

large enemy force near the border. Before the company moved forward to their assault position Lieutenant Fox, accompanied only by his signaller and two Gurkha soldiers, moved independently to a location well forward of the company and very close to the enemy position, from which he could observe not only the immediate enemy but also all approaches to their position. This bold and hazardous move proved to be a vital factor in the subsequent battle and, but for the courage, leadership and determination shown in this preliminary phase by this officer, the casualties caused to the company would certainly have been more severe and the damage to the enemy much less conclusive.

During the battle Lieutenant Fox, from the excellent observation post he had personally established, was able to bring down on the enemy such devastating fire from the guns he was controlling that the final issue was never in doubt. Despite the heavy enemy mortar fire which was landing all round him and his very small group he continued throughout the action personally to man his post and was thus able to observe and eventually silence every enemy mortar position and also to bring down such effective fire on to the enemy counter attacking force that it was broken and dispersed before it could influence the result.

His outstanding conduct throughout the operation, his courageous contempt for the enemy fire and the example he set to those with him in their isolated and vulnerable position are deserving of high praise.

Military Cross

Major John Arthur Gordon ARNOT (369355), The Durham Light Infantry.

On 24th February 1966, Major Arnot was in command of a force of three platoons on the Kalimantan/Sarawak frontier. He deployed his force in an ambush position on 25th February 1966. At 1030 hours on 26th February 1966, the ambush was sprung accounting for eleven of the enemy.

In the ensuing action Major Arnot manoeuvred his company and directed the artillery fire with coolness and precision for two hours. When the action was broken off he conducted the withdrawal of the force with outstanding skill over a period of seven hours. The force always in danger of an enemy follow up and harried by mortar fire was hampered by carrying a dead man, and the seriously wounded. Throughout Major Arnot inspired his men by his complete command of the situation, his endurance, outstanding coolness and confidence in an operation that lasted for two days.

This incident is but one example of his fine leadership and daring as a company commander.

For five months he has commanded a forward base on the frontier. The sector of the front for which this base was responsible has been the most important and active in the Battalion's sector. Major Arnot has seldom had less than five platoons under his command. Not only has he directed the operations in his sector with imagination and drive, he has commanded his company in contact with the enemy with skill, coolness and resource.

Military Cross

Captain Christopher Darnley HUGHES (461453), 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles.

On the 15th February 1966, Captain Hughes was ordered to place his company in a series of ambush positions along a track to cut off an enemy force, estimated at 40 to 60 strong, that had crossed the border into the Tebedu area of First Division.

The ambushes were in position early on the morning of 16th February and Captain Hughes sent out patrols laterally and to his front to ensure that the enemy had not crossed the track by night and to locate the incursion party.

At 1215 hours one of the forward patrols was heavily engaged by the enemy about 1200 yards in front of the ambush line and threatened with encirclement. At the outbreak of firing Captain Hughes gathered the men that were immediately available and dashed to the aid of his patrol. He arrived as the enemy was about to encircle the patrol and although outnumbered he immediately attacked. In this engagement he suffered one man wounded but put the enemy to flight.

By this time more of his company had arrived and Captain Hughes immediately took up pursuit of the enemy. He caught up with the enemy at 1330 hours and again attacked, killing one before the remainder fled leaving behind quantities of equipment

and arms. From the blood-trails and blood-stained bandages found it was obvious that the enemy had suffered more casualties than the one killed.

Captain Hughes pressed on after the enemy in extremely difficult, close hilly country which gave every advantage for ambush and surprise to the enemy. At approximately 1745 hours in an open space some enemy were seen running from a low hill up on to a higher connecting feature. As there was only about an hour of daylight left Captain Hughes ordered an immediate attack.

Once the lower feature was breasted the two leading platoons came under very heavy automatic fire and found themselves in difficulty with plastic mines and booby traps that the enemy had laid. The attack was vigorously pressed but the company suffered two casualties on mines and a further two men wounded and one killed from automatic fire. The enemy had the advantage of height and any attempt to get forward or round the flanks of the position was met with heavy automatic and rocket launcher fire. The fight continued until after last light and the enemy escaped in the darkness leaving behind one dead and much equipment; most of it booby trapped.

As a result of the persistent attacks during the day the enemy split into small groups in an effort to avoid further harrying and so made his final elimination as a force easier and ensured the failure of his plan. Captain Hughes continued to patrol the area vigorously and cunningly and his efforts were further rewarded when he with a small party contacted and killed two enemy four days later.

Throughout the operation Captain Hughes displayed courage, skill, and endurance of a very high order and was an inspiration to those around him.

Military Cross

Captain (Q.G.O.) PURNASENG LIMBU, M.V.O. (463793), 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles.

On the 28th December in the Bau District of Sarawak, Captain (Q.G.O.) Purnasing Limbu was in command of 9 Platoon of C Company when they successfully ambushed and annihilated an enemy force located in the border area.

Some days earlier, accompanied by only three men, he located a well used enemy supply route and for three days remained in observation, gaining all possible information of the enemy's movements, strengths and routine. Rejoining his platoon he spent the following two days practising and rehearsing his men thus ensuring that, when his ambush was sprung, the maximum number of enemy would be eliminated. So well prepared were his platoon and so carefully sited that, during the following three days, when an enemy patrol came to within 15 yards of his ambush and two large groups of civilians walked through his position the alarm was not raised. Just after mid-day on the fourth day a large number of enemy were seen approaching the ambush and when the leading enemy was about to move out of the killing area he opened fire, himself killing the two enemy immediately in front of him. A total of nine enemy were killed instantly by the remainder of his platoon and two others were seriously wounded. Immediately the enemy in rear brought intense small arms fire to bear on the ambush and very soon two enemy mortars opened fire, the bombs landing on and around his position. He now showed outstanding personal bravery and leadership of the highest order. With a complete disregard for the enemy's fire he calmly moved from group to group, coolly directing their fire against the hidden enemy and inspiring all to give of their best. When, eventually, he decided to break contact to avoid risking heavy casualties he ensured that his orders for the withdrawal were heard above the noise and clearly understood by issuing them individually to every group in his platoon. He personally conducted every move by his sections, remaining with the rearguard until all had finally broken contact with the enemy.

He not only found the target but planned, led and executed the whole operation. It was in concept and in deed perfect in every detail. The aggressive spirit, initiative, determination, leadership and bravery shown by this officer was outstanding.

Distinguished Conduct Medal

21140375 Rifleman (Local Lance Corporal) HINDUPAL RAI, 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles.

On 25th March 1966, Lance Corporal Hindupal Rai was commanding a section of 10 Platoon D Company