

N. W. FRONTIER—1908.

his comrades; he killed the ghazi who cut down Sepoy Bhulla Singh of the same regiment.

Jamadar ARSLA KHAN, *53rd Sikhs (Frontier Force)*. For conspicuous gallantry during the operations of the Mohmand Field Force. On the 24th May 1908, during the action at Kargha, this Indian officer led his company with great boldness and dash; he was one of the first into the enemy's *sangars* and afterwards, followed by a few men, rushed up the hill which was lined with hundreds of the enemy, cutting down two of their number with his sword. He was only restrained from proceeding further by the order to retire.

No. 2182, Havildar ALI SHER, *53rd Sikhs (Frontier Force)*. For conspicuous gallantry during the operations of the Mohmand Field Force. On the 20th May 1908, during the retirement to camp at Umra Kili, this non-commissioned officer, under a heavy fire and closely pursued by the enemy, remained behind to assist his Commanding Officer from a dangerous position in difficult ground.

No. 2797, Sepoy Hira Singh, *53rd Sikhs (Frontier Force)*. For conspicuous gallantry during the operations of the Mohmand Field Force. On the 20th May 1908, during the retirement to camp at Umra Kili, this sepoy, under a heavy fire and closely pursued by the enemy, remained behind with No. 2182, Havildar Ali Sher of the same regiment to assist his Commanding Officer from a dangerous position in difficult ground.

No. 836, Havildar MIR DAST, *55th Coke's Rifles (Frontier Force)*. For Conspicuous gallantry during the operations of the Mohmand Field Force. On the 18th May 1908, at Sardag, this non-commissioned officer with two men found himself in close proximity to a group of the enemy holding a position behind a

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low wall among bushes above a small *nullah*; with his two men he at once rushed the position shooting two and bayonetting one of the enemy; in the execution of this deed he was severely wounded.

No. 972, Naik TEJA SINGH, *55th Coke's Rifles (Frontier Force)*. For conspicuous gallantry during the operations of the Mohmand Field Force. On the 24th May 1908, when on rear-guard duty near Kargha, this non-commissioned officer returned under a heavy fire to pick up and bring in Havildar Kishan Singh who had been severely wounded and was unable to assist himself.

No. 1360, Sepoy BASANT SINGH, *55th Coke's Rifles (Frontier Force)*. For conspicuous gallantry during the operations of the Mohmand Field Force. On the 24th May 1908, when on rear-guard duty near Kargha, this sepoy returned under a heavy fire to assist in bringing in Havildar Kishan Singh who had been severely wounded, and was unable to assist himself; whilst doing this Sepoy Basant Singh was himself severely wounded in the thigh, yet in spite of his he persevered in his efforts to assist Havildar Kishan Singh.

No. 1780, Sepoy KALANDAR, *55th Coke's Rifles (Frontier Force)*. For conspicuous gallantry during the operations of the Mohmand Field Force. On the 18th May 1908, at Sardag, this sepoy was with Havildar Mir Dast of the same regiment and another man when they found themselves in close proximity to a group of the enemy holding a position behind a low wall among bushes above a small *nullah*; when Havildar Mir Dast was wounded, Sepoy Kalandar assisted the former into the *nullah* where, with another sepoy, he held his ground until relief arrived.

Subadar ARSLA KHAN, *57th Wilde's Rifles*

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(*Frontier Force*). For conspicuous gallantry during the operations of the Mohmand Field Force. On the 20th May 1908, at Umra Kili, this Indian officer led a counter attack on a party of the enemy, who had taken up a covered position about fifty yards distant, and killed them all. But for this operation, which required great coolness and courage, the losses to the British force during the retirement might have been very severe.

No. 2820, Sepoy DADAN, *57th Wilde's Rifles* (*Frontier Force*). For conspicuous gallantry during the operations of the Mohmand Field Force. On the 20th May 1908, during a retirement at Umra Kili, this sepoy, along with No. 2913, Sepoy Imam Ali, ran back to recover the body and rifle of a sepoy who had been killed, and carried them back to camp under a heavy fire closely pursued by the enemy.

No. 2913, Sepoy IMAM ALI, *57th Wilde's Rifles* (*Frontier Force*). For conspicuous gallantry during the operations of the Mohmand Field Force. On the 20th May 1908, during a retirement at Umra Kili, this sepoy, along with No. 2820, Sepoy Dadan, ran back to recover the body and rifle of a sepoy who had been killed, and carried them back to camp under a heavy fire closely pursued by the enemy.

No. 4230, Sepoy AMAR SINGH, *59th Scinde Rifles* (*Frontier Force*). For conspicuous gallantry during the operations of the Mohmand Field Force. On the 24th April 1908, this sepoy picked up Jemadar Jehandad Khan of the same regiment when the latter was wounded in the firing line; in doing so he was severely wounded but notwithstanding carried the Jemadar back to the doolie.

No. 3595, Havildar MANGA, *Queen's Own Corps*

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of Guides (Lumsden's). For conspicuous gallantry during the operations of the Mohmand Field Force. On the 29th May 1908, at Khuda Khel, during the retirement from the heights, Sepoy Mir Hussain was severely wounded in the leg; the enemy were then only about fifty yards distant. Havildar Manga at once rushed back and with the greatest gallantry, under a close and heavy fire, carried the wounded man down a precipitous slope out of danger.

No. 5186, Sepoy NUR ZAMAN, *Queen's Own Corps of Guides (Lumsden's)*. For conspicuous gallantry during the operations of the Mohmand Field Force. On the 29th May 1908, at Khuda Khel, during the retirement from the heights, Sepoy Mir Hussain was severely wounded in the leg; the enemy were then only about fifty yards distant. Sepoy Nur Zaman, followed by Havildar Manga, at once rushed back and with the greatest gallantry, under a close and heavy fire, carried the wounded man down a precipitous slope out of danger.

No. 1189, 3rd Class Hospital Assistant KEHAR SINGH CHANDAIL, *Indian Subordinate Medical Department*, attached 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force). For conspicuous gallantry during the operations of the Mohmand Field Force. This Hospital Assistant, during the advance, displayed great courage and devotion to duty in attending to the wounded on several occasions under a heavy fire from the enemy.

Had Jemadar MIR AFZAL KHAN, *22nd Punjabis*, and No. 1260, Sepoy BHULLA SINGH, *34th Sikh Pioneers*, survived, the distinction of the 3rd class would have been conferred upon them in recognition of their conspicuous gallantry during the operations of the Mohmand Field Force. Jemadar Mir Afzul Khan, on the night of the 16th-17th May 1908, when the picquet

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under his command at Kasai was the object of a furious and sustained attack by the enemy, continued, although twice wounded, to direct and encourage his men until he fell mortally wounded in the chest. His example of coolness and determination inspired the men with confidence in an extremely difficult position. His widow was admitted to the pension of the 3rd class.

No. 1260, Sepoy BHULLA SINGH, on the 18th May 1908, at Zanawar, on the occasion of a ghazi attack, stood bravely at bay, thereby averting a possible panic and safeguarding the lives of his comrades; having killed two of the ghazis, he was cut down by a third. His widow also was admitted to the pension of the 3rd Class.

(526 of 1908).

 N. W. F. ACTION AGAINST RAIDERS—1909.

Admitted to the 3rd class.

No. 1985. Kot-Dafadar MEHDI KHAN, *19th Lancers (Fane's Horse)*. For conspicuous gallantry in an encounter with the notorious raider "Multan," and his gang near Peshawar on the 23rd January 1909. This non-commissioned Officer approached, under fire, to within a short distance of a hollow in which Multan and three of his companions had taken cover, and shot the leader dead. Two men who accompanied Mehdi Khan on this enterprise were killed, and he himself was grazed by a bullet.

No. 2236, Lance Dafadar MEHR KHAN, *19th Lancers (Fane's Horse)*. For conspicuous gallantry in an encounter with the notorious raider "Multan," and his gang near Peshawar on the 23rd January 1909.

N. W. F. ACTION AGAINST RAIDERS—1909.

This non-commissioned officer was severely wounded while gallantly proceeding to the assistance of a sowar who was in imminent danger. He afterwards commanded his section until ordered to fall out.

No. 2981, Sowar YUSUF ALI KHAN, *19th Lancers (Fane's Horse)*. For conspicuous gallantry in an encounter with the notorious raider "Multan" and his gang near Peshawar on the 23rd January 1909. This sowar on two occasions, by distracting the attention of the enemy and drawing their fire upon himself assisted in extricating members of his own party from serious situations of great danger. Throughout the day he distinguished himself by his cool and plucky behaviour.

(3 of 1910)

ABOR—1911.

Subadar JAICHAND THAKUR, *2nd Battalion, 8th Gurkha Rifles*, was admitted to the 3rd class for conspicuous gallantry during the operations of the Abor Expeditionary Force. On the 19th November 1911, this Indian Officer led a party of six men up a precipitous hill towards the enemy's right stockade which commanded the line of advance. During the climb the party were within the enemy's view and were subjected to continuous arrow fire; three stone shoots were also let down on the party, one of which passed over the Subadar. The stockade was eventually reached, rushed and captured. After taking this stockade, Subadar Jaichand Thakur by leading his party to the right, succeeded in outflanking the enemy's whole position and, through his example of coolness and determination, contributed in a great measure to the successful clearance of the enemy from their strong position.

(69 of 1912.)

PERSIA—1911.

The Governor General in Council was pleased to notify that had No 2265 Sowar NAZAR MOHAMED KHAN, 39th King George's Own Central India Horse, survived, the distinction of the 2nd class would have been conferred upon him in recognition of the conspicuous gallantry displayed at the tower on the Kutal-i-Dukhtar on the 24th December 1911, during the disturbances in Persia. Sowar Nazar Mohamed Khan was one of three advanced scouts of Major H. B. Birdwood's party which was *en route* to Kazerun. On reaching the tower and while in conversation with some apparently friendly toofangchis (road guards), they were suddenly surrounded and an attempt was made to seize their rifles. They resisted, upon which Sowar Nazar Mahomed Khan was shot in the face and fell from his horse, still retaining his rifle. Of the other two scouts, one was slashed across the hands with knives and his rifle wrested from him, while the other had his horse shot under him. Both men were overpowered, and efforts were made to drag them into the tower, but Sowar Nazar Mahomed Khan, although lying wounded out in the open about 15 yards from the tower, opened fire and succeeded in saving the lives of his two comrades by preventing the enemy from entering it before the arrival of the main body under Major Birdwood's command. Unfortunately, Sowar Nazar Mohamed Khan while firing, was wounded again by a shot fired from the top of the Tower and died the same day.

His widow was admitted to the pension of the 2nd Class.

(758 of 1912)

ACTION AGAINST OUTLAWS-ZHOB—1912.

No. 22 Sepoy (Lance-Naik) KESHA RAWAT, *122nd Rajputana Infantry*, was admitted to the 2nd class, for conspicuous gallantry on the occasion of an attack by outlaws on a caravan at the Chuharkhel Dhana Pass, Zhob, on the 14th May 1912. The outlaws had climbed the steep rocky side of the pass and entrenched themselves, about fifty feet above the road level, behind rocks and *sangars*, thus commanding the road along which the caravan had to pass. When the advanced party of the escort, consisting of ten men at intervals of fifteen yards, arrived within one hundred yards of the outlaws' position, the latter opened fire killing the two leading sepoys. The eight men remaining at once took up positions behind the only cover available which was a parapet at the side of the road about a foot high, but immediately afterwards the Naik in command was wounded. Sepoy Kesha Rawat then practically took command and maintained the party in their position for over five hours under a continuous and at times very heavy fire, until assistance arrived. His coolness, self reliance and fine example not only encouraged the men with him but resulted in keeping the outlaws from descending from their positions and destroying the convoy.

(839 of 1912.)

ACTION AGAINST RAIDERS-ZHOB—1912.

No. 1836 Sowar SYED RASUL, *Zhob Militia*, Was admitted to the 2nd class for conspicuous gallantry near Babar, Zhob District, on the 14th June 1912 when Major W. Bickford and his escort of four militia sowars were ambuscaded and attacked by a party of raiders. Two of the escort fell mortally wounded on the first shots of the raiders, while Major Bickford and another of the escort, whose rifle had been struck on the

ACTION AGAINST RAIDERS-ZHOB—1912.

breech and put out of action, were wounded immediately afterwards. This left only one rifle with Sowar Syed Rasul who very pluckily held his ground and by his coolness in replying to the raiders' fire whenever opportunity offered, forced them to retire.

(1053 of 1912).

N. W. F. ACTION AGAINST RAIDERS—1913.

No 2632, Sepoy PAKHAR SINGH, *72nd Punjabis*, was admitted to the 2nd class for conspicuous gallantry on the occasion of an attack by raiders on a party of that regiment in the Gomal Pass, on the 2nd May 1913. This young soldier, the sole survivor of the four leading files, who were suddenly fired on from a *nulla* below the road, at about 40 yards' range by 10 to 15 Mahsuds, and were also under a crossfire from a hill on the right flank, held his own with the butt of his rifle which was smashed by a bullet. The other man of his file was killed almost beside him. He protected his dead comrade's body and rifle, and shot the Mahsud who had killed his comrade and who returned to try and get his rifle. He was by himself for about 10 to 15 minutes till relieved.

(709 of 1913.)

N. E. FRONTIER—1913.

Admitted to the 2nd class of the Order.

No. 4225, Naik TUMPAO TU, *Myitkyina Battalion, Burma Mily. Police*, for conspicuous courage and determination under a hot fire from Chinese soldiers armed with magazine rifles and from Lissus armed with cross bows and poisoned arrows, at the action of Baze, Ahkyang Valley, North East Frontier, Burma, February 26th, 1913.

N. E. FRONTIER—1913.

With a Kachin sepoy comrade, this non-commissioned officer held off the enemy whilst Mr. J. T. O. Barnard, C.I.E., and Havildar Dhanraj Limbu lay wounded.

Pushing forward under cover towards the enemy he accounted for a Lissu and brought in his cross bow, arrows and *da* to Mr. Barnard.

No. 4690, Lance Naik LATONG LA, *Myitkyina Battalion, Burma Military Police*. for conspicuous courage at the action of Baze on 26th February 1913, in the Ahkyang Valley, North-East Frontier, Burma. This Lance Naik (then sepoy) with Mr. J. T. O. Barnard, C.I.E., Havildar Dhanraj Limbu (who subsequently died of wounds) and Naik Tumpao Tu also a Kachin, formed a small advance party which came suddenly under a hot fire from some Chinese soldiers armed with magazine rifles and Lissus armed with cross-bows and poisoned arrows who were in dense jungle.

Mr. Barnard and the Havildar were simultaneously wounded and had to lie under a well-directed fire.

Latong La assisted his comrade Tumpao Tu to keep up the fight with the enemy and to hold them off until a relieving party arrived.

(207 of 1914.)

THE GREAT WAR.

THE VICTORIA CROSS.

The Victoria Cross was instituted in 1856, and consists of a Maltese Cross of Bronze with the Royal crest in the centre, and underneath it an escroll bearing the inscription "For Valour".

The Cross is awarded for most conspicuous bravery or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy.

2. At the Royal Durbar which was held in Delhi in December 1911, His Imperial Majesty was graciously pleased to ordain that the Victoria Cross shall be conferred on Indian officers and men of the Indian Army, who may be qualified to receive the decoration in accordance with the rules on the subject.

3. In place of the special pension, every Indian officer who is granted the Cross is entitled from the date of the act by which such decoration has been gained, to a special pension of Rs. 525 a year; and each additional bar conferred on such Indian officer carries with it an additional pension of Rs. 150 a year. In the case of a warrant or non-commissioned officer or soldier the special pension is Rs. 150, with Rs. 75 additional for each additional bar. On the death of a recipient of the Cross, these pensions are continued to his widow until her death or re-marriage.

4. This much coveted decoration was conferred on 2 Indian officers, 4 non-commissioned officers and 6 men, for conspicuous gallantry in action during the Great War.

VICTORIA CROSS:

His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to approve of the grant of the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned soldiers of the Indian Army for conspicuous bravery whilst serving with the Indian Army Corps, British Expeditionary Force:—

No. 1709 Naik DARWAN SING NEGI, *1st Bn. 39th Garhwal Rifles*, for great gallantry on the night of the 23rd-24th November 1914, near Festubert, France, when the regiment was engaged in retaking and clearing the enemy out of the British trenches, and, although wounded in two places in the head, and also in the arm, being one of the first to push round each successive traverse, in the face of severe fire from bombs and rifles at the closest range.

No. 4050, Sepoy KHUDADAD, *129th Duke of Connaught's Own Baluchis*. On the 31st October 1914, at Hollebeke, Belgium, the British Officer in charge of the detachment having been wounded, and the other gun put out of action by a shell, Sepoy Khudadad, though himself wounded, remained working this gun until all the other five men of the gun detachment had been killed.

(London Gazette dated 7th December 1914).

His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to approve of the grant of the Victoria Cross to, No. 1685 Rifleman GOBAR SING NEGI, *2nd Bn. 39th Garhwal Rifles*, for most conspicuous bravery on the 10th March 1915, at Neuve Chapelle.

During the British attack on the German position he was one of a bayonet party with bombs who entered their main trench, and was the first man to go round each traverse, driving back the enemy until they were eventually forced to surrender.

He was killed during this engagement.

(London Gazette dated 28th April 1915).