

VICTORIA CROSS.

His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to approve of the grant of the Victoria Cross to, Jemadar MIR DAST I. O. M. *55th Coke's Rifles (Frontier Force) attached to 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force)*, for most conspicuous bravery and great ability at Ypres on the 26th April 1915, when he led his platoon with great gallantry during the attack, and afterwards collected various parties of the regiment (when no British Officer was left) and kept them under his command until the retirement was ordered.

Jemadar Mir Dast subsequently on that day displayed remarkable courage in helping to carry eight British and Indian officers into safety, whilst exposed to very heavy fire.

(London Gazette, dated 29th June 1915).

His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to approve of the grant of the Victoria Cross to No. 2129 Rifleman KULBIR THAPA, *2nd Bn. 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles*, for most conspicuous bravery during the operations against the German trenches South of Manquissart.

When himself wounded, on the 25th September 1915, he found a badly wounded soldier of the 2nd Leicestershire Regt. behind the first line German trench, and, though urged by the British soldier to save himself, he remained with him all day and night. In the early morning of the 26th September, in misty weather, he brought him out through the German wire, and leaving him in a place of comparative safety, returned and brought in two wounded Gurkhas one after the other. He then went back in broad day-light for the British soldier and brought him in also carrying him most of the way and being at most points under the enemy's fire.

(London Gazette, dated 18th Nov. 1915).

VICTORIA CROSS.

His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to award the Victoria Cross to No. 1605 Naik SHAHAMAD KHAN, *89th Punjabis*, for most conspicuous bravery near Beit Ayeesa, Mesopotamia, on 12th and 13th April 1916. He was in charge of a machine gun Section in an exposed position, in front of and covering a gap in the British new line, within 150 yards of the enemy's entrenched position. He beat off three counter attacks and worked his gun single-handed after all his men, except two belt-fillers, had become casualties.

For three hours he held the gap under very heavy fire while it was being made secure. When his gun was knocked out by hostile fire he and his two belt-fillers held their ground with rifles till ordered to withdraw.

With three men sent to assist him, he then brought back his gun, ammunition and one severely wounded man who was unable to walk.

Finally, he himself returned and removed all remaining arms and equipment except two shovels.

But for his great gallantry and determination the British line must have been penetrated by the enemy.

(London Gazette dated 26th September 1916).

His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to confer the Victoria Cross on No. 501 Lance Naik LALA, *41st Dogras, Indian Army*, for most conspicuous bravery displayed by him at El Orah, Mesopotamia, on 21st January 1916.

Finding a British Officer of another regiment lying close to the enemy, he dragged him into a temporary shelter, which he himself had made, and in which he had already bandaged four wounded men.

After bandaging his wounds, he heard calls from the Adjutant of his own regiment who was lying in the

VICTORIA CROSS.

open severely wounded. The enemy were not more than a hundred yards distant, and it seemed certain death to go out in that direction, but Lance Naik Lala insisted on going out to his Adjutant and offered to crawl back with him on his back at once. When this was not permitted, he stripped off his own clothing to keep the wounded officer warmer, and stayed with him till just before dark, when he returned to the shelter.

After dark, he carried the first wounded officer back to the main trenches, and then, returning with a stretcher, carried back his Adjutant.

He set a magnificent example of courage and devotion to his officers.

(London Gazette dated 13th May 1916).

His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to award the Victoria Cross to No. 3398 Sepoy CHATTA SINGH, *9th Bhopal Infantry, Indian Army*, for most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the 13th January 1916, at Wadi, Mesopotamia, in leaving cover to assist his Commanding Officer who was lying wounded and helpless in the open. Sepoy Chatta Singh bound up the Officer's wound and then dug cover for him with his entrenching tool, being exposed all the time to very heavy rifle fire.

For five hours until night-fall, he remained beside the wounded officer, shielding him with his own body on the exposed side. He then, under cover of darkness, went back for assistance, and brought the officer into safety.

(London Gazette dated 21st June 1916).

His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Victoria Cross to No. 2008 Lance Dafadar GOBIND SINGH, *28th Light Cavy, Indian Cavalry*, for most conspicuous bravery and

VICTORIA CROSS.

devotion to duty on the 1st February 1917, east of Pozières, France, in thrice volunteering to carry messages between the regiment and Brigade Headquarters, a distance of $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles over open ground which was under the observation and heavy fire of the enemy. He succeeded each time in delivering his message although on each occasion his horse was shot and he was compelled to finish his journey on foot.

(London Gazette dated 11th January 1918).

His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to award the Victoria Cross to No. 4146 Rifleman KARAN-BAHADUR RANA, *2-3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles*, for most conspicuous bravery, resource in action under adverse conditions, and utter contempt for danger, at El. Kefr. Egypt, on 10th April 1918.

During an attack he, with a few other men, succeeded under intense fire, in creeping forward with a Lewis gun in order to engage an enemy machine gun which had caused severe casualties to officers and other ranks who had attempted to put it out of action.

No. 1 of the Lewis gun opened fire, and was shot immediately. Without a moment's hesitation Rifleman Karanbahadur pushed the dead man off the gun, and in spite of bombs thrown at him and heavy fire from both flanks, he opened fire and knocked out the enemy's machine gun crew; then, switching his fire on to the enemy bombers and riflemen in front of him, he silenced their fire. He kept his gun in action and showed the greatest coolness in removing defects which on two occasions prevented the gun from firing. During the remainder of the day he did magnificent work, and when a withdrawal was ordered he assisted with covering fire until the enemy were close on him. He displayed throughout a very high standard of valour and devotion to duty.

(London Gazette dated 21st June 1918).

VICTORIA CROSS.

His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Victoria Cross to Risaldar BADLU SINGH, *late 14th Lancers, attached 29th Lancers, Indian Army*, for most conspicuous bravery and self sacrifice on the morning of the 23rd September 1918, when his squadron charged a strong enemy position on the west bank of the river Jordan, between the river and Kh. es Samariveh village.

On nearing the position, Risaldar Badlu Singh realised that the squadron was suffering casualties from a small hill on the left front occupied by machine guns and 200 infantry. Without the slightest hesitation he collected six other ranks and with the greatest dash and an entire disregard of danger, charged and captured the position, thereby saving very heavy casualties to the squadron. He was mortally wounded on the very top of the hill when capturing one of the machine guns single handed, but all the machine guns and infantry had surrendered to him before he died.

His valour and initiative were of the highest order.

(London Gazette dated 27th November 1918).

His Majesty the King was graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Victoria Cross to No. 1012 Sepoy ISHAR SINGH, *28th Punjabis, Indian Army*, for most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the 10th April 1921, near Haidar Kach (Waziristan). When the convoy protection troops were attacked, this Sepoy was No. 1 of a Lewis Gun Section. Early in the action he received a very severe gunshot wound in the chest and fell beside his Lewis gun. Hand-to-hand fighting having commenced, the British officer, Indian officer, and all the Havildars of his company were either killed or wounded, and his Lewis gun was seized by the enemy.

VICTORIA CROSS.

Calling up two other men, he got up, charged the enemy, recovered the Lewis gun, and, although bleeding profusely, again got the gun into action.

When his Jemadar arrived, he took the gun from Sepoy Ishar Singh and ordered him to go back and have his wound dressed. Instead of doing this, the Sepoy went to the medical officer, and was of great assistance in pointing out where the wounded were, and in carrying water to them. He made innumerable journeys to the river and back for this purpose. On one occasion, when the enemy fire was very heavy, he took the rifle of a wounded man and helped to keep down the fire. On another occasion he stood in front of the medical officer who was dressing a wounded man, thus shielding him with his body. It was over three hours before he finally submitted to be evacuated, being then too weak from loss of blood to object.

His gallantry and devotion to duty were beyond praise. His conduct inspired all who saw him.

(Supplement to London Gazette dated 25th Nov. 1921)

THE MILITARY CROSS.



The Military Cross was instituted in December 1914. It consists of a cross in silver and has on each arm the Imperial Crown, and in the centre the Royal Imperial Cipher "G.R.I."

2. The Cross is awarded for distinguished and meritorious services rendered in time of War. No person is eligible for this Decoration unless he is a Captain, a commissioned officer of a lower grade or a Warrant Officer of the British or Indian Army.

3. The Military Cross was conferred on a large number of Indian officers for distinguished services rendered during the Great War.

MILITARY CROSS.

The following Indian Officers were awarded the Military Cross for service in the field:—

- Subadar Gauri SHANKAR DUBE, 1st S. and M. } *Sapper and Miners.*
 Subadar MALLA SINGH 3rd S. and M. }
 Jemadar LAKHI RAM, 6th Jat Light Infantry.
 Jemadar BIR SINGH, 15th Ludhiana Sikhs.
 Subadar DHAN SINGH NEGI, 39th Garhwal Rifles.
 Jemadar INDAR SINGH, 58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force).
 Subadar KHARAK SINGH RANA, 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles).
 Subadar HARIDHOJ KHATTRI, 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles.

(313 of 1915).

- Jemadar INCHHA RAM, 6th Jat Light Infantry.
 Subadar SANT SINGH, 34th Sikh Pioneers.
 Subadar THAKUR SINGH, 47th Sikhs.
 Subadar ZAMAN KHAN, 129th Baluchis
 Subadar NAIN SINGH CHINWARH, 39th Garhwal Rifles.

(111 of 1915).

- Subadar PARBAT CHAND, 59th Scinde Rifles (Frontier Force).

For conspicuous gallantry, and exceptionally good service at Neuve Chapelle, on 12th March 1915, when he commanded his corps for five hours with marked ability after the European Officers had fallen.

Subsequently this officer took command of the Machine Gun Section after the British Officer had been killed.

(473 of 1915).

- Jemadar PANCHAM SINGH MAHAR, 2nd Battalion, 39th Garhwal Rifles. For conspicuous gallantry

MILITARY CROSS.

on 10th March 1915, during the attack at Neuve Chapelle, where he showed great dash in command of a party which advanced over the open ground and captured many prisoners and a machine gun.

(583 of 1915).

Jemadar BISHAN SINGH RAWAT. } *39th Garhwal*

Jemadar SANGRAM SINGH NEGI. } *Rifles.*

Subadar ARSLA KHAN, I.O.M. *57th Wilde's Rifles*
(*Frontier Force*).

No. 298 Second Class Sub-Assistant Surgeon
Ramkrishna Ganpat Shinde, attached 1st Battalion,
39th Garhwal Rifles.

(707 of 1915).

(MESOPOTAMIA).

Jemadar SOHAN SINGH, *24th Punjabis*. For conspicuous gallantry and coolness throughout the action of the 14th April 1915, especially in going back under heavy fire at a very critical time and bringing up a box of ammunition which he obtained from a number of mules that had been shot down in an endeavour to approach closer to the firing line.

Jemadar DATTAJI RAO KHANVILKAR, *110th Maharatta Light Infantry*. For gallantry and resource on the 14th April 1915, in leading his half company under heavy rifle and machine gun fire during the engagement and in the final assault on the enemy's trenches.

Jemadar SITARAM SELLAR, *117th Maharattas*. For gallantry and devotion to duty on the 14th April 1915, when, though wounded early in the action, he continued to lead his company with conspicuous coolness, even in the final assault.

He also acted with gallantry on a previous occasion.

(1060 of 1915 and 3376 of 1919).

MILITARY CROSS.

Subadar-Major GAMBIR SINGH PUN, *1st Battalion, 6th Gurkha Rifles*. For conspicuous gallantry on the 6th August 1915, on Chunuk Bair, when he set a splendid example of bravery under very trying conditions. Not only on the 6th August, but throughout the hard hand-to-hand fighting which followed, he showed himself to be a leader of remarkable merit and undaunted courage.

(1203 of 1915).

Second Lieutenant RANA JODHA' JANG BAHADUR, *Indian Native Land Forces (attached 39th Garhwal Rifles)*. During a feint attack made by the Indian Corps to the north of La Bassee Canal on 13th October 1915, this officer commanded a double-company with great ability and conspicuous gallantry in the face of a fierce fire from rifles, machine guns, grenades and bombs, and was severely wounded in the neck.

On the previous evening, this very gallant officer was wounded in the arm by a rifle bullet, but notwithstanding his injury he returned to the firing line to see his Company through the engagement which was due to commence the next day, and for which he had made all the preparation.

The bravery of 2nd Lieutenant Rana Jodha Jang Bahadur, was previously observed on 26th September when he led his Company with marked gallantry and dash right up to the German wire under very heavy rifle and machine-gun fire.

(1235 of 1915).

Captain ZORAWAR SINGH, *Indian Land Forces, attached Mysore Imperial Service Lancers*.

Jemadar HAWINDA, *58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force) Indian Army*.

MILITARY CROSS.

Subadar BAKHT BAHADUR ADHIKARI, *1-9th Gurkha Rifles, Indian Army.*

(187 of 1916).

Jemadar DHANLAL GURUNG, *1-5th Gurkha Rifles, Indian Army.*

(759 of 1916).

Ressaidar JAI SINGH, *Indian Army attd. M. Gun Sqn.* For conspicuous gallantry in action. He volunteered to relieve a machine gun which was unable to fire owing to heavy enemy shelling. During the whole six days he kept his gun in action and sent back valuable reports to Headquarters. He had previously done fine work.

(626 of 1917).

Subadar SARAJIT GURUNG, BAHADUR, *I.O.M., 2nd K.E.O. Gurkha Rifle (Mesopotamia).* For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He took command of his company and by his fine personal example inspired his men at a critical time. He himself killed two of the enemy. He had previously done fine work.

(1065 of 1917).

Subadar BIR Singh, (*Mesopotamia*) *15th Ludhiana Sikhs, Indian Army.*

Subadar SHER AFZAL, *128th Pioneers, Indian Army.*

Subadar (A.-Subadar-Major) THAKUR SINGH, *47th Sikhs, Indian Army.*

(1773 of 1917)

Subadar GHULAM ALI, *40th Pathans, Indian Infantry.* For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. He conducted the withdrawal of a rearguard with exceptional gallantry and skill. He set a magnificent example to his men.

(1773 of 1917).

MILITARY CROSS.

Jemadar BUDHIRAL THAPA, *8th Gurkha Rifles.*

For most conspicuous gallantry and fine leadership during an attack on 12th March 1918. This officer's dash and magnificent example carried his platoon up a cliff on to the enemy's left flank, a movement which ended in the capture of sixty-two unwounded prisoners. Further, by turning the attention of the enemy in the cave on himself, he made possible the advance of the left flank.

(1457 of 1918).

Subadar-Major AMAR SINGH THAPA, Sardar Bahadur, *5th Gurkha Rifles, Indian Army.* For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. At a critical moment in the attack he showed the greatest determination and coolness in encouraging his men to dig themselves in, thus contributing largely to the maintenance of a difficult forward position. His complete disregard of danger was a fine example to all ranks.

(1529 of 1918).

Subadar-Major BHIM SINGH THAPA, *I.O.M., 3rd Q.A.O., Gurkha Rifles.* For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the 12th November 1917. During an attack he led his platoon with great skill and gallantry through intense machine gun and rifle fire. After the capture of the position, seeing that a gap had occurred between the right of the battalion and the next unit, he, on his own initiative, filled up the gap and assuming command of that portion of the line (the British officer having been killed) consolidated his position under very heavy shell and machine gun fire.

Subadar DAMAR SINGH Gurung, *3rd Q. A. O. Gurkha Rifles.* For conspicuous gallantry and good leadership on the 19th January 1918, during the capture of an enemy patrol and the subsequent counter-