

By the morning of 27th October his ambush had been in position for seven days but the enemy had made no move. At 0915 hours a single enemy soldier passed through the ambush and in the hopes of a better dividend he was allowed to proceed unharmed. At 1400 hours on the same day a large group of enemy could be heard approaching. When the complete group of fourteen were within the ambush area Captain Bailey opened fire. Within minutes all the enemy were killed and despite the intense mortar fire brought down on to his position from the enemy camp he was able to extricate his company without loss.

This outstanding and complete success was a fitting climax to a prolonged operation which had tested the endurance, courage and determination of all ranks of the company. It was undoubtedly due to the determination, initiative, aggressive leadership and personal bravery displayed by their young commander which ensured their eventual reward.

Military Cross

Lieutenant (Q.G.O.) **RANJIT RAI** (477210), 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles.

On 21st November 1965, in the Bau District of Sarawak, Lieutenant Ranjit Rai was in command of his platoon engaged in an attack on a large enemy force located in the Border area. The enemy were strongly entrenched on a dominating pinnacle and with a portion of their force holding a lower spur.

From the moment when the enemy opened fire on the attackers until the whole position was finally taken by his platoon over an hour later this Gurkha officer was and remained in the forefront of the attack. His mission was the capture of the left flank and it was on this flank that the enemy had concentrated his defences, strongly dug in and located in depth. One of his men was wounded in the initial burst of enemy fire but rushing forward with his leading section they quickly secured the first enemy trench, silencing the machine gun and killing the sentry. The whole position now erupted with the enemy able to sweep the crest with a hail of fire and in attempting to establish covering fire from a flank two more of his leading section were mortally wounded. Ordering both his remaining Light machine gun groups forward he sited them to give such covering fire as they could and throwing grenades at the enemy further in rear he was able to achieve some lessening of the enemy pressure in the area of the two casualties whose evacuation was thereby accomplished. Knowing full well that any check to the attack at this crucial stage could not only effect the morale of those with him in the lead but also result in greater losses to those still confined to the narrow ridge line behind him he now led four of his men forward against the next enemy strong point from which heavy and concentrated fire was preventing his advance.

Throwing his grenades and rushing forward in the few seconds of enemy confusion he was finally in possession of the enemy strong point and this success at least allowed him enough space in which to deploy the rest of his men. Leaving his leading section to provide covering fire from the position they had so gallantly won he now led the remainder against the rear positions. Moving round through the ground already secured by the platoon on his right he led the final and successful flanking charge on the remaining enemy. The enemy held their positions to the end and were able to inflict two more casualties before being themselves annihilated.

Throughout this hard fought action at point blank range Lieutenant Ranjit displayed qualities of outstanding leadership and aggressive tenacity in his determination to achieve his mission. The absolute success he finally achieved is due in large measure to his inspired professionalism, personal example and courageous conduct.

Military Cross

2548951 Warrant Officer Class II **LAWRENCE SMITH**, Special Air Service Regiment.

Warrant Officer Smith has served with the Special Air Service Regiment continuously since February, 1950. During this period he has spent most of his time on operations including Malaya, Oman, Radfan and Eastern Malaysia. He has now completed four highly successful 4 month tours in Borneo where he has shown exemplary standards of leadership and devotion to duty far beyond that required of his rank and status. This leadership has been an inspiration and set a standard for both soldiers and officers serving with him.

From May 1965, to October 1965, he completed his fourth tour in Eastern Malaysia. During this period he not only carried out a series of dangerous and exacting operations but in addition ran the Operations Centre for all Special Air Service operations in West Brigade. At no other time in the Regiment's post war history has this task been taken on by any rank below Captain. However such is the calibre of the man that he took the task in his stride, dealt competently with outside units and the brigade staff and showed exceptional administrative and co-ordinating abilities. He was entirely responsible, over this period, for mounting Special Air Service patrols, liaison with battalion commanders and for all the very considerable work involved in mounting and running the patrol operations. He was on occasions responsible for handling as many as 12 patrols simultaneously engaged on this type of operation.

He also carried out some of the most exacting patrolling accomplished by the Squadron during their tour, it being the Squadron Commander's policy to employ Warrant Officer Smith when detailed preliminary reconnaissance of an area was needed. He carried out the patrols necessary for the mounting of three large scale Special Air Service operations in conjunction with infantry, and during the operations themselves successfully acted as a guide to infantry companies and on one occasion as forward observation officer also. This latter incident caused him to be largely responsible for the safe extraction of the company after a contact with the enemy, and not content with this he returned into the jungle to search for the missing forward observation officer.

Warrant Officer Smith's actions during the above operations would by themselves have earned him a citation for courage and devotion to duty far above the norm. His service has been similarly outstanding throughout a long period with the Special Air Service, and this is as worthy of recognition as his more recent actions.

Distinguished Conduct Medal

21148065 Rifleman (local Lance Corporal) **BIRBAHADUR PUN**, 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles).

On 2nd August 1965, Lance Corporal Birbahadur Pun, Support Company, 2/2nd Gurkha Rifles took part in an ambush operation near the Sarawak-Indonesian border. Lance Corporal Birbahadur was a general purpose machine gunner and also the left flank man of his ambush group. The ambushers were lying in the thick alluvial mud beside a track and had been in position for two days. Eight Indonesian soldiers appeared on the track moving from right to left of the ambush. Lance Corporal Birbahadur allowed the enemy to approach to within ten feet of his position. He then opened fire and in the space of a few seconds had accounted for all the enemy. His high standard of camouflage and his expert marksmanship were the factors which contributed most of the completely successful outcome of this operation.

On 2nd September 1965, Lance Corporal Birbahadur accompanied his company on another ambush operation in the same general area as before. On this occasion a stream was being ambushed and he was Section 2nd in Command with a flank protection group. The Indonesians came along a parallel track in company strength, not less than 100 strong, towards Lance Corporal Birbahadur's position. Once fire had been opened by our troops, the enemy assaulted boldly under cover of heavy machine-gun fire in an attempt to overrun the position. At this stage, on his own initiative, he detonated a Claymore mine which threw 2 enemy light machine-gunners, who were supporting the attack, into the stream, killing them instantly. In addition, the mine wounded numerous other enemy soldiers. In spite of this set-back, the Indonesians continued to press home their assault. Determined to stem the enemy's rush, Lance Corporal Birbahadur leapt to his feet and, regardless of his own safety, hurled M.26 grenades at and sprayed the charging enemy groups with his small machine gun, killing or wounding many Indonesians. At one stage, when his light machine-gun was changing magazines, the enemy made a rush to capture the gun. Whereupon, this courageous young Non Commissioned Officer dashed forward, firing his small machine gun and broke up the enemy attack with further casualties, thus saving his light machine-gun and its gunner.