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THURSDAY, 22 JUNE, 1944

War Office, 22nd June, 1944.

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

No. 295822 Lance-Corporal John Pennington Harman, The Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment (London, E.C.2).

In Burma at Kohima on 8th April, 1944, Lance-Corporal Harman was commanding a section of a forward platoon. Under cover of darkness the enemy established a machine-gun post within 50 yards of his position which became a serious menace to the remainder of his Company. Owing to the nature of the ground Lance-Corporal Harman was unable to bring the fire of his section on to the enemy machine-gun post. Without hesitation he went forward by himself and using a four second grenade which he held on to for at least two seconds after releasing the lever in order to get immediate effect, threw it into the post and followed up immediately. He annihilated the post and returned to his section with the machine-gun.

Early the following morning he recovered a position on a forward slope 150 yards from the enemy in order to strengthen a platoon which had been heavily attacked during the night. On occupying his position he discovered a party of enemy digging in under cover of machine-gun fire and snipers. Ordering his Bren gun to give him covering fire he fixed his bayonet and alone charged the post shooting four and bayoneting one thereby wiping out the post.

When walking back Lance-Corporal Harman received a burst of machine-gun fire in his side and died shortly after reaching our lines.

Lance-Corporal Harman's heroic action and supreme devotion to duty were a wonderful inspiration to all and were largely responsible for the decisive way in which all attacks were driven off by his Company.

War Office, 22nd June, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Burma:—

Bar to the Distinguished Service Order.

Major-General (temporary) David Tennant Cowan, D.S.O., M.C. (IA 202), Indian Army.
Brigadier (temporary) Ronald Thomas Cameron, D.S.O. (IA 167), 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force), Indian Army.
Brigadier (acting) Guy Wirral Springman Burton, D.S.O. (IA 197), 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force), Indian Army.

The Distinguished Service Order.

Lieutenant (temporary Captain) John Reynolds Boss (204005), Royal Regiment of Artillery (Worthing).
Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Henry Jarvis Lavery, M.C. (12139), Infantry (Shrewsbury).
Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Claude John Wilkinson (28312), Infantry (Norwich).
Captain (temporary Major) Christopher O'Hara (145190), The West Yorkshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's Own) (Blackpool).
Brigadier (temporary) Frederick Joseph Loftus-Tottenham (IA 73), Indian Army.
Brigadier (temporary) Michael Rookherst Roberts (IA 326), Indian Army.
Captain (temporary Major) (acting Lieutenant-Colonel) Sarbjit Singh Kalha, 1st Punjab Regiment, Indian Army.
Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) William Felix Brown, O.B.E. (IA 27), The Assam Regiment, Indian Army.
Lieutenant-Colonel John Francis Marindin (IA 166), 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force), Indian Army.
Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Robert Cecil Osborne Hedley (IA 133), 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force), Indian Army.
Captain (acting Major) Alex Fairgrieve (IA 1245), 10th Gurkha Rifles, Indian Army.

Bar to the Military Cross.

Captain (temporary Major) Anthony Walter Innes, M.C. (69113), The Lincolnshire Regiment (London, W.2).
Captain (temporary Major) Alastair Hall Coke, M.C. (900 AI), 18th Royal Garhwal Rifles, Indian Army.
Captain (temporary Major) James William Arkell, M.C. (1219 IA), 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force), Indian Army.