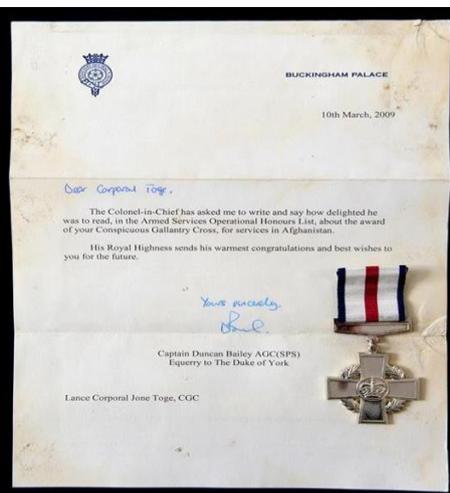


Charterhouse to Auction an Important Conspicuous Gallantry Cross

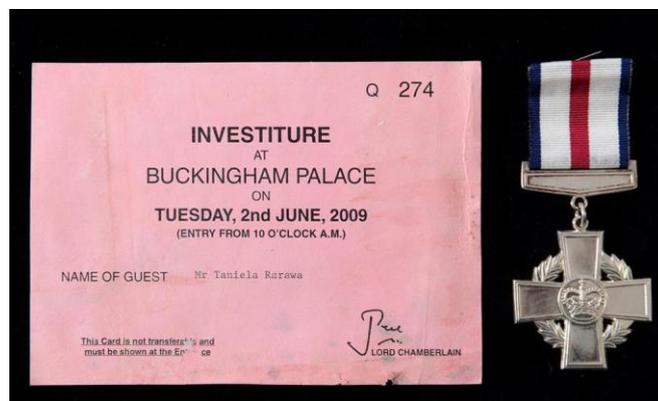
Sherborne auctioneers Charterhouse have been instructed to sell a Conspicuous Gallantry Cross estimated at £60,000-£70,000 in their two day collectors' auction on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th March.

“The Conspicuous Gallantry Cross is awarded for an act or acts of conspicuous gallantry during active operations against the enemy, being second only to a Victoria Cross.” commented Richard Bromell. “Having been instituted in 1993, only 60 CGC’s to date have been awarded so they rarely appear on the market, and it is therefore a great honour to be instructed to sell such an important medal by the recipient.”

The Conspicuous Gallantry Cross (CGC) going under the Charterhouse hammer is being offered for auction on behalf of the recipient, Lance Corporal Jone Bruce Toge. The Fiji born soldier served with the Royal Irish Regiment and was awarded the CGC for actions in Afghanistan 2008.



His citation states: "On 10 May 08, Lance Corporal Toge was acting 2IC of an eight man Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team (OMLT), supporting an Afghan National Army (ANA) Company. The team was involved in a deliberate surge operation under the command of CO 23 SAS, to the south of MUSA QALEH. The mission was to disrupt the Taliban and reassure the local population. The operation involved ANA and the Afghan National Police (ANP), with a Warrior Company in support. Toge's commander was incapacitated forcing the Lance Corporal to command the patrol. On arrival at DEH ZOHR E SOFLA, it was established that an enemy force under the Taliban warlord Abdul Bari, was operating to their south. At 0900 hrs the ANP were engaged. The ANA Company and their mentors, led by Toge, immediately moved to a position of support.



Toge formed a fire base suppressing over twenty enemy fighters. Toge's team was engaged by heavy effective AK47 and rocket propelled grenades (RGP) fire. Having been in a furious fire fight for 90 minutes, Toge was given orders to advance his ANA Company with two platoons forward. Toge rallied and motivated the now-rooted ANA platoons, supported only by a further Lance Corporal and Rangers. Toge personally commanded both dismounted ANA platoons with only two Warrior vehicles in direct support. He advanced to contact through the Taliban killing area closing on the enemy. Toge gripped and cajoled the ANA soldiers at every bound, switching from firing to leading the ANA, to ensure they did not cower under the withering fire. As he closed to kill the enemy, Toge has the tactical presence of mind to move his platoon forward in a way that prevented his supporting Warrior vehicles

becoming exposed RPG attack. Repeatedly, Toge exposed himself to fire disregarding his own safety to keep the ANA going forward. His gallant and inspirational leadership had every man following him.

Later and in the scorching heat of midday, the Warrior with which Toge advanced became a target. The vehicle suffered at least ten RPG strikes; one seriously injured the ANA lead Sergeant and blasted Toge off his feet. Undeterred, he got up and personally extracted the casualty into cover and administered first aid. He then set about dealing with the enemy again, leading the advance with grenade and rifle fire to within 100m of the enemy. A further four ANA were injured close to Toge. He single-handedly, with supreme strength and selflessness, extracted each one from the killing area and dealt with their treatment. After 30 minutes, Toge's Company had successfully fixed at least twenty Taliban fighters. He was then ordered to fight back to a point beyond the danger zone of fast air support. The withdrawal in contact was conducted rapidly, made all the harder by having to coordinate the extraction of the three serious and two minor ANA casualties. The fast air-delivered ordnance brought the engagement to a close with at least two Taliban killed and five wounded. The remnants of the enemy fled. DEH ZOHR E SOFLA never saw the enemy in such strength again allowing CIMIC development to proceed.

Toge's actions were truly extraordinary; not least because he was, as a Lance Corporal, commanding a Company Group of indigenous forces in the most challenging and dangerous conditions, against a determined well equipped and brutal enemy. His raw courage, inspirational leadership, tactical acumen and almost superhuman strength are most deserving of official recognition of the highest order."



Describing the event, Jone Bruce Toge said "The adrenalin kicks in and you prioritise – casualty, objective, before one's self. That's what I did. I didn't think about medals – I just thought it was another fight. That's what we do."

Also included with Lance Corporal Toge CGC are his dog tags, British Forces Identity Card, Operational Medical Record, numerous letters of congratulation from senior officers, other paperwork and his Provisional Driving licence!

Now being offered for sale in the Charterhouse collector's auction in Sherborne, Dorset on 19th and 20th March, Jone Bruce Toge is selling his Conspicuous Gallantry Cross to enable a new business venture.

For further information regarding this auction, or to enter items into this important collectors' sale, contact **Richard Bromell** at Charterhouse, The Long Street Salerooms, Sherborne, Dorset DT9 3BS **01935 812277**

www.charterhouse-auction.com or via email on **info@charterhouse-auction.com**