

identified and taken away. Only when he was sure that his men had been safely handed over to another Senior Non-Commissioned Officer did he agree to go to hospital to have his own wound attended to.

On 17th August, after the Battalion had taken over the hostile area of Al Mansoura, Sergeant Hughes was leading a foot patrol across some open ground when he came under heavy automatic fire. He deployed his patrol quickly in order to return the fire but whilst directing his men he was hit and badly wounded in the left arm and stomach. He would not allow his men to come to his aid, thus exposing themselves, until they had effectively dealt with the enemy and by that time he was in considerable pain and bleeding badly.

The determination and complete fearlessness that he has shown in all his actions has been similarly reflected in his battle for life whilst in hospital after his last wounding. His outstanding leadership, high sense of duty and unselfish devotion to his platoon have been of the highest order at all times.

#### *Military Medal*

23935360 Lance Corporal (acting Corporal) Robert John SANDERSON, The Lancashire Regiment (Prince of Wales's Volunteers).

During the night of the 19/20th of May 1967, Corporal Sanderson was in command of a patrol in the Al Mansura area of Sheikh Othman when he heard distant shots being fired which he correctly deduced were terrorist fire at the static posts of the Al Mansura Detention Centre. At this time he was some distance from the Detention Centre and in an unfamiliar area. However, despite the unfamiliarity of the ground and darkness he decided to deviate from his patrol route and try to ambush the terrorists. He therefore quickly rebriefed his patrol and with considerable speed and despatch moved into a position in rear of the terrorist firing point. To ensure that his ambush was in the correct position without making the enemy aware of his presence was extremely difficult and involved him in danger during reconnaissance.

Nevertheless, he soon had his ambush positioned and was in time to see two men approach from the direction of the enemy firing point. Quietly and skilfully he and his patrol lay low until the men were in the trap. Corporal Sanderson then exposed himself and gave the normal correct challenge. He was immediately fired upon by one of the men who turned and ran. Corporal Sanderson calmly and deliberately gave a fire order and one man was shot dead. The other immediately surrendered.

Corporal Sanderson's actions and skilful handling of his patrol undoubtedly eliminated two extremely dangerous terrorists in an area where one mistake may have resulted in the death or injury of innocent persons. To ensure he had the right men Corporal Sanderson deliberately exposed himself to the enemy and their fire.

In this action Corporal Sanderson displayed outstanding professional skill and a complete disregard for his personal safety without which the operation could not have been successful.

#### *Military Medal*

23233052 Sergeant Joseph HARKINS, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's).

Sergeant Harkins was the platoon sergeant of 13 Platoon D Company, 1st Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He arrived with the Battalion in Aden at a time when British troops had been driven out of the Crater District and occupied only the high ground around the town.

During the re-entry into Crater on the 3rd and 4th July 1967, Sergeant Harkins' platoon were given the task of spear-heading the Company night attack along the main axis into the heart of the town. The only information available on the enemy was that they were numerous and well supplied with arms and ammunition. Regardless of this uncertainty, the platoon carried out its attack with precision and efficiency and the opposition melted away with only token resistance.

The platoon objective, the Government Primary School, was a large stone building with exposed balconies and corridors, overlooked on all sides by other buildings in Crater. Throughout the first and subsequent nights Sergeant Harkins directed the security measures necessary to hold the position against attack. Windows were barricaded, walls mouse-holed and weapon positions constructed. A

vigorous and sustained patrol programme was put into operation. All these tasks were organised and supervised with a professional precision that have characterised Sergeant Harkins' every action.

On 26th August, Sergeant Harkins was commanding a patrol in a Saracen armoured personnel carrier operating in the notorious Bazar area of Crater. Here the streets are narrow, punctuated by alleyways and offering a perfect refuge for the terrorist gunman and grenadier. A grenade was thrown at a four-man patrol of another company. Two members of the patrol were injured, one of them the radio operator. Two local nationals were killed by the explosion and a further three wounded.

Within seconds Sergeant Harkins had dismounted his patrol and raced to the scene of the incident. Indifferent to the risk of further attacks against himself and his patrol, he organised the cordoning of the area, the rounding up of suspects and the prompt treatment of the shocked and wounded men. His timely and accurate reporting over the radio brought reinforcements to the area. This enabled vigorous follow-up action to begin, which resulted in the shooting of two terrorists.

In the subsequent anti-terrorist operations in Crater up to 18th September, Sergeant Harkins stood out as a Non Commissioned Officer of outstanding drive, resource and physical courage. Although exposed continually to attack by small arms, hand and anti-tank grenades, his aggressive reaction and high professional standards resulted in the complete domination of his platoon area and a steady toll of terrorists. In every aspect of his job his courage, energy, cheerfulness and devotion to duty were a continual inspiration to those around him; which has been reflected in the high standards and success of his platoon.

#### *Military Medal*

24033909 Lance Corporal James McAdam DUNCAN, The Parachute Regiment.

On the morning of Thursday, 8th June 1967, Lance Corporal Duncan was in command of the second Land-Rover of a mobile patrol of the First Battalion, The Parachute Regiment, travelling between Sheikh Othman and Mansura. Without warning they were fired upon by an automatic weapon from Section B, Sheikh Othman. Private McKinney, a general purpose machine gun gunner, who was standing in the back of the vehicle was wounded and the vehicle was immobilised. A second automatic then opened fire from a tall house which dominates the road. This fire, which entered the back of the vehicle, wounded Private McKinney for the second time.

When Lance Corporal Duncan, who had leapt out of the vehicle when it was immobilised, realised that Private McKinney was lying wounded and trapped in the Land-Rover, immediately returned and tried to get him out. He made repeated efforts but on each occasion was driven back by enemy fire. When all attempts had failed, Lance Corporal Duncan crawled back and managed to get a dressing on to Private McKinney's wound and held it there until help arrived and he could be evacuated. Subsequently over twelve bullet holes were found in the Land-Rover.

Lance Corporal Duncan's courage, determination, and devotion to a wounded comrade, in the face of accurate enemy fire, was in the highest traditions of the British Army.

This young Non Commissioned Officer's example inspired everyone in the patrol and his action prevented Private McKinney losing a considerable amount of blood and undoubtedly saved his life.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve that the under-named be Mentioned in Despatches for Gallant Conduct in South Arabia :

23875216 Corporal John Henry TAYLOR, The Queen's Own Hussars.

23891905 Lance Corporal Robert Michael PEARCE, The Queen's Own Hussars.

Major Antony Gordon Mansel SHEWEN (393284), 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards.

23222912 Trooper Paul Raymond TWYMAN, 11th Hussars. (Prince Albert's Own.)

Lieutenant Richard Kenneth FAWCUS (472536), Corps of Royal Engineers.

24036074 Sapper Ronald Cris WARDROPPER, Corps of Royal Engineers.