

and included in the arms recovered were a light machine-gun and a medium machine-gun. The company suffered two men very slightly wounded.

This was a superbly well fought action which took place under the most trying circumstances and over very difficult ground. Success was due solely to the courage, determination, initiative, and quick thinking on the part of this very young officer.

Military Cross

Captain (temporary Major) Garry Dene JOHNSON (448155) 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles.

On 28th August 1965, in the Bau District of Sarawak, Captain Johnson was in command of a Company which had been given the mission of destroying an enemy force known to be established on the Sarawak border.

The crux of his plan was the encirclement of the enemy position by the bulk of his force and the final assault onto the position by a hand picked and specially armed group led by him. Captain Johnson was determined that none of the enemy should escape death or capture. He appreciated that everything depended on absolute surprise being achieved and that this would preclude any reconnaissance or even observation of his objective. He accepted that this must force upon him immediate and vital decisions affecting not only the success or failure of his mission but, more important, the very safety of his force.

After a long and arduous approach march, including the crossing of a wide and treacherous river, he reached the area of his objective by last light. At dawn on the morning of 29th August he commenced his assault and soon reached the edge of the jungle clearing from where he could see the enemy position. It was now 0630 hours; the enemy were awakening and speed was vital. He issued immediate orders to his platoons and the cordon moved into position. The Assault Group now started to crawl across the open ground towards the position but with some distance still to go a single enemy soldier came out of the position and gave the alarm. He was immediately shot dead and the Assault Group charged forward to the position. It was only now that they could see some positions in depth which by now had been occupied by the enemy.

A fire fight developed with both sides pouring out a heavy volume of automatic and rifle fire, hand and rifle grenades at very short range. The enemy now brought down mortar defensive fire and Captain Johnson appreciated that he must soon force a decision or withdraw. His own small group had already suffered one killed and one fatally wounded and he decided, despite the heavy odds against him, on an immediate advance. Ordering maximum covering fire from his cordon troops he led the final assault into the position itself and through the positions in depth.

The annihilation of the enemy was complete. Of the original force of twenty, twenty dead bodies were found within the camp area. In something less than sixty minutes Captain Johnson and his Company had completely eliminated an enemy platoon.

There is no doubt that the outstanding success achieved in this bold and hazardous operation was primarily due to the courageous personal leadership and professional skill displayed, to the fullest extent, by Captain Johnson. The example he set of indifference to the enemy's fire, his presence throughout where the action was fiercest and his calm, authoritative and commanding manner inspired all. His daring and bravery were infectious and his conduct a model of inspired leadership.

Military Cross

Captain Christopher Ernest MAUNSELL (463371), 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles.

On 21st November 1965, in the Bau District of Sarawak, Captain Maunsell was in command of a force searching the Border area for signs of enemy infiltration. During the early morning whilst leading a small patrol he heard enemy movement and immediately carried out a close and daring reconnaissance which showed that the enemy 100 strong, had dug in on the top of a dominating and sheer sided hill with a part of their force, the remainder being strongly positioned on a lower spur. He appreciated that the summit position must be taken before the enemy were fully alerted and that the only approach

lay up a knife edge ridge allowing a frontage of only three men abreast. Returning to his patrol base he issued his orders for the attack. By 1200 hours his force was ready and positioning one platoon where they could fire on to and distract the lower enemy defence he led two other platoons in single file up the ridge, the three leading men including himself carefully cutting and parting the undergrowth to allow those behind to crawl forward without sound. Taking over one hour to cover fifty yards Captain Maunsell could at last see the closest of the enemy trenches with a sentry manning a machine gun. When within ten yards of the sentry he was seen and the sentry fired. With surprise lost the attackers immediately rushed forward and the soldier at Captain Maunsell's side was severely wounded. The leading group silenced the sentry and quickly captured the nearest trench but from positions a few yards in rear the enemy were able to sweep the top of the hill with heavy automatic fire. It was now possible to increase the frontage of the attackers and yard by yard the advance continued. Exploding grenades provided a few seconds cover for an advance of a few feet. Two men in the left platoon made a gallant attempt to establish their Bren gun behind a tree some ten yards ahead of Captain Maunsell's position but both were killed instantly. Another was shot down some distance to his right and ordering those nearest to him to give covering fire he crawled forward and pulled the wounded man back behind the crest. This individual act of extreme gallantry was seen by many of his men on the right flank and its effect was electric. The whole platoon rushed forward and quickly captured the two enemy positions facing them, killing all the enemy in their trenches. The left flank platoon were facing stiffer opposition and suffered a third man killed before the hill position was secured.

The example he set of premeditated courage and contemptuous disregard of danger in the face of heavy enemy fire, at a range never exceeding a few yards, inspired his men to their greatest efforts, and must be counted as the decisive factor in this most notable and successful feat of arms.

Military Cross

Lieutenant (temporary Captain) James Anthony Farquhar BAILEY (467524), 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles.

On 27th October 1965, in the Bau District of Sarawak, Captain Bailey was in command of B Company operating in the Border area. On this day an operation lasting a total of 28 days, which he had planned and personally led throughout came to its final and successful conclusion. Fourteen enemy entered the trap which he had so thoroughly conceived and set and all were killed.

In late September Captain Bailey was ordered to find and ambush an enemy supply route thought to exist in support of their forces operating in the border area of Sarawak. For seventeen days of continuous patrolling under the most arduous conditions, resting only when darkness made further search impossible and forced by the difficulties of re-supply to work on minimum rations, this young officer showed such qualities of leadership and so inspired his men that all were determined to continue the search regardless of the hardship involved. Success finally crowned their efforts when Captain Bailey, leading a small patrol, found the enemy's tracks. By this time however eleven of his men were sick and four needed urgent evacuation. His rations were finally exhausted and despite his request to carry on he was ordered to return to base to recuperate.

Within five days he reported his company fit and was allowed to continue his operation. On the second day the company observed signs showing that large enemy groups had moved into the immediate area. On the following day, accompanied by four of his men he located one enemy camp and for the next 48 hours carried out a detailed close reconnaissance of their defences, remaining throughout within yards of the enemy positions. This vital, dangerous and superbly conducted reconnaissance established that the position was strongly sited for defence and held by a force 150 strong who had dug in. Appreciating that he was so heavily outnumbered that he could not hope to successfully attack this position and that the enemy might withdraw before he could be reinforced, he decided to ambush the approaches.