



SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 10th of OCTOBER, 1944

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THURSDAY, 12 OCTOBER, 1944

War Office, 12th October, 1944.

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

Jemadar (acting Subadar) Netrabahadur Thapa (28467 IO), 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force), Indian Army.

Subadar Netrabahadur Thapa was in command of the garrison of 41 men of the 2/5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force) which on the afternoon of 25th June, 1944, took over the isolated piquet known as Mortar Bluff situated on the hillside commanding the base at Bishenpur in Burma. The piquet position, completely devoid of any cover, was situated some 400 yards from the next piquet, from which it could be supported to some extent by 3 inch mortar fire, but was commanded by Water Piquet, a short distance away on high ground to the South, which had been over-run by strong enemy forces on the previous night and was still in enemy hands. Owing to its commanding position the retention of Mortar Bluff was vital to the safety of other positions farther down the ridge and to Bishenpur itself.

The relief had been harassed by enemy snipers at close range but was completed at 1830 hours without casualties. A little more than an hour later the enemy began to attack. For this purpose a 75 millimetre and a 37 millimetre gun were brought on up to the high ground overlooking the position and poured shell after shell at point blank range for ten minutes into the narrow confines of the piquet, and this was followed by a determined attack by not less than one company of Japanese. A fierce fight ensued in which Subadar Netrabahadur Thapa's men, exhorted by their leader, held their ground against heavy odds and drove the enemy back with disproportionate losses. During this time Subadar Netrabahadur Thapa with tireless energy and contempt for his own safety moved from post to post encouraging his young N.C.Os and riflemen, of which the garrison was largely composed, and tending the wounded.

A short lull followed during which Subadar Netrabahadur Thapa gave a clear and concise report on the telephone to his Commanding Officer and asked for more artillery defensive fire. Having done this he made preparations to meet the next onslaught which was not long in coming.

Under cover of the pitch dark night and torrential rain the enemy had moved round to the jungle from the cover of which they launched their next attack. Still in considerable strength and as determined and ferocious as ever the enemy poured out from the jungle across the short space of open ground to the piquet defences under cover of small arms and 37 millimetre gun fire from a flank. For a time our men held their ground until, as ill-luck would have it, both the L.M.G. and T.M.G. of one section jammed.

With much reduced fire-power the section were unable to hold on, and the enemy forced an entrance and over-ran this and another section, killing or wounding 12 out of the 16 men comprising the two sections. Having no reserve Subadar Netrabahadur Thapa himself went forward from his Headquarters and stemmed any further advance with grenades.

The situation was however critical. With more than half his men casualties, ammunition low, and the enemy in possession of part of his perimeter, Subadar Netrabahadur Thapa would have been justified in withdrawing, but in his next report to his Commanding Officer he stated that he intended holding on and asked for reinforcements and more ammunition.

So efficient were his plans for defence and such was the fine example of this gallant Gurkha officer that not a man moved from his trench and not a yard more ground was gained by the enemy, despite their desperate attempts.

Thus the night passed until at 0400 hours a section of 8 men with grenades and small arms ammunition arrived. Their arrival inevitably drew fire and all the 8 were soon casualties. Undismayed, however, Subadar

Netrabahadur Thapa retrieved the ammunition and himself with his platoon Headquarters took the offensive armed with grenades and khukris. Whilst so doing he received a bullet wound in the mouth followed shortly afterwards by a grenade which killed him outright. His body was found next day, khukri in hand and a dead Japanese with a cleft skull by his side.

True to the traditions of the service and his race Subadar Netrabahadur Thapa had fought against overwhelming odds for 8 hours before he was killed. His fine example of personal bravery and his high sense of duty so inspired his men that a vital position was held to the limit of human endurance.

His valour and devotion to duty will remain an epic in the history of the Regiment.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
12th October, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointment to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in recognition of valuable services (Appointment to be dated the 12th September, 1944):—

To be an Honorary Member of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:—

Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant Osman Mahmud Muhammed, Trans-Jordan Frontier Force.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

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12th October, 1944.

ERRATA.

Order of the British Empire.

The particulars of the following appointments are as now shown and not as shown in:—

The London Gazette No. 36486, dated the 27th April, 1944, page 1925:—

For Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) John Strathord Anderson (VX 26), Australian Military Forces.

Read Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) John Strathord Andersen (VX 26), Australian Military Forces.

The London Gazette No. 36544, dated the 8th June, 1944, page 2574:—

For Colonel (temporary Brigadier) Bertran Combes, Australian Military Forces.

Read Colonel (temporary Brigadier) Bertrand Combes, Australian Military Forces.

War Office, 12th October, 1944.

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

The Distinguished Flying Cross.

Captain (temporary Major) Ralph Richard Cobley (85540), Royal Regiment of Artillery (London, N.14).

Lieutenant (acting Captain) Geoffrey Hugh Ivon Jones (187555), Royal Regiment of Artillery (Exmouth).

Lieutenant (temporary Captain) Ian Godfrey Neilson (91686), Royal Regiment of Artillery (Glasgow).

The Distinguished Flying Medal.

No. 2162082 Staff-Sergeant Stanley George Bone, Army Air Corps (Letchworth, Herts.).

No. 3387884 Staff-Sergeant David Fisher Kerr, Army Air Corps (Preston, Lancs.).

War Office, 12th October, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve that the following be Mentioned in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the Middle East:—

Corps of Royal Engineers.

Capt. (temp. Maj.) H. Mackay, M.B.E. (108592).

War Office, 12th October, 1944.

ERRATA.

The Distinguished Conduct Medal.

The London Gazette of 23rd March, 1944 (No. 36436).

For No. VX 72101 Corporal Leslie Charles Drew, Australian Military Forces, *substitute* No. VX 72101 Corporal Ronald Arthur Drew, Australian Military Forces.

Mentions-in-Despatches.

The London Gazette of 6th April, 1944 (No. 36456).

For Pal/11275 Corpl. Ali Ibn Abdel Hafis Mohamed II Masri, A.M.P.C. (Palestine Section), *substitute* Pal/11275 Corpl. Ali Abdul Hafez El Khalili, A.M.P.C. (Palestine Section).

The London Gazette of 27th April, 1944 (No. 36486).

For Capt. T. G. Trainor (NX 72), Australian Military Forces, *substitute* Capt. T. G. Trainor (NX 472), Australian Military Forces.

For Lt. (temp. Capt.) W. D. Forman (NX 174992), Australian Military Forces, *substitute* Lt. (temp. Capt.) W. A. D. Forman (NX 174992), Australian Military Forces.

For Lt. M. M. Hook (NX 137087), Australian Military Forces, *substitute* Lt. M. M. Hooke (NX 137087), Australian Military Forces.

The London Gazette of 24th August, 1944 (No. 36668).

For 10578263 Pte. R. D. G. Skeets, R.E.M.E., *substitute* 10578263 Pte. R. D. G. Skeet, R.E.M.E.

The Military Medal.

The London Gazette of 31st August, 1944 (No. 36679).

For No. T/164917 Warrant Officer Class II (Company Sergeant-Major) Bunley Paine, Royal Army Service Corps, *substitute* No. T/164917 Warrant Officer Class II (Company Sergeant-Major) Brinley Paine, Royal Army Service Corps.

The London Gazette of 14th September, 1944 (No. 36699).

For No. 64096 Private John Elliott Bowman, Royal Army Service Corps, *substitute* No. 64096 Private John Elliot Bowman, Royal Army Service Corps.

The Military Cross.

The London Gazette of 5th October, 1944 (No. 36730).

For Lieutenant Duncan John Trail Robertson (261452), Royal Regiment of Artillery, *substitute* Lieutenant Duncan John Trail Robertson (261452), Royal Regiment of Artillery.

LONDON

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