

On both occasions this officer's conspicuous courage and resolute leadership, has been an inspiration to his men and has done much to maintain the high morale of his company.

#### *Military Cross*

Lieutenant David Phillips THOMSON (472633) The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's).

On the 5th June 1965, Lieutenant Thomson and his platoon—3 Platoon A Company, 1 Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders were in an ambush position for the second day running on a track in the Borneo jungle when the enemy came down the track and into the killing area. Lieutenant Thomson sprang the ambush according to plan and eleven enemy were killed. In the ensuing fire fight the enemy attempted to outflank the ambush party but were prevented by judicious use of fire and movement by a protection group of Lieutenant Thomson's platoon. Lieutenant Thomson realised that he was outnumbered and decided to withdraw. He withdrew to a rear rendezvous by groups, one group covering the other. During this time one man of the last group to withdraw was wounded in the hand. Lieutenant Thomson then withdrew, initially under fire, to his company base.

This successful action was the result of meticulous planning, training and rehearsal by Lieutenant Thomson. It involved a long approach march, which included crossing a river, reconnaissance and selection of the ambush site and it also involved being two nights and one day in the ambush area. The successful outcome of this operation was entirely due to the courage, coolness, determination and aggressiveness shown personally by Lieutenant Thomson, coupled with good discipline, accurate shooting, and high state of morale shown by his platoon.

Lieutenant Thomson has now commanded his platoon during two Borneo tours during which time he has shown leadership of the highest order culminating in this recent successful operation.

#### *Military Cross*

Captain Robin David LETTS (465796) 1st Green Jackets, 43rd and 52nd.

In April 1965, Captain Letts led a reconnaissance patrol into enemy country in Sarawak with the mission of discovering supply routes and enemy locations. During the final stages of this patrol an ambush was laid by Captain Letts on enemy movement on a river. He sited this ambush to bring maximum fire to bear on enemy boat traffic. On the morning of 28th April, four boats approached the ambush positions, each carrying enemy soldiers. Captain Letts himself opened fire, and killed three enemy and wounded another, and the remainder of the patrol accounted for a further four killed.

Captain Letts then withdrew his patrol and brought them back to safety after a long exfiltration taking some three days, during which time he was shadowed by enemy patrols and was forced to take evasive action. The jungle through which the patrol had to move was thin in places, and the chances of discovery by enemy patrols were great.

In the above action Captain Letts displayed coolness and a disregard for his own safety worthy of the very highest praise. His actions and skill in withdrawing the patrol after their successful ambush through enemy country were of a very high order, and his determination in completing his mission was far beyond the call of duty. In this, and other patrols he has led of a similar nature, Captain Letts has at all times displayed qualities of professional skill and devotion to duty in the very highest tradition of the Service.

#### *Military Cross*

Lieutenant (temporary Captain) Bruce Clive JACKMAN (470091) 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles).

On 29th January 1965, Captain Jackman, commanding C Company, 1/2 Gurkha Rifles, was ordered with his company to attack a body of Indonesians estimated to be fifty strong, who had crossed the border and occupied a strong defensive position. Owing to the extremely difficult nature of the ground, little was known about the enemy positions and weapons.

Captain Jackman decided to carry out a night march and attack at dawn the following morning in order to achieve surprise. Owing to the distance between his company base and the objective, the operation required very careful planning to ensure the company arrived on the objective on time.

After a very hard night march, the attack went in as planned on 30th January 1965. It was found however, that the bulk of the enemy had withdrawn the previous evening to another position several hundred yards away, leaving only a small force to hold the original one. This was quickly cleared and many casualties inflicted on the enemy, but whilst engaged in this task the company came under very heavy fire from the new area. Although in a very exposed position, Captain Jackman coolly and with great bravery conducted the battle, always being in the forefront, but all times completely in command of the situation. Owing to his outstanding leadership and initiative only one of his own men was killed and two wounded, whereas the enemy were known to have suffered at least eight killed and seven wounded. It was subsequently learned that the latter figure may have been as high as thirty.

The success of the operation was entirely due to Captain Jackman's planning, his ability to think and act coolly under fire; and to his gallantry and determination.

#### *Military Cross*

Major Anthony Vyvyan Oliver ROBINSON (393651) 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles.

Major Robinson has been in action against the Indonesian aggressors on the borders of Indonesia and the Fourth Division Sarawak on four occasions. Each time the enemy has been repulsed with heavy casualties, which have been confirmed later by independent sources. On every occasion this officer has displayed determination, aggressive spirit, moral and physical courage and leadership of a very high standard. He has commanded his men in an exemplary manner with no thought for his own safety. He has also personally led his Company on numerous border patrols of long duration, enduring physical danger and discomfort.

Amongst other tasks entrusted to Company Commanders in these jungle operations is the winning of the hearts and minds of the local people. In this respect, Major Robinson has been outstandingly successful and has won not only the respect but the sincere affection of the local people with whom he has had to deal.

This officer at all times has set an example to all ranks of his Company and indeed to the whole Battalion on how an infantry Company Commander should conduct operations in the Borneo Territories.

He is well above average in this respect and has set an example well above and beyond the normal calls of duty.

#### *Military Cross*

Captain (Q.G.O.) BHARAT RAI (462991), 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles.

On the 18th February 1965, Captain Bharat Rai was on patrol in dense jungle in the Bau District of the First Division of Sarawak. At 0830 hours he left his patrol base and with fourteen men set off to reconnoitre a track near the Indonesian border.

Three hours later the patrol heard men talking on the track ahead of them. Captain Bharat Rai immediately ordered the patrol to advance more stealthily. Owing to the very able control and leadership exercised by their commander the reconnaissance group advanced to within five yards of five armed regular Indonesian Army soldiers. Because of the papers and maps seen, and of the behaviour of the enemy, it was immediately apparent that this was an enemy commander's orders group.

At this moment the patrol heard sounds of some fifty men moving in the jungle off the track to their right and left. Although there was now a great risk in being surrounded and cut off, Captain Bharat Rai with great coolness and courage, silently deployed more men into fire positions, the enemy commander rose to his feet and the leading scout immediately opened fire. At the same time Captain Bharat Rai yelled to his men to fire on the enemy group to their front. Four enemy commanders were killed immediately and one was badly wounded.

The patrol then came under very heavy automatic and rifle fire from both flanks and the enemy hurled a number of grenades. Captain Bharat Rai still displaying remarkable coolness and courage under very heavy fire, swiftly extricated his patrol wounding at least three more enemy who were seen to fall. A number of others were heard to cry out as though they had been hit.