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| RN_logo_HIRES_4COL_for_certificates**Medical Assistant Kate Louise NESBITT, W148827G, Royal Navy****UK Medical Group, attached C Company, 1 Rifles****The Military Cross**Attached to an Operational Mentor and Liaison Team in the Nawa District of Helmand Province, Afghanistan, Medical Assistant NESBITT lived and operated alongside the Afghan National Army in a series of deliberate offensive operations against the Taliban in Central South Afghanistan; stark contrast to her normal duties as a Medical Assistant in a Recruit Training Centre.On 12 March 2009, Medical Assistant NESBITT’s team were ambushed near Nawa District Centre by a well-concealed and prepared enemy. Heavy and accurate fire from small arms and rocket propelled grenades poured in to the team’s position simultaneously from the northwest, west and south, pinning down the entire team. Very soon in the hail of bullets, one of the team was hit in the neck by a high velocity round; he slumped to the ground bleeding profusely and it quickly became clear that his injuries were life-threatening. Disregarding the ferocious weight of fire from the numerous enemy ambush positions, Medical Assistant NESBITT responded immediately, running some forty metres through a storm of fire to reach the casualty who was struggling to breathe with his vital signs showing he was on the point of collapse and worse. With utter disregard for her own safety and with total focus, Medical Assistant NESBITT set about saving the life of her colleague.Despite the intensity and accuracy of the enemy fire – throughout, rounds were ripping into the ground beside her – Medical Assistant NESBITT worked on regardless, to prevent further blood loss, insert an airway and to administer intravenous fluids. At times she chose to stand in the face of the enemy fire in order to administer the best possible care. Her actions stabilised the casualty and made possible his movement to an emergency helicopter landing site out of range of the enemy. The hospital Clinical Director who subsequently received the casualty later reported that the decisions Medical Assistant NESBITT had made that afternoon had made the difference between life and death. Later that same afternoon Medical Assistant NESBITT came to the aid of a colleague who had succumbed to the heat during the fire-fight and subsequent extraction of the casualty, and later that evening she tended several Afghan National Army casualties of an indirect fire attack on the patrol base in which she was stationed. Three days later Medical Assistant NESBITT was again in the thick of the action, as the first responder to the casualties of an improvised explosive device which detonated under the vehicle behind that which she had been travelling in. Throughout, the quality of her work and her selflessness were outstanding.Medical Assistant NESBITT’s actions throughout a series of offensive operations were exemplary; under fire and under pressure her courage and commitment were inspirational and in the very highest traditions of the Service. **Award announced in London Gazette No 59182 dated 11 September 2009, page 15640** GLOBE AND LAUREL LARGE**Colour Sergeant Matthew Robert TOMLINSON, P049020H, Royal Marines****Attached 3rd Light Armoured Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment,** **United States Marine Corps****The Conspicuous Gallantry Cross**On 15 November 2004, Colour Sergeant TOMLINSON was commanding a 16 strong US Marine Corps assault force embarked in four small river craft on the north bank of the Euphrates river near Fallujah, Iraq. As the patrol headed west near a railway bridge, the lead vessel came under heavy small arms fire, followed by an all-out ambush on all four craft. A numerically superior enemy in prepared positions engaged the water-borne patrol with rockets and assault rifles. Several near misses from Rocket Propelled Grenades injured one of the lead craft bow gunners and threatened the serviceability of the vessel. Colour Sergeant TOMLINSON immediately ordered his lead craft to turn towards the enemy and surge towards the bank. Without hesitation or regard for his personal safety, but realising the vulnerability of his patrol and the need to recapture the initiative, he was first ashore. On breaking through the dense foliage on the river bank, he immediately came face to face with the enemy, three of whom he killed with his personal weapon at ranges between 6 and 20 feet. His aggressive action created an element of surprise which unhinged the enemy and enabled a foothold to be established allowing the remainder of the Platoon’s assault force to get ashore and repel a withering attack on the exposed patrol.An intense fire-fight erupted in which, despite the noise and danger, Colour Sergeant TOMLINSON marshalled his force, penetrating inland to encircle the enemy and prevent the insurgents regaining the initiative. He and his men engaged several enemy fighters using irrigation ditches running perpendicular to the river to cover their movement. During this manoeuvre, the enemy began to reinforce from the railway bridge. Colour Sergeant TOMLINSON marked his forward position with smoke to better guide friendly suppressive fires, thereby protecting the lives of his men. He then issued Quick Battle Orders for a decisive assault on the enemy position. While charging through the undergrowth engaging the enemy at close quarters, a Rocket Propelled Grenade was fired at his men from a distance of 200 metres. Despite the roar of battle, Colour Sergeant TOMLINSON issued a fire control order on the RPG gunner and the squad honed in on the adjacent palm grove. After 40 minutes of intense fighting he conducted an ammunition and casualty count and realising the risk of exhaustion before being able to defeat the enemy, he radioed his intent to withdraw 300 metres back towards the river. This he conducted successfully under constant pressure from an ever reinforcing enemy. Here his leadership, and quick comprehension of the tactical reality, no doubt reversed a rapidly deteriorating situation and minimised further casualties. On reaching the river bank he once again marked his position, allowing company Forward Air Controllers, who by this time had secured Close Air Support, to direct fires against the ever growing enemy forces. Personally conducting a link-up with the boats along the river, Colour Sergeant TOMLINSON secured a landing site for the recovery of the assault force and requested two M240G machine guns to be brought forward from the boats to cover the squads’ withdrawal and re-embarkation as their ammunition ran low. He then provided covering fire while his marines ran back to the waiting craft before ensuring all personnel were accounted for. The Company’s Forward Air Controller finally executed the break clean from the enemy using Close Air Support as the craft withdrew. Colour Sergeant TOMLINSON’s sure, aggressive and decisive actions throughout saved the lives of many in his US Marine Corps patrol. **Award announced in London Gazette No 57936 dated 24 March 2006, page 4195:**  |

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| RN_logo_HIRES_4COL_for_certificates**Lieutenant Commander Ian Thomas MOLYNEUX, Royal Navy,****C038253J,****HMS ASTUTE****The George Medal**On Friday 8 April 2011, whilst serving in the nuclear submarine HMS ASTUTE, Lieutenant Commander Ian MOLYNEUX was shot and killed whilst attempting to overwhelm and disarm one of the submarine’s armed sentries who had already tried to murder two Senior Ratings and was displaying deliberate intent on shooting dead members of the ship’s company with a complete disregard for other innocent people on board.HMS ASTUTE was on a liaison visit to Southampton and was hosting a large number of civilian visitors, ranging from parties of school children to the Deputy Lord Lieutenant and members of the Southampton City Council. The submarine was crowded with visitors and the City Council was being hosted in the Control Room by the Commanding Officer and the submarine’s senior management team, including Lieutenant Commander MOLYNEUX, the Weapon Engineer Officer. Having just taken over his duty, the sentry was in the narrow confines of the after part of the control room with a loaded weapon. He fired four shots at, and narrowly missed two senior ratings. On hearing the sound of the shots, Lieutenant Commander MOLYNEUX rushed into the narrow corridor from his position some yards away, made a rapid assessment of the situation and immediately moved to disarm the sentry and prevent any harm to personnel. Having moved to where the gunman was standing, evidence later presented at the trial revealed that Lieutenant Commander MOLYNEUX was killed by a fifth shot fired from a distance of a matter of inches. He fell instantly. It was later established that Lieutenant Commander MOLYNEUX’s movement and injury were clearly indicative that he was in the final stage of a diving rugby tackle deliberately intended to overwhelm and suppress the gunman who then proceeded to shoot and injure another officer before being grappled to the deck by two of the nearest visitors. The whole incident took place in less than 20 seconds.It was abundantly clear from the evidence presented at the trial that Lieutenant Commander MOLYNEUX had immediately recognised the perilous nature of the situation unfolding rapidly before him and had grasped that it was only going to get worse unless extraordinary preventative measures were taken. He deliberately went to tackle the gunman, knowingly putting himself into extreme danger in order to try and prevent bloodshed and to safeguard others from harm. In taking on a gunman who had already fired his weapon directly at people with intent to cause injury, Lieutenant Commander MOLYNEUX acted with complete disregard for his own safety.  **Award announced in London Gazette No 60095 dated 23 March 2012, page 5852** GLOBE AND LAUREL LARGE**Warrant Officer 2 Matthew Robert TOMLINSON CGC, P049020H, Royal Marines****Armoured Support Group Royal Marines, attached 1st Battalion Welsh Guards****The Military Cross**On 14 May 2009 Warrant Officer TOMLINSON was operating a Viking armoured vehicle in support of IX Company, Welsh Guards near Lashkar Gar, Afghanistan. In his role as Sergeant Major of the Armoured Support Group he had deployed forward to visit a troop operating in the area and was the vehicle controller of the second vehicle of five.The patrol had been tasked to facilitate the movement of an Improvised Explosive Device Disposal Team. In the late afternoon as they turned towards Basharan, the lead Viking struck a substantial explosive device that blew the front and rear cab 20 metres apart, scattering metal fragments across a wide area. Immediately heavy, accurate small arms and rocket propelled grenade fire came in from around 100 metres to the north. Warrant Officer TOMLINSON dismounted at once and made the instant and selfless decision to move forward to the casualties. Because of the time imperative, and the fact that the ground was littered with metal fragments, he moved without clearing the ground, disregarding the threat of secondary devices, to take up fire positions and return fire. On arrival at the burning front cab he began searching for casualties around and inside, despite ammunition exploding in the fire and the risk of grenades initiating. He found the driver on the ground adjacent to the cab, clearly in pain and, assisted by another Viking Operator, administered life-saving first aid necessarily close to the burning front cab due to the lack of available cover and the continuous enemy fire impacting around them. Warrant Officer TOMLINSON then searched for the vehicle controller and, still under fire, moved forward 30 metres down the track where he found him still trapped inside the turret mount; he had not survived the explosion. With rounds striking the ground around him he dragged the controller clear before returning to the first casualty to oversee his evacuation, utilising dismounts from other vehicles. He then returned to the controller and still under intense fire and assisted by a Guardsman, carried him back, placing him on a stretcher. He then extracted the vehicle gun to prevent its use by the enemy before instructing those present to extract due to the intensity of the burning vehicle and enemy fire. However, after placing the second stretcher in the back of his own Viking, he returned to the rear cab to extract more equipment. Having done so he secured the rear door and returned to his own vehicle and moved to the emergency helicopter landing site where the casualties were evacuated by air.Warrant Officer TOMLINSON constantly placed himself forward, sharing the arduous and dangerous duties that his men have carried out. His calm, confident leadership reassured and stabilised several chaotic situations. The events of 14 May 2009 were unusually intense and he exposed himself to fire numerous times that day. His driver described the scene: ‘there were hundreds of rounds following every move, every time I looked the sand around them was splashing’. He was directly responsible for saving the life of the driver and organising an ordered extraction. His selfless and courageous conduct made a huge difference.**Award announced in London Gazette No 59366 dated 19 March 2010, page 4834**  |