Scots Dragoon Guards Battle Group, deep into Iraqi territory. His troop was the extreme right hand troop of the Battle Group. During a brief halt he noticed signs of an enemy position to the South. It was an extremely dark night and heavy driving rain considerably reduced the effectiveness of the night vision devices. The enemy position seemed to consist of an extensive, well prepared bunker system with vehicles in revetments. The enemy were moving about actively within it. The position was large and Iraqi norms led them to believe it would be protected by minefields.

However, because of the need to maintain momentum, it was decided that the position should be immediately attacked. Second Lieutenant Telfer calmly and clearly described what could be glimpsed. He was tasked to marshal an infantry company behind him, brief the Company Commander and lead them into the centre of the enemy position. No artillery was available to suppress the enemy and whilst it would have been normal to allocate three tanks to lead in the infantry, because one had a mechanical problem and another was required to guard the flank, Second Lieutenant Telfer was ordered to attack alone. He moved boldly forward, opening fire with his machine

gun to indicate on a pitch black night, the centre of the enemy position. He was therefore the sole focus of all the enemy's return fire. Enemy small arms fire ricocheted off his turret and orange flares went up, which were believed to be a signal that the enemy were about to bring down massive artillery fire. He remained utterly steady, simultaneously suppressing the enemy position, describing what he could see and leading the infantry right on to the objective, delivering them intact to exactly the desired spot. He remained on the enemy position for the next 45 minutes, considerably exposed, as illumination had been put up to support the infantry, calmly assisting and directing their efforts even when he was engaged by infantry close assault weapons.

This was the very first attack launched by the Scots Dragoon Guards Battle Group. It was against a substantial position whose dimensions had not been fully established. It was conducted with no artillery or mortar support and little direct fire because of the worries about friendly forces to the South and West. Second Lieutenant Telfer had only joined the Regiment four months before deployment on Operation Granby and was one of the most junior officers commanding a Tank Troop. He displayed clear headed courage in the attack out of all proportion to his age and experience; he set the standard for the rest of the Battle Group. As a direct result, the enemy position was rapidly overrun, the Battle Group was able to press on, and logistic units following closely had a great threat to them removed.

#### M.C.

Three Military Crosses were awarded to Members 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 Distinguished Conduct Medal to the undermentioned in recognition of distinguished conduct and bravery during the operations in the Gulf:

#### Distinguished Conduct Medal

#### D.C.M.

24495443 Staff Sergeant Kevin Michael DAVIES,  
Corps of Royal Military Police.

Staff Sergeant Davies commanded 3 Platoon, 203 Provost Company which was under tactical command of HQ 7 Armoured Brigade for Operation Granby. His duties required him to move early through the obstacle breach in wheeled vehicles, alongside the armoured reconnaissance, in order to lay out the Brigade rendezvous line on the far side of the breach, and establish the Forming Up Point (FUP) for the Brigade Administrative Area (BAA). Thereafter, he would be responsible for signing the axis of advance so that the BAA could follow hard up on the Brigade in order to provide logistic support.

On 25 February 1991, early Allied successes had advanced timings for the Brigade's passage of lines, and the forward elements were already some four hours ahead of the BAA by the time the FUP was