On 13 Jun 44 Maj AIRD commanded a Squadron of 4 SHARPSHOOTERS when this Regt captured VILLES BOCAGE, map ref 81778. The Regt Hq and one Sqn suffered extremely heavy casualties and Maj AIRD assumed Command. The enemy counter attacked and Mark VI tanks entered the town together with infantry. This situation called for the very highest display of leadership, resourcefulness and cool judgement. These qualities were not lacking in Maj AIRD and the skill with which he fought his command resulted not only in the destruction of nearly every enemy tank that entered the town but also in the successful defense of the position in cooperation with our infantry. Subsequently when ordered to rejoin the Bde this officer covered the withdrawal of the infantry and brought his command out almost without loss. It is not possible to exaggerate the excellence of Maj AIRD's leadership nor to over-estimate the influence which he personally exercised on this most important operation.

I recommend him for the immediate award of DSO.

Awarded DSO

12 Aug 44