

switched his fire to help beat off an enemy counter attack. Throughout the whole action this young Non Commissioned Officer displayed superb gallantry and set a fine example. He never once took cover and used his gun with the utmost skill. His personal skill and bravery contributed greatly to the success of this action in which eight enemy were killed and others wounded.

#### *The Military Medal*

21136459 Sergeant AMERBAHADUR PUN, 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles.

Sergeant Amerbahadur Pun commanded a patrol which was sent out ahead of the Company patrol base to reconnoitre the border ridge. He returned with his patrol some 3 hours after dark, with the information that he had smelt wood smoke and believed it to be that of the enemy. Darkness and the nature of the country, average height 6000 feet, prevented him from discovering the source of the smoke. Thus forewarned, his company was able to spring a large enemy ambush the following morning without suffering casualties.

In the fight that followed the enemy refused to be dislodged by small arms fire from their positions on hills overlooking the ridge track and Sergeant Amerbahadur was ordered to bring a 2 inch mortar into action. This entailed cutting down trees under enemy fire in order to make a clearing to fire from. This accomplished, Sergeant Amerbahadur succeeded in firing one bomb which landed on the enemy position and caused them to withdraw. He was seriously wounded when the second bomb failed to clear the overhead tree branches and exploded immediately over the mortar position. Sergeant Amerbahadur refused to be carried back to the landing zone some 400 yards away saying that there was still fighting going on and that all the men were needed in front. He walked to the landing zone. Sergeant Amerbahadur returned from convalescence to his company in the jungle on 19th January and was second in command of a patrol base party that was attacked by a large party of the enemy on 20th January.

The enemy put in three determined attacks on the outnumbered base and Sergeant Amerbahadur was largely responsible for stemming and finally routing the enemy. As soon as fire was opened he ran to the sentry group opposing the enemy and directed the fire of the group with such good effect that he secured sufficient time for the remainder of the base party to reorganise their defence to meet the enemy attack. By his complete disregard for his own safety under heavy small arms and mortar fire his skilful direction of defensive fire and his aggressive action in the follow up that ensued, Sergeant Amerbahadur displayed great courage and skill and set an outstanding example to his men, well above the normal call of duty.

#### *Military Medal*

21151962 Rifleman TULBAHADUR THAPA, 6th Queen Elizabeth's Own Gurkha Rifles.

Rifleman Tulbahadur Thapa was a member of a patrol involved in a fierce fire fight with the enemy on 31st May 1965. He was armed with a Bren Gun and had been detailed to ambush a track considered to be one of the main approaches to his patrol base.

He was lying in thick secondary jungle with no protection from the sun and had been in position for over five hours. At 1130 hours he saw eight Indonesians, thirty yards away, approaching down the track in an alert manner, their weapons at the ready. His orders were to kill as many of the enemy as possible so he held his fire. When the leading man was no more than ten yards from him he fired two well aimed bursts, killing four.

He did not know until then that the rest of his patrol was surrounded by an estimated sixty Indonesians. A moment later a heavy volume of enemy fire was directed at the position. When the order to withdraw had been given, Rifleman Tulbahadur moved back calmly and deliberately from cover to cover bringing accurate fire to bear on the enemy who had started to close in on his flank, thereby ensuring that the rest of his patrol could break contact without sustaining any casualties. Then, firing from the hip, he crossed a stream and rejoined his patrol.

Throughout this action Rifleman Tulbahadur displayed courage, presence of mind and self discipline of a high order. He was not only personally respon-

sible for the success of the engagement but also contributed largely to the safe withdrawal of his patrol, the result of skilled fieldcraft and marksmanship.

#### *Military Medal*

21167005 Sergeant PURNABAHADUR GURUNG, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles.

On the 17th March 1965, Sergeant Purnabahadur was on operations in the Bau District of Sarawak. As his platoon commander was away he was commanding the platoon of eighteen men.

While reconnoitring for an ambush position on a track in thick jungle near the Indonesian border he heard movement ahead of him. He and the six men with him quickly took up fire positions.

In a matter of seconds four regular Indonesian soldiers appeared along the track. These were killed at a range of eight yards, Sergeant Purnabahadur killing one of them.

Almost immediately some forty-five Indonesians opened up very heavy fire, including six light machine guns, from fifty yards away across a river and three men were seen to cross the river to a flank. Determined to eliminate these three men Sergeant Purnabahadur left his position and in full view of the main enemy threw two hand grenades at them. Their shouts proclaimed his success.

Having returned Sergeant Purnabahadur, still showing a complete disregard for his own safety, moved from position to position encouraging his six men and directing their fire to such effect that he was able to extricate them back to his main position. He then switched the guns on to the main enemy force and advanced towards them. The enemy fled.

Known enemy casualties were seven killed and at least four wounded. The success of this engagement was due to the swift, bold and aggressive action taken by Sergeant Purnabahadur, his skill in directing fire and his splendid personal bravery. His gallant conduct and outstanding leadership was an inspiration to his men.

#### *Military Medal*

21147959 Rifleman (local Lance Corporal) DHANBAHADUR LIMBU, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles.

On the 11th March 1965, Lance Corporal Dhanbahadur was on operations in the Bau District of Sarawak. He was commanding a four man ambush on a track in thick jungle near the Indonesian border.

At 1030 hours three Indonesian regular soldiers approached the ambush. Dhanbahadur waited till they were within fifteen yards and then gave the signal to fire. He killed one man and his light machine gunner killed the other two.

Within a few minutes very heavy automatic and rifle fire was brought down on the four men at short range from a flank, while some fifty Indonesian soldiers charged the position yelling, throwing grenades and firing.

Lance Corporal Dhanbahadur shouted encouragement to his men ordering them to hold firm and to fire aimed shots. More casualties were inflicted on the enemy whose charge was stopped fifteen yards from the position. They then tried to infiltrate and rush the position from the flanks. They failed, suffering even more casualties.

By this time our artillery fire was coming down in rear of the enemy and this, together with the heavy casualties they had already suffered, caused them to withdraw.

The action lasted thirty minutes. Later reports revealed that twenty-three enemy were killed and at least six were wounded in this battle.

This remarkable success, achieved in the face of great odds, was largely due to the outstanding leadership, gallantry, coolness and determination of Lance Corporal Dhanbahadur who inspired and encouraged his men throughout. His splendid conduct is worthy of the highest praise.

#### *Military Medal*

21152190 Rifleman BOMBAHADUR LIMBU, 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles.

On the 18th March 1965, Rifleman Bombahadur Limbu was in operations in the Bau District of the First Division of Sarawak.

On this day Bombahadur was the leading scout of a three man reconnaissance patrol some six hundred yards from their patrol base, in thick jungle.