

Major Bruce Miles Snelgar SCR



1st Bn Rhodesian Light Infantry
Officer Commanding 3 Commando
K.O.A.S. 26 September 1979

Lieutenant Bruce Snelgar was WIA 22 December 1969 on Operation Birch when he was Troop Commander for 2 Troop 1 Commando and was awarded the MFC. On 30 April 1978 Major Snelgar was appointed Officer Commanding 3 Commando. His leadership, command ability and personal courage inspired all in 3 Commando and he was largely responsible for the unit's significant operational successes. Under his leadership with air support 3 Commando accounted for 650 terrorists. Major Snelgar would make exceptional accurate assessments of tactical situations with close attention to detail. He was frequently exposed to accurate enemy fire while directing Fireforce operations. On one occasion 19 May 1979 his troops were unable to flush some terrorists from a cave, he landed his helicopter and single handedly with incredible bravery cleared the cave himself. Major Snelgar made every effort for his troops welfare and getting them the best of what was available. Major Bruce Snelgar was tragically killed in a helicopter crash 26 September 1979. He was awarded the Silver Cross of Rhodesia posthumously 12 December 1979. He was one of the finest officers in the Rhodesian Army.