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War Office 13th May 1943

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the posthumous award of the VICTORIA CROSS to —

Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Derek Anthony Seagram (26914) The Green Howards (Alexandra Princess of Wales's Own Yorkshire Regiment) (Westward Ho Devon)

On the night of the 20th/21st March 1943 the task of a Battalion of the Green Howards was to attack and capture an important feature on the left flank of the main attack on the Mareth Line. The defence of this feature was very strong and it was protected by an anti-tank ditch twelve feet wide and eight feet deep with minefields on both sides. It formed a new part of the main defences of the Mareth Line and the successful capture of this feature was vital to the success of the main attack.

From the time the attack was launched the Battalion was subjected to the most intense fire from artillery machine-guns and mortars and it appeared more than probable that the Battalion would be held up entailing failure of the main attack.

Realizing the seriousness of the situation Lieutenant-Colonel Seagram placed himself at the head of his Battalion which was at the time, suffering heavy casualties and led it through the hail of fire.

He personally helped the team which was placing the scaling ladder over the anti-tank ditch and was himself the first to cross it. He led the assault firing his pistol throwing grenades and personally assaulting two machine-gun posts which were holding up the advance of one of his Companies. It is estimated that in this phase he killed or captured twenty Germans.

This display of leadership and personal courage led directly to the capture of the objective.

When dawn broke the Battalion was firmly established on the position which was of obvious importance to the enemy who immediately made every effort to regain it. Every post was mortared and machine-gunned unmercifully and movement became practically impossible but Lieutenant-Colonel Seagram was quite undeterred. He moved from post to post organising and directing the fire until the attackers were wiped out to a man.

By his valour disregard for personal safety and outstanding example he so inspired his men that the Battalion successfully took and held its objective thereby allowing the attack to proceed.

Lieutenant Colonel Seagram subsequently died of wounds received in action.

War Office 13th May 1943

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the VICTORIA CROSS to —

No 14696 Havildar Parkash Singh 8th Punjab Regiment Indian Army

On the 6th January 1943 at Donbaik Mayo Peninsula Burma when two Carriers had been put out of action Havildar Parkash Singh drove forward in his own Carrier and rescued the two crews under very heavy fire. At the time the crews of the disabled Carriers had expended their ammunition and the enemy were rushing the two disabled Carriers on foot. This NCO's timely and courageous action entirely on his own initiative saved the lives of the crews and their weapons.

On the 19th January, 1943, in the same area, three Carriers were put out of action by an enemy anti-tank gun and lay on the open beach covered by enemy anti-tank and machine-gun fire. One of these Carriers was carrying the survivors of another Carrier in addition to its own crew. Havildar Parkash Singh, on seeing what had happened, went out from a safe position in his own Carrier, and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, rescued the combined crews from one disabled Carrier, together with the weapons from the Carrier. Having brought

the crews to safety, he again went out on the open beach in his Carrier, still under very heavy anti-tank and machine-gun fire and with the utmost disregard to his personal safety, dismounted and connected a towing chain on to a disabled Carrier containing two wounded men. Still under fire, he directed the towing of the disabled Carrier from under enemy fire to a place of safety.

Havildar Parkash Singh's very gallant actions, entirely on his own initiative, were an inspiration to all ranks both British and Indian.

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