

town, Major Tucker parked his armoured personnel carrier across the bridge and stood in front on the vehicle for two hours defying their advance. It was an act of conspicuous gallantry and probably saved the town that day.

In summary, he has been the most dedicated and exceptional ambassador for his nation during his time in Sarajevo. The headquarters had no water and the town was constantly shelled. The headquarters was hit by both mortar, small arms and heavy cannon fire. On one occasion the aircraft in which he and General Morillon were travelling was badly hit by small arms fire and only just managed to land safely. The staff car was hit by small arms fire on another occasion. Major Tucker never seemed to care about his personal safety. The whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina Command is in his debt.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
WHITEHALL, LONDON S.W.1

12th June 1993

THE QUEEN has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the Queen's Gallantry Medal to the undermentioned in recognition of gallantry during operations in the former Republic of Yugoslavia:

Queen's Gallantry Medal

Q.G.M.

Captain Martyn William FORGRAVE (524293),

The Cheshire Regiment.

From 22nd October 1992 to 1st March 1993 Captain Forgrave was a liaison officer for Vitez, Travnik and Turbe in the 1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment's operational area in Bosnia. As a pioneering element of the United Nations operation, working in an immensely difficult area, he was hugely successful. Despite irreconcilable differences between the factions, he became widely respected by all sides as a courageous, totally honest and highly capable officer.

On 31st October 1992 Captain Forgrave came under considerable mortar and small arms fire for the first time in the Karaula area West of Turbe. He was trying to establish the exact position of front lines at the time. Captain Forgrave deliberately withheld fire in order not to exacerbate the situation. He acted with considerable courage as he extricated both himself and his team. The following day despite the risks he returned to the same area where he was involved in the recovery of the body of a BBC cameraman killed the previous day. This was a dirty and hazardous task which he achieved successfully again under fire.

For two months from early January 1993 Captain Forgrave was responsible for opening up a crossing of lines at Turbe. He did so on at least ten occasions—often with fire being directed at him. As a direct result of his work there the United Nations High Commission for Refugees adopted the Turbe crossing as a route for humanitarian aid into Central Bosnia. Overall, Captain Forgrave has been outstandingly successful on Operation GRAPPLE. He has directly contributed to the success of the tour by his careful and thorough preparation prior to operational tasks as these, but two, examples illustrate. He has personally often been in great danger and has done a great deal to establish respect for British Forces in Central Bosnia.

Lieutenant Nicholas ILIC (536494),

The Light Infantry.

Lieutenant Ilic, as an interpreter, was a member of a joint British United Nations and United Nations Monitoring Organisation Group sent to Konjevic Polje in Eastern Bosnia on 11th to 12th March 1993. The group's task was to evacuate wounded civilians and to rescue a World Health Organisation doctor.

In Konjevic Polje the United Nations vehicles were surrounded by two thousand to three thousand desperate civilians who sought safety from Bosnian Serb attacks by evacuation. Hysteria swept through the crowds on occasions—especially during the recurring periods of shellfire. Throughout 12th March in particular the Bosnian Serbs escalated their attack on Konjevic Polje using tanks and artillery. The immediate area of the United Nations vehicles was shelled, resulting in a British military Foden recovery vehicle being struck. Many people surrounding the vehicles were either killed or injured. The situation was desperate and people in the crowd began to rock the British vehicles in the frenzy.

Lieutenant Ilic, in company with a Russian United Nations Military Observer, decided that it was crucial to leave the safety of their armoured vehicle and try to pacify the crowd. He did so at considerable risk to himself. Thereafter he remained outside protective cover during the barrage—running backwards and forwards taking wounded civilians to shelter. The injuries he dealt with were quite horrific yet he retained his composure. At one point, whilst tending victims of shelling, he and the Russian officer were faced by an hysterical local soldier who cocked his weapon and aimed it at them. Both officers had good reason to fear for their lives, but by their cool and professional reaction they were able to calm the soldier and carry on with their appointed task.

Throughout 11th to 12th March Lieutenant Ilic was in considerable and constant danger, and often the risk to his own life was very great. He paid no heed to this and thought only of helping others. His reactions were outstanding and in the highest traditions of the Army.

24297047 Warrant Officer Class II John Wilkinson
McNAIR,

Royal Army Medical Corps.

Between 11th to 12th March 1993 Warrant Officer Class II McNair of the Royal Army Medical Corps, was a member of a joint British United Nations and United Nations Military Observer Group sent to evacuate wounded from Konjevic Polje in Eastern Bosnia. In addition the group aimed to rescue a doctor of the World Health Organisation.

In Konjevic Polje the party's vehicles were surrounded by approximately two thousand to three thousand people all demanding to be escorted to safety away from Bosnian Serb attacks. The crowd was hysterical especially when shelling was taking place. Fire, from both tanks and artillery, became particularly intense on 12th March causing many deaths and casualties around the British vehicles.

Warrant Officer McNair worked tirelessly with the doctor. Throughout the whole period he assisted with emergency operations on severely wounded civilians in a makeshift hospital or, more often, on the spot under fire. Working in the most primitive of conditions and