

lacking anaesthetic and even the most basic of surgical instruments, the strain upon Warrant Officer McNair was immense. Horrific though it may seem, circumstances forced him to undertake some amputations with domestic scissors. When not assisting in surgical operations Warrant Officer McNair spent his time tending injured and dying people. Several people, including some young children, died in his arms.

During what was a most traumatic ordeal Warrant Officer McNair acted with courage and immense humanity. He showed great professionalism and selfless courage at considerable danger to himself.

24254006 Colour Sergeant John Charles ORAM,
The Cheshire Regiment.

During Operation GRAPPLE Colour Sergeant Oram was independently deployed to Sarajevo with four armoured personnel carriers. His mission was to assist the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and to help with public service utilities repair tasks.

On 22nd December 1992 a United Nations Military Observer vehicle was ambushed between Sarajevo Airport and Ilidza. The driver and passengers were lucky to be unhurt but had to take immediate cover in the gutter as small arms and rocket fire continued to be directed at them. On hearing about the ambush and with no hesitation whatsoever, Colour Sergeant Oram took his platoon of armoured personnel carriers directly into the area. He was there within seven minutes of the ambush and whilst still under fire successfully rescued everyone involved.

On 8th January 1993 Colour Sergeant Oram was escorting a United Nations High Commission for Refugees convoy in the area of Sarajevo Airport. As he did so his armoured personnel carriers were surrounded by a group of thirty to forty local soldiers also in armoured personnel carriers. Colour Sergeant Oram maintained his composure and discipline under severe provocation and ensured the close protection of the vehicles he was escorting. The danger was such that a senior United Nations officer ordered Colour Sergeant Oram to leave the area. Despite his reservations at leaving such a potentially life threatening situation, he complied. Sadly, immediately following his departure, the Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister was assassinated, while in the care of other United Nations troops involved in the same incident.

On 14th February 1993 Colour Sergeant Oram's assistance was again requested by the United Nations Military Observers. The observation post "P5" was under artillery attack and had been repeatedly hit. One officer was already wounded. Colour Sergeant Oram proceeded directly to the spot and evacuated all United Nations personnel safely before returning them to United Nations Headquarters. Throughout the evacuation the artillery fire continued to be effective.

Continually in the thick of events, these but three examples serve to illustrate that, throughout his time in Sarajevo, Colour Sergeant Oram was a courageous and professional soldier. The United Nations Military Observers were greatly impressed by him. He often volunteered for tasks which no other United Nations troops would undertake. He led from the front, exposing himself to the greatest dangers. Colour Sergeant Oram's bravery and dedication were well beyond the normal call of duty.

24504786 Corporal Nicholas Keith PETTIT,
Corps of Royal Engineers.

Corporal Pettit was deployed as a section commander for six months on Operation GRAPPLE from November 1992 to April 1993. He spent most of this period on detached duty with a company group of the 1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment who were working in support of humanitarian operations. As such he was often the senior Royal Engineer in his location and was frequently called upon to give advice and carry out tasks beyond what would normally be expected of him.

For one period Corporal Pettit supported a company group who lived in a disused factory which was without mains supplied water or electricity. Corporal Pettit commanded a maintenance team which provided the company with the essential facilities needed to live there in reasonable comfort. He displayed a great deal of initiative and made an enormous effort to support the company by extending plumbing systems and devising a number of expedient solutions, often using local resources procured in a sensitive and sometimes dangerous environment. He was also fully involved in a wide range of combat engineer tasks outside the camp and assisted in the dismantling of defences after a cease-fire had been arranged between local forces. This work was carried out in dangerous circumstances and he often had to work under the threat of small arms fire.

On one occasion he was called upon to breach a minefield in order to evacuate a casualty. A local person had reported that a handicapped youth had strayed into what was believed to be a minefield and stepped on a mine. The casualty was thought to be alive and there was no time to call for assistance so Corporal Pettit went to the scene and, single handed, breached some fifty metres to where the casualty lay. He found one mine which he marked and went around. Sadly, despite this extremely brave and selfless act, the casualty died before medical assistance could reach him. As a Royal Engineer, Corporal Pettit had been trained in minefield clearance but the circumstances were such that he had to complete this task without the equipment and support he would normally receive. Corporal Pettit swiftly assessed the situation and acted selflessly and without regard for his own safety. The benefit to the United Nations Forces from the goodwill generated by this incident was particularly useful in this difficult area.

Lieutenant Alexander Andrew WATTS (531558),
The Cheshire Regiment.

From 15th November 1992 until mid May 1993 Lieutenant Watts was an armoured infantry platoon commander serving in Bosnia in Operation GRAPPLE. He was permanently based in Gornji Vakuf as part of B Company, 1st Battalion The Cheshire Regiment although for much of the tour he also commanded the standby platoon under direct operational control of Battalion Headquarters based in Vitez.

Lieutenant Watts has had a particularly dangerous tour of duty involving at least twenty contact situations which have included artillery, mortar, anti-tank, heavy machine gun and small arms fire. Each time his reactions and composure under fire have been