



Order of the Day
For the awarding of the Victoria Cross for Australia to
Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith

I am immensely proud to inform you that Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith, from the Special Air Service Regiment, Australian Army, was yesterday presented the Victoria Cross for Australia by Her Excellency the Governor-General, Ms Quentin Bryce, “for the mo^{s33} circumstances of extreme peril as a Patrol Second-in-Command, Group on Operation SLIPPER” on the 11th of June 2010.

s47E(d), s47C

In choosing to serve our nation, I believe that you—all the men and women of the Australian Defence Force—display courage, initiative and self-sacrifice every day. However, I am sure you would agree that in Afghanistan on the 11th of June 2010, Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith went far beyond what we would ordinarily expect of ourselves and our colleagues.

On your behalf, at the ceremony yesterday, I took the opportunity to thank Corporal Roberts-Smith for his valour and gallantry. I also told him that I was confident that his fellow servicemen and women right across the Australian Defence Force were united in their belief that his actions were worthy of this auspicious and extraordinary recognition.

As I first indicated two years ago, within the military, it is traditionally a mark of the utmost respect that all, no matter their rank, salute a Victoria Cross recipient. It is a great source of delight to me that there are now two serving members of the ADF I have the great honour to salute.

Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith, VC, MG, has brought great credit to himself, the Australian Army, and the Australian Defence Force. You should all take great pride in his investiture into this rare

s22

A.G. HOUSTON, AC, AFC
Air Chief Marshal
Chief of the Defence Force
24 January 2011

s47F

oberts-Smith,Ben
oberts-Smith,Ben

EDS

EDS

CPL

CPL

Corporal

Corporal

01/11 1978

01/11 1978

Victoria Cross for Australia
Medal for Gallantry

2 /01/2011

23/11/2006

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s47E(d), s33, s47F

Australian Army

Awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia

Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith, MG

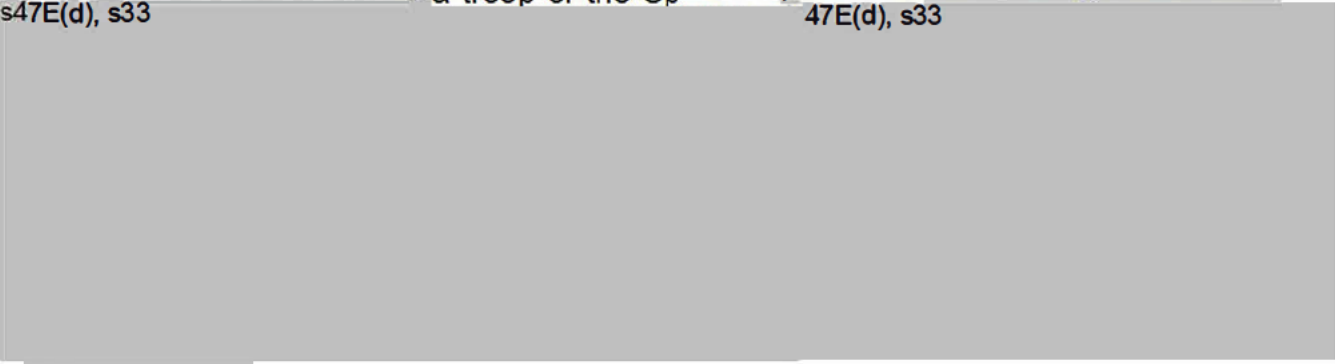
For the most conspicuous gallantry in action in circumstances of extreme peril as Patrol Second-in-Command, Special Operations Task Group on Operation SLIPPER.

s47F



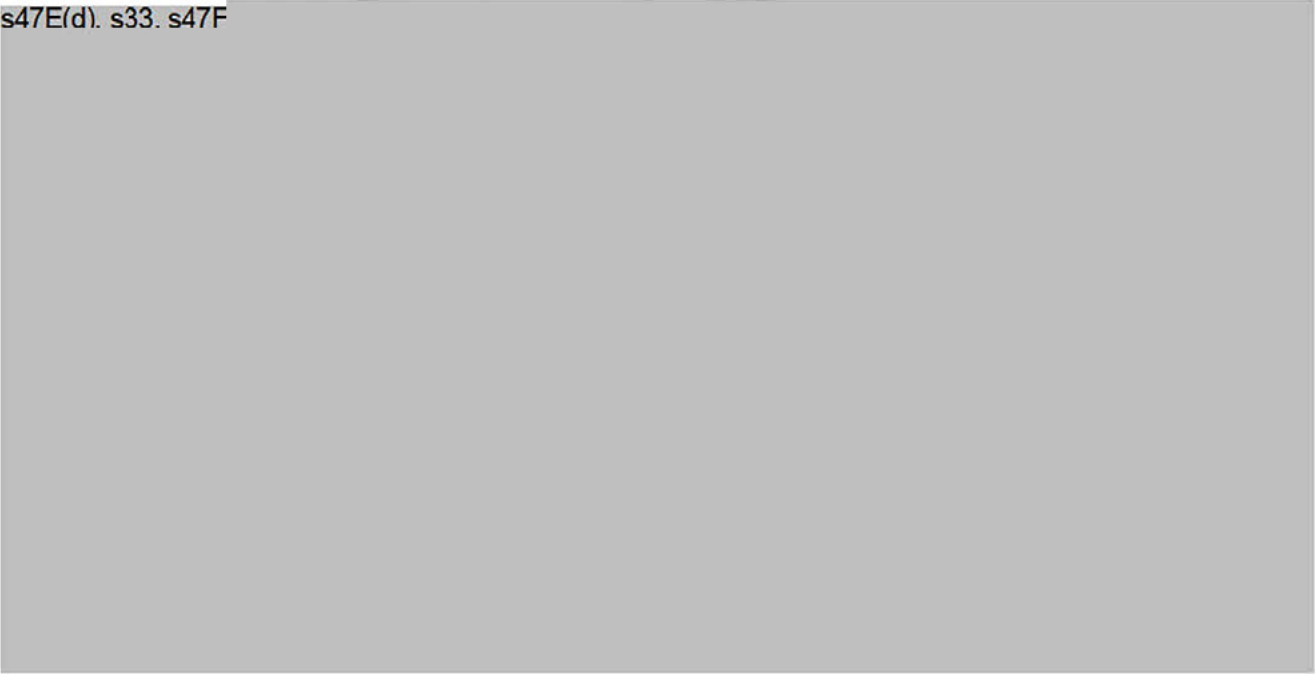
On the 11th June 2010, a troop of the Special Operations Task Group conducted a

s47E(d), s33



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s47E(d). s33. s47F



AUSTRALIAN ARMY

TO BE AWARDED THE VICTORIA CROSS

s47F

ORPORAL BENJAMIN ROBERTS-SMITH MG

**For the most conspicuous gallantry in action in circumstances of extreme peril as a Patrol Second-in-
s47E(d) special Operations Task Group on Operation SLIPPER.**

s47F

s47E(d), s33, s47F

TO BE AWARDED THE VICTORIA CROSS

s47F

orporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith MG
Barracks, SWANBOURNE, WA, 6010

**For the most conspicuous gallantry in action in circumstances of extreme peril as a Patrol Second-in-
pecial Operations Task Group on Operation SLIPPER.**

s47E(d), s33, s47F

AUSTRALIAN ARMY

COMMENDATION FOR GALLANTRY

NAME OF HONOURS LIST

s47F

CORPORAL BENJAMIN ROBERT-SMITH

For exceptional service to the Australian Army in the field of Operations.

s47E(d), s33, s47F, s47C

AWARD [SEE DI(G) PERS 31-5 ANNEX B]

s47F

ANCE CORPORAL BENJAMIN ROBERT-SMITH
a Street, Suburbia VIC 3101

For exceptional service to the Australian Army in the field of Operations

Paragraph 2 - See DI(G) PERS 31-5 Annex B

This is a brief summary of the citation on page one; (Up to Six lines in length)

s47E(d), s47F


AUSTRALIAN ARMY
COMMENDATION FOR GALLANTRY

s47F **NAME OF HONOURS LIST**

CORPORAL BENJAMIN ROBERT-SMITH

For exceptional service to the Australian Army in the field of Operations

s47E(d), s33, s47F



s47F

AWARD [SEE DI(G) PERS 31-5 ANNEX B]

s47F

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s47E(d), s47F

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HONOURS-IN-CONFIDENCE

Chief of the Defence Force

s22

NOMINATIONS FOR OUT OF SESSION GALLANTRY DECORATIONS

For: Mr Billson Category: For action by 1 Nov 06. Nominations are to reach
Cc Dr Nelson Initiated the Governor General before 3 Nov 06 to allow
for timely action by Government House.

Copies: Secretary, COSADHQ, DEPSEC DS, DH&A, HDPE, HPSD, EDG, DCJOP

Recommendation

That you:

- (a) endorse and initial the recommendation check boxes in attachment B;
- (b) sign the enclosed letter to the Governor-General (attachment C).

Key Issues

1. Submitted for your consideration and endorsement if appropriate, are nominations for out of session Gallantry decorations resulting from operations in Afghanistan.
2. The awarding of Gallantry decorations are usually announced in the half-yearly honours lists or in a separate operational Honours List. However, precedence has occurred recently which allows for the approval of these nominations outside the usual announcements in exceptional circumstances. The announcement of these awards were highlighted in an article quoting Minister for Defence, The Hon Brendan Nelson MP (vide enclosure 1).

s47E(d), s47C

4. If you agree, a letter to the Governor-General submitting the nominations is attached for your signature.

s47E(d), s22

Rating:	1	2	3	4	5
Timeliness					
Presentation					
Quality					
	Poor	Satisfactory			
	Excellent				
Date Brief Requested					
Date Brief Received	20/10				

29 Oct 06

BRENDAN NELSON / / 2006

Branch Head
Alternative

s47E(d)


s47E(d)

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HONOURS-IN-CONFIDENCE

HONOURS-IN-CONFIDENCE

s47E(d), s47C



Enclosure

1. Herald Sun article – “Medals for Diggers in Afghanistan” of 1 Sep 06

Attachments

- A. Citations and Synopses
- B. Nominations for out of session Gallantry decorations
- C. Letter to the Governor General


HONOURS-IN-CONFIDENCE

HONOURS-IN-CONFIDENCE

**ATTACHMENT B TO
CDF /2006
OCT 06**

OUT OF SESSION GALLANTRY DECORATIONS

s47E(d), s47F



for the Minister for Defence

1 / 11 / 06

HONOURS-IN-CONFIDENCE

PROTECTED



THE HON BRUCE BILLSON MP
Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence

His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVOMC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
Government House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

1 NOV 2006

Your Excellency

I submit for your consideration nominations for various Gallantry decorations resulting from operations in Afghanistan.

The awarding of Gallantry awards are usually announced in the half yearly honours lists or in a separate operational honours list. However, there is provision for the approval of these nominations outside the usual announcements in exceptional circumstances.

s47E(d), s33, s47C

Individual citations and synopses for the nominations are enclosed. I consider these nominations to be deserving of recognition and recommend them for your consideration.

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PROTECTED

PERSONAL DETAILS

s47F

[Redacted]

RECOMMENDATION

Award: To be awarded the Medal for Gallantry

s47E(d)

NOMINATING OFFICER:

[Redacted]

s22

[Redacted]

LTCOL
COMD TF 637

RADM
DCJOPS

17 Sep 06

at
5 Sep 06

s22

[Redacted]

Final Recommending Officer

MAJGEN
SOCAUST

K.J. GILLESPIE, AO, DSC, CSM

LTGEN
VCDF

18 Sep 06

Oct 06

PROTECTED

[Redacted]

HONOURS-IN-CONFIDENCE (After first entry)

AD 104
Revised Mar 2009

Department of Defence

Nomination for Half - Yearly Honours

Refer D(G) PERS 31.3 and D(G) PERS 31.5

Honours list/award

(Please tick appropriate box)	Award for which nomination is being made (Please tick appropriate box)	
Australia Day <input type="checkbox"/>	Order of Australia <input type="checkbox"/>	Distinguished Service decorations <input type="checkbox"/>
Queen's Birthday <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conspicuous Service decorations <input type="checkbox"/>	Gallantry decorations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Name of honour, decoration or award	
Year 2011	Victoria Cross	

Nominee's personal details (All boxes are mandatory)

Rank/title	Family name	Given name(s)
s47F	Benjamin	Benjamin
(Applicable) Service	Employment status	
Army	Permanent	
Service Medals or Long Service Medals		

Medal for Gallantry

Is this a renomination? Yes ☐ No ☒

If 'Yes', date of last nomination and award

Branch, billet, corps, specialisation/mustering	Unit	Group
RAINF	SASR	SOCOMD

Rank/title	Date
LTCOL	29 Aug 10

Yes ☒ No ☐

Signature	Printed name	Rank/title
s22	J.P. CANTWELL, AO	MAJGEN
Appoint	Phone number (in full)	Date
CJTF6	s47E(d)	29 Aug 10

Approval of Executive Two-Star (e) Officer (Minimum) in the chain-of-command

Nomination and level of award supported Yes ☒ No ☐

If 'Yes', please provide comments and proposed level of award

Rank/title	Date
LTGEN	26 Oct 10

CJOPS s47E(d)

Rating (Only where multiple nominations are made)

Rated as (eg 1 of 4) ☐ of ☐Are there any public restrictions? (Mandatory) (eg Gazette, website etc) Yes ☒ No ☐

If 'Yes', please provide comments

HAS PROTECTED IDENTITY STATUS

HONOURS-IN-CONFIDENCE (After first entry)

AD 104 - Page 1 of 1



THE HON BRUCE BILLSON MP

Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence

His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVOMC (Retd)
Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia
Government House
CANBERRA ACT 2600


1 NOV 2006

Your Excellency

I submit for your consideration nominations for various Gallantry decorations resulting from operations in Afghanistan.

The awarding of Gallantry awards are usually announced in the half yearly honours lists or in a separate operational honours list. However, there is provision for the approval of these nominations outside the usual announcements in exceptional circumstances.

s47E(d), s33, s47C

A large rectangular area of the document is redacted with a solid grey block.

Individual citations and synopses for the nominations are enclosed. I consider these nominations to be deserving of recognition and recommend them for your consideration.

s22

A rectangular area of the document is redacted with a solid grey block.

BRUCE BILLSON

A handwritten signature in ink, appearing to be 'Bruce Billson', is written over the printed name.

TOTAL P.01



**AUSTRALIAN ARMY
Special Operations Headquarters**

MINUTE

s22

Directorate of Honours and Awards

s22

OP SLIPPER ROTATION TWO NON-PERIODIC GALLANTRY AWARDS

References:

- A. SOTG Non-Periodic Gallantry Awards submitted Oct 2006
- B. Discussion^{s22} Sep/Oct 06

s47E(d), s33, s47F, s47C

s47E(d), s22

**LTCOL
SOJ1**

s47E(d)

16 Oct 06

AUSTRALIAN ARMY

TO BE AWARDED THE MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY

s47F

CORPORAL BENJAMIN ROBERTS-SMITH

For gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances as a patrol sniper in the Special Operations Task Group – Task Force 637, whilst deployed on Operation SLIPPER Rotation Three Afghanistan, May

s47E(d), s33, s47F, s47C

TO BE AWARDED THE MEDAL FOR GALLANTRY

**LANCE CORPORAL BENJAMIN ROBERTS-SMITH
WA**

For gallantry in action in hazardous circumstances as a patrol sniper in the Special Operations Task Group – Task Force 637, whilst deployed on Operation SLIPPER Rotation Three Afghanistan, May – September 2006.

s47E(d), S33, S47F

