

a second position containing two machine guns and fifteen riflemen. After a fight lasting ten minutes he wiped out both machine gun nests with his Tommy-gun, and killed or took prisoner the remainder of the enemy.

Throughout these attacks Lieutenant Norton came under direct fire from an enemy self-propelled gun and, whilst still under heavy fire from this gun, he went on to clear the cellar and upper rooms of a house, taking several more prisoners, and putting many of the enemy to flight. Although by this time wounded and weak from loss of blood, he continued calmly and resolutely to lead his platoon up the valley to capture the remaining enemy positions.

Throughout the attack Lieutenant Norton displayed matchless courage, outstanding initiative and inspiring leadership. By his supreme gallantry, fearless example and determined aggression, he assured the successful breach of the Gothic Line at this point.

War Office, 26th October, 1944.

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

Lieutenant (acting Captain) Michael Allmand (E.C.8188), Indian Armoured Corps (attd. 6th Gurkha Rifles) (London, N.W.5.).

Captain Allmand was commanding the leading platoon of a Company of the 6th Gurkha Rifles in Burma on 11th June, 1944, when the Battalion was ordered to attack the Pin Hmi Road Bridge.

The enemy had already succeeded in holding up our advance at this point for twenty-four hours. The approach to the Bridge was very narrow as the road was banked up and the low-lying land on either side was swampy and densely covered in jungle. The Japanese who were dug in along the banks of the road and in the jungle with machine guns and small arms, were putting up the most desperate resistance.

As the platoon came within twenty yards of the Bridge, the enemy opened heavy and accurate fire, inflicting severe casualties and forcing the men to seek cover. Captain Allmand, however, with the utmost gallantry charged on by himself, hurling grenades into the enemy gun positions and killing three Japanese himself with his kukrie.

Inspired by the splendid example of their platoon commander the surviving men followed him and captured their objective.

Two days later Captain Allmand, owing to casualties among the officers, took over command of the Company and, dashing thirty yards ahead of it through long grass and marshy ground, swept by machine gun fire, personally killed a number of enemy machine gunners and successfully led his men onto the ridge of high ground that they had been ordered to seize.

Once again on June 23rd in the final attack on the Railway Bridge at Mogaung, Captain Allmand, although suffering from trench-foot, which made it difficult for him to walk, moved forward alone through deep mud and shell-holes and charged a Japanese machine gun nest single-handed, but he was

mortally wounded and died shortly afterwards.

The superb gallantry, outstanding leadership and protracted heroism of this very brave officer were a wonderful example to the whole Battalion and in the highest traditions of his regiment.

War Office, 26th October, 1944.

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

Bar to the Distinguished Service Order.

Colonel (acting) The Honourable Richard Gustavus Hamilton-Russell, D.S.O. (41155), 17th/21st Lancers, Royal Armoured Corps (Basingstoke).
Brigadier (temporary) Thomas Saumarez Dobree, D.S.O., M.C. (1394), Royal Regiment of Artillery.

The Distinguished Service Order.

Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) William Reginald Nicholson (44948), 16th/5th Lancers, Royal Armoured Corps (Res. of Off.) (Brockenhurst, Hants).
Brigadier (temporary) James Noel Tetley, T.D. (21972), Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps (Hungerford).
Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Edward Ashley Spiller Brett (51794), Reconnaissance Corps, Royal Armoured Corps (Husborne Crawley, Bucks).
Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Frederick Cecil Bull (18577), Royal Regiment of Artillery (Bridgnorth).
Lieutenant (temporary Captain) William Ian Lawrie, M.C. (148210), Royal Regiment of Artillery (Rutherglen, Lanark).
Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Humphrey Edgar Nicholson Bredin, M.C. (67203), Infantry (Canterbury).
Captain (temporary Major) John Henry Coldwell-Horsfall, M.C. (66183), The Royal Irish Fusiliers (Princess Victoria's) (Leamington Spa).
Captain Vivian James Downie, M.C., M.B. (85900), Royal Army Medical Corps (London, S.W.1).
Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) William Sandison (A1 85), 8th Punjab Regiment, Indian Army.
Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Henry Ernest Cubitt-Smith, O.B.E. (A1 339), 12th Frontier Force Regiment, Indian Army.
Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Sebert John Hely Green, M.B.E. (A1 517), 13th Frontier Force Rifles, Indian Army.
Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Reed Harrison (A1 176), 6th Gurkha Rifles, Indian Army.

Bar to the Military Cross.

Captain (temporary Major) Samuel Luckyn Buxton, M.C. (62568), 17th/21st Lancers, Royal Armoured Corps (Marlow) (since killed in action).
Captain (temporary Major) George Thomas Ponsonby, M.C. (58078), 17th/21st Lancers, Royal Armoured Corps (Thurles, Co. Tipperary).
Lieutenant (temporary Captain) Albert David Bowman, M.C. (108388), Royal Regiment of Artillery (Sandwich, Kent).
Captain (temporary Major) Adam Desmond Woods, M.C. (74699), Infantry (Lenadarg, Co. Down).
Captain (temporary Major) Thomas Frederick Huskisson, M.C. (129351), The Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding) (Buckhurst Hill, Essex).
Captain (temporary Major) Girdhari Singh, M.C. (IEC 197), 8th Punjab Regiment, Indian Army.

The Military Cross.

Lieutenant (temporary Captain) Howard Norris Atherton (179937), Royal Horse Artillery (Guiseley, nr. Leeds).
Lieutenant (temporary Captain) John Gordon Bagnall (118398), Royal Horse Artillery (Tarporley, Cheshire).
Lieutenant (acting Captain) Peter James Holland (261971), 16th/5th Lancers, Royal Armoured Corps (Burnham-on-Sea, Som.).
Lieutenant Henry Arthur Gunning Brooke (264477), 16th/5th Lancers, Royal Armoured Corps (Oxford).
Captain (temporary Major) Alfred Brisbane Smethurst (162120), Royal Tank Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps (Blackpool).