

into four objectives which he then carried one after the other despite the fact that he was outnumbered and that the enemy fought tenaciously.

Major Willoughby led all four attacks, with great coolness and bravery. Although because of stiff resistance it took him an hour and a quarter to capture all the objectives he never once considered his own personal safety. He was always in the forefront up the steep and difficult hillsides irrespective of the danger but at the same time always completely in command of the situation. On each objective he stood in the open encouraging and directing his men until it was cleared.

During the attack, thanks to Major Willoughby's skilful plan and deployment, only four of his men were wounded whereas eight enemy soldiers were known killed and several wounded.

After he had beaten off a final enemy counter attack by moving in the open under fire from one position to another to direct his men's efforts, the enemy fled leaving Major Willoughby in possession of several weapons including a mortar, some valuable documents and a lot of equipment.

That this action was so highly successful was largely due to Major Willoughby's ability to think coolly under fire and to lead his men with exceptional gallantry and determination in the most hazardous circumstances.

This particular act is the highlight of a successful operational tour in the Pensiangan area, where by his enthusiasm and hard work he has earned the respect and the loyalty of the local population. His successful action against the enemy raised the morale of the border people, and has resulted in their determination to support the Government, and in supplying the security forces with valuable information.

#### *Military Cross*

Captain (Q.G.O.) DAMARBAHADUR GURUNG, 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles.

Captain Damarbahadur Gurung has commanded his platoon throughout the current operational period with conspicuous gallantry and success, having accounted for 12 enemy killed and an estimated 5 wounded.

His major success was on 25th July 1964, when he laid a successful ambush, the siting of which called for skill and patience. Accompanied only by his runner, he carried out a detailed reconnaissance of the area not far from a known enemy camp in hilly country. Having selected the place he laid his ambush and waited. The enemy, 9 strong, eventually appeared without warning on the afternoon of the second day, moving cautiously and looking to their left and right. Due to the meticulous care taken by this officer to check his men's camouflage and fields of fire, the enemy failed to detect them. The enemy having entered the killing ground Captain Damarbahadur gave the signal to fire. All 9 terrorists were hit, 5 being killed instantly and 4 wounded, 2 of whom died later.

A few weeks previously Captain Damarbahadur had led the same platoon, undetected, through a densely populated border area and laid a linear ambush astride a known enemy incursion route. He had with him 13 men, the remaining 9 being 400 yards to the rear defending the platoon base. Shortly after midday the base was suddenly attacked by 49 Indonesians. After a fierce battle in which 2 Gurkhas were killed, the remainder were forced to withdraw. On hearing the firing Captain Damarbahadur realised what had happened and moved quickly towards the sound of the firing. The enemy had by now overrun the position and were in the process of re-organising. Captain Damarbahadur, with complete disregard for his own safety, attacked the camp at the head of his 13 soldiers, surprising the enemy and forcing them to withdraw. His prompt action and resolute leadership prevented the enemy from removing the radio from the dead signaller who had been killed in the earlier exchange of fire. The enemy casualties were 3 killed and 5 wounded, 2 of whom were reported by villagers to have died the following day.

On both these occasions this officer inspired confidence in his men by his self-assurance, clear orders and dashing leadership in action. The noticeably high morale of the platoon, a direct result of these recent successes, has been remarked upon by all ranks of the battalion.

#### *Military Cross*

Lieutenant David John Marling ROBERTS (474045), 1st Green Jackets, The Green Jackets Brigade.

On the night 30th-31st July 1964, Lieutenant Roberts deployed 11 Platoon in a cut-off ambush role on the Sarawak side of the border with Indonesian Borneo. The ambush was sited in relation to the position of another Platoon's fortified post which was believed to be under threat of Indonesian attack. 11 Platoon had been disposed on similar tasks for the two previous nights but without a contest.

By last light on 30th July, Lieutenant Roberts had settled his Platoon into its ambush position. Having divided it into a killer group under his direct command, and a defence group under his Platoon Sergeant, he personally directed the siting of each man, and personally set up two grenade necklaces, a system of flares and an area of panjis to the immediate flank of his selected killing zone. The grenade necklaces and Royal Air Force flares were battery controlled and were to be set off by him.

In the middle of the night the sound of heavy firing at the fortified post was heard by 11 platoon. It stopped at 0300 hours; and about an hour later, sounds of enemy movement were heard approaching the ambush. Thereafter the action was fought precisely as planned by Lieutenant Roberts. He estimated the enemy to be about 30 strong, allowed the leading elements to pass through his position and when the rear men were in his killing zone, he personally sprang the ambush by setting off his flares. His killer group opened rapid fire; and Lieutenant Roberts detonated his grenade necklaces. Four of the enemy were killed outright and there was good evidence to indicate that at least two were wounded. One Rifleman of 11 Platoon was slightly wounded. Following the engagement, and again as previously planned by Lieutenant Roberts, he withdrew his Platoon to a rendezvous a short distance in rear from which he called down and directed artillery fire on the enemy's route back over the border together with 3 inch mortar tasks.

Subsequently, Lieutenant Robert's Platoon were unanimous in praising his conduct throughout the engagement. His disregard for his own safety, his calm and able leadership, and his skill and meticulous attention to detail in planning and mounting this successful ambush were all of a very high order. He set an inspiring example.

Reliable information has since been received that, as a direct result of this action, enemy morale in the sector on their side of the border from which their sortie was mounted is decidedly bad.

#### *Military Cross*

Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) RANBAHADUR PUN (474710), 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles.

On 10th December 1964, Lieutenant Ranbahadur Pun was commanding 11 Platoon of D Company, 2nd Battalion 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles, which was in an ambush position near the Indonesian border in the Fourth Division of Sarawak. His platoon consisted of 27 men, 12 of whom he had that day sent to a helicopter landing zone to collect supplies. On their way the 12 men were fired upon by an enemy party of over 90 Indonesian regular raider battalion troops. On hearing the firing Lieutenant Ranbahadur gave orders for the remaining 15 men to withdraw from their ambush position and hasten to the scene of action.

Upon arrival, Lieutenant Ranbahadur took command of the situation and, showing great courage, determination and tactical skill, engaged this large force for about three hours during which time the enemy attacked the platoon position a number of times. Although outnumbered by over 3 to 1 he even managed to take the initiative by mounting several flanking movements in an effort to inflict maximum damage on the enemy. Eventually the enemy, having suffered many casualties, withdrew before nightfall.

Lieutenant Ranbahadur then gathered his platoon, laid a further ambush near the scene of the battle, searched for the dead and withdrew the remainder to a defensive position, thus keeping his force in a battle-worthy state. The following day they started a two day march through the thick jungle to evacuate the dead and wounded to the nearest landing zone.

Throughout this action in which a small party of Gurkhas were heavily engaged by a very large party