

INDIAN ORDER OF MERIT.

a column advancing in difficult mountainous, and thickly wooded country, was heavily fired into from dominating heights, this gallant sepoy took his Lewis gun to the only open space from which fire could be brought to bear and from this exposed position took the Lewis gun on his back in order to allow proper aim to be taken by sepoy Umar Din his No. 1, at the enemy, remaining thus although twice wounded, until he received the third wound which caused his death. His gallantry and initiative saved the column from severe losses at the cost of his own life.

His widow was admitted to the pension of the Order, with effect from the date of his death.

(657 of 1921).

NORTH WEST FRONTIER—INDIA.

Awarded the Indian Order of Merit, 2nd class for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty in the field while serving with the Waziristan Force.

No. 2300-C. Sepoy Allah Yar, *28th Punjabis*. For conspicuous gallantry on the 4th January 1921. During an attack by the enemy covered by concentrated fire, on a working party, this sepoy was on the right flank of an observation group of 4 men thrown out from a picquet. After the enemy had attacked and charged the Lewis gun position on his right flank, about 25 of them advanced towards Allah Yar's position. He resolutely stayed at his post under heavy fire and covered the withdrawal of his group with a comrade who had been wounded and was crawling away with his rifle. He then retired to the picquet, shooting 3 of the enemy who had tried to intercept him. Two of these he killed outright and then charged and bayoneted the other.

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This gallant action delayed the enemy and enabled the wounded to retire and rifles to be recovered.

No. 3111 Lance-Naik Mardan, Ali, *28th Punjabis*. For conspicuous gallantry on the 4th January 1921. During an attack by the enemy covered by concentrated fire, this non-commissioned officer was commanding a group of men posted for observation on the north flank of the picquet. In an endeavour to cover the retirement of the wounded, he remained in his position and fought gallantly with the bayonet, although mortally wounded in the stomach, and he refused to give up his rifle until he was cut down and thrown into a *nullah*. He set a fine example of self sacrifice and devotion to duty.

His widow was admitted to the pension of the Order, with effect from the date of his death).

No. 1520 Havildar Sundar Singh, *48th Pioneers*. For conspicuous gallantry on the 4th January 1921. This non-commissioned officer showed great courage and initiative while commanding a party of men. On one occasion he went forward with a British officer to an advanced *sangar* and though wounded he remained there till orders were given to retire.

No. 1027 Sepoy Kartar Singh, *58th Vaughan's Rifles (Frontier Force)*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty near Rogha Kot, Waziristan, on the 17th March 1921. This signaller was badly wounded in an action against enemy raiders but continued to signal and despatched two messages to his company headquarters. Later on, he proceeded into the open, and under heavy sniping fire tried to get into communication with the *liaison* troops. He was hit in two places during this endeavour and died of wounds shortly afterwards. He set a fine example of self sacrifice and devotion to duty.

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His widow was admitted to the pension of the Order, with effect from the date of his death.

(1035 of 1921).

Awarded the Indian Order of Merit, 2nd class, for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in the field while serving with the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force.

Subadar Tilbir Thapa, *1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles)*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the 0th January 1921. On encountering a party of the enemy armed with machine guns and numerically superior to his own party, this Indian officer immediately gave orders to attack and succeeded in inflicting severe casualties. Seeing the enemy withdrawing, he despatched a small party to block their line of retreat, which was successfully carried out. As a result of his ready appreciation and prompt action, his party was responsible for the capture of a considerable number of the enemy together with one Lewis gun and one machine gun.

(1091 of 1921).

Awarded the Indian Order of Merit, 1st class, for acts of gallantry or devotion to duty in the field, while serving with the Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force;

Ressaidar (afterwards Risaldar) Dur Khan, I.O.M. I.D.S.M., 35th Scinde Horse.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion on the 24th July 1920 in Mesopotamia.

During a rear guard action at night, he led his troop with ability and courage. When both squadron officers were wounded, he took command and led three successive charges against the enemy. His bravery

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and initiative throughout the operations were most marked. (The award of the 2nd class, Indian Order of Merit, was notified in Army Department Notification No. 362, dated the 14th February 1919).

Awarded the Indian Order of Merit, 2nd class.

Ressaidar (afterwards Risaldar) Hayat Khan *10th Duke of Cambridge's Own Lancers (Hodson's Horse)*.

For conspicuous gallantry and bold leadership during a withdrawal near Samawah, Mesopotamia on the 27th October 1920. This Indian officer dismounted his half squadron whilst it was being heavily attacked from front and flank, and opened fire with such effect that the enemy were compelled to withdraw. By his coolness and sound judgement he checked the attack of the enemy until reinforcements arrived, and then skilfully withdrew his command.

No. 3242 Naik (acting Lance Dafadar) Sunder Singh, *10th Duke of Cambridge's Own Lancers (Hodson's Horse)*. For conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in Mesopotamia on the night, 28th-29th August 1920. He was in charge of a Hotchkiss gun in a detached post and when the whole of his gun team, including himself, had been wounded, he still maintained his gun in action throughout the night. This gallant action was of material assistance to an armoured train and picquet, which had been cut off from the main camp and were being heavily attacked. Later, when in the rear truck of the train, he kept his gun firing as long as his ammunition lasted, and thereby ensured the safe withdrawal of neighbouring troops.

Subadar Sapuran Singh, *3rd Battalion, 23rd Sikh Infantry*.

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For conspicuous bravery and able leadership whilst in command of his platoon during an attack on Falbahi, on the 11th November 1920 in Mesopotamia. Under heavy fire he led his men over open country, and forced the enemy to evacuate one strong position after another until finally he was wounded when leading a bayonet charge.

Subadar Sant Singh, I.D.S.M., *1st Battalion, 32nd Sikh Pioneers* For conspicuous gallantry and skill in carrying out a bombing raid on a village near Jaibuiyah Bridge Position in Mesopotamia on the 1st August 1920. This village harboured many snipers, and, having located various parties of the enemy, he distributed his bombers accordingly. At a given signal, they threw their bombs, causing the greatest confusion and inflicting heavy casualties. In spite of being wounded in the head, Subadar Sant Singh continued to lead the bombing attack until the village was finally deserted. The result of this action proved to be of considerable value, and its success was due to the determination of this Indian officer.

No. 4347, Lance-Naik Ghasi, *1st Battalion, 42nd Deoli Regiment*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during a night attack in Mesopotamia on the 18th-19th November 1920. When the advance guard was checked by the enemy, this non-commissioned officer brought his Lewis gun on to the road and compelled them to withdraw. Early next morning, during a counter attack by his company, he was severely wounded when trying to outflank an enemy machine gun. Throughout he shewed a fine example of coolness and courage, and the excellent control and initiative with which he handled his gun were factors in the success of the action.

No. 1777, Sepoy Mahina Singh *45th Rattray's*

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Sikhs. For conspicuous gallantry on the 7th July 1920, in Mesopotamia, in rescuing wounded who were lying within a hundred yards of the enemy's position. He displayed marked courage and initiative under fire in locating snipers, who were effectively enflading the stretcher bearers. Two of them he killed and the remainder fled.

Subadar Baburao Ghorpade, *1st Battalion, 116th Mahrattas.* For gallantry and good leadership on the 6th October 1920 in Mesopotamia. Whilst in command of a company, he led his men fearlessly under heavy fire against the enemy, who were holding a strong position on the river bank. He brought such an effective covering fire to bear on the enemy that the crossing of the river was effected with comparatively no opposition. His coolness and able leadership were noticeable throughout the action.

No 1599, Rifleman Parbir Thapa, *1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles).* For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in North Persia on the night of the 22nd-23rd November 1920. As No. 2 of a Lewis gun team in a raid, his section was sent forward to establish a bridge head and to cover the road. On reaching the middle of the bridge, No. 1 of the section was killed. Rifleman Parbir Thapa took charge of the gun and kept it in action until he was severely wounded. Although wounded in the leg he succeeded in dragging his Lewis gun back about fifty yards and handed it over to his company commander. That he succeeded in saving his gun from falling into the hands of the enemy was entirely due to his self-sacrifice. A carrying party went out to bring him in, but he refused to be moved until his gun had been taken to a place of safety!

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Subadar Kabir Thapa, *3rd Battalion, 5th Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force)*. For conspicuous gallantry and skilful handling of his platoon on the 11th November 1920 in Mesopotamia. The retirement at dusk of an outpost position held by his command happened to coincide with an attempted advance of about four or five hundred of the enemy. Although his platoon had sustained many casualties, it was necessary to check the enemy's advance, and he effected this by a determined stand, mainly due to his personal example of fearlessness.

Subadar Garbe Limbu, *1st Battalion, 10th Gurkha Rifles*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty whilst in command of a company on the 19th July 1920 in Mesopotamia. When the company was nearly overwhelmed, he made a determined attempt to cross a river but was unable to effect the crossing owing to the depth of mud and water. He then reorganised his company and held the enemy in check, inflicting heavy casualties and repulsing several counterattacks until the arrival of reinforcements. He inspired all ranks by his coolness and daring.

(1972 of 1921).

Awarded the Indian Order of Merit, 2nd Class, for acts of gallantry and devotion to duty in the field while serving with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

No. 9232 Sapper Nur Dad, *1st King George's Own Sappers and Miners*.

No. 9316 Sapper Art Nawab Khan, *1st King George's Own Sappers and Miners*. For conspicuous gallantry on 23rd April 1920 while serving with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. During an attack on Post Jisr Mejamieh the enemy were seen to be preparing to attack a weakly defended post at Semakh. The

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Officer commanding Post at Jiser Mejamieb called for volunteers to warn Semakh, as all communications had been cut. Sappers Nur Dad and Nawab Khan volunteered, and succeeded in getting to within two miles of Semakh, when they were ambushed.

In the fight which ensued No. 9232 Sapper Nur Dad was killed and No. 9316 Sapper Art Nawab Khan captured, but he succeeded in escaping later.

(The widow, of No. 9232, Sapper Nur Dad, was admitted to the pension of the order with effect from the date of his death).

(353 of 1922).

Awarded the Indian Order of Merit, 2nd Class, for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in action near Muhammad Khel, North-West Frontier Province.

No. 27004 Gunner-Havildar Mota Singh, *113th (Dardoni) Pack Battery*. For gallantry and devotion to duty in action near Mohammad Khel, North-West Frontier, on 11th December 1921. This non-commissioned officer was in command of a sub-section when a hot fire was opened by the enemy at close range and from both flanks.

The example of coolness and personal courage shown by Havildar Mota Singh, was of inestimable value in steadying the men under him. Throughout the action, the section was subjected to a close range sniping from an invisible enemy and Mota Singh was conspicuous for his coolness and courage.

No. 1609 Sepoy Gulab Khan, *2nd Battalion, 69th Punjabis*. For most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in action near Mohammad Khel, North-West Frontier, on 11th December 1921.

This man was No. 1 of vickers gun team and although twice wounded continued to fire his gun, the

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remainder of the team having been killed or wounded. He was severely cut about the hands by the enemy and left for dead. He eventually managed to crawl back to his own troops.

No. 694 Rifleman Manbahadur Guring, *2nd Battalion, 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles*. For conspicuous gallantry in action near Muhammad Khel, North-West Frontier, on the 11th December 1921.

During a retirement he was conspicuous for the gallant way in which he stuck to his Lewis gun mule after being severely wounded in the right leg. He actively engaged the enemy at close quarters with rifle fire while continuing to hold his mule.

(565 of 1922.)

Awarded the Indian Order of Merit, 2nd Class, for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty whilst serving with the Waziristan Force, North-West Frontier, India.

No. 477 Lance-Naik Badlu, *1st Battalion, 6th Royal Jat Light Infantry*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in action on the 20th January 1922, while serving with the Waziristan Force. During a retirement he went back under heavy fire, and on his own initiative, to bring in a wounded Punjabi Musalman of another section. He succeeded in carrying the wounded sepoy over very broken ground.

(756 of 1922.)

Awarded the Indian Order of Merit, 2nd Class, for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in action near Saidgi, North-West Frontier.

No. 238 Sepoy Urja Rawat, *The 101st Grenadiers*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in

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action on 22nd February 1922, near Saidgi, North-West Frontier.

Sepoy Urja Rawat, single handed, rushed two of the enemy who had killed his section commander, and succeeded in killing one of them with his bayonet. He gave up the pursuit of the other as he had broken his rifle in disposing of the first man. Under heavy fire he brought in the body of his section commander together with that of the man he had killed.

(757 of 1922).

Indian Order of Merit, 2nd Class.

No. 4265 Lance-Naik Nawab Khan (deceased), *104th Wellesley's Rifles*. For conspicuous gallantry at Jandola, Waziristan, on 16th July 1920.

While in command of a forward group, which was retiring on its permanent picquet on completion of its duty for the day, he was attacked by a party of the enemy greatly outnumbering his party. Though wounded, he ordered the three men of his group to leave him as there was danger of their being cut off and surrounded, and returned the enemy's fire with vigour knowing that doing so meant grave risk. He kept the enemy at bay and enabled the three men of his group to retire to the permanent picquet without further casualties, thereby setting a fine example of bravery, self sacrifice and highest devotion to duty. His body was found the next day riddled with bullets, some of which had evidently been fired at close quarters, a fact which indicates the stout defence put up by him in the face of great odds. His widow was admitted to the pension of the 2nd Class I.O.M., with effect from the date of his death.

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Subadar-Major Dhauraj Pun, *4th Battalion, 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty while serving with the Waziristan Force. On the 19th December 1920, in the action between Dargai and Rogha Kot, this Gurkha officer led two platoons of B company into action; although heavily fired on, he led his men with great dash and gallantry up to the enemy's position. His British officers were on a flank and for the moment were not in touch with him. He therefore on his own initiative pursued the retiring enemy so closely that they were unable to take up a second strong position. His party were fired on from a flank, but he quickly detached a party to deal with this menace and rushed the second position. His gallantry, appreciation of the situation and his superb handling of his men deserve the highest praise.

No. 2067 (Ward Orderly) Rifleman Narbir Thapa, *2nd Battalion, 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles, (Frontier Force), attached No. 2 Indian Field Ambulance*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 30th July 1920, in action near Kothai, Waziristan. When picqueting troops were attacked by the enemy and sustained casualties, he led stretcher parties forward under heavy fire, dressed the wounded and evacuated them to a place of safety. He displayed great bravery throughout the action and set a fine example to those under his command.

A few days later when a flood swept down the Tank Zam carrying away with it a British officer, this man, seeing the occurrence, dashed into the water and rescued the officer, he himself narrowly escaping drowning during the rescue.

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Awarded the Indian Order of Merit, 2nd Class, for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in action in the Kohat District, North-West Frontier.

No 484 Sepoy Said Ghani, *Tochi Scouts*. For conspicuous gallantry in action near Ali Khel village, North-West Frontier, on the 14th March 1922. Sepoy Said Ghani was one of a reconnoitring party sent out to search *nullahs*, etc., and was suddenly fired on by a large gang of the enemy, Ahmadzai Wazirs. He at once took up a position by himself and returned the enemy's fire, killing one and wounding two. While re-loading with another charger, Sepoy Said Ghani was hit through the right shoulder but in spite of this, he continued to maintain a rapid fire and kept the enemy at bay, until a patrol came to his assistance. By this action, Sepoy Said Ghani in all probability saved the picquet from ambush.

(943 of 1922).

Awarded the Indian Order of Merit, 2nd Class, for conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty, while serving with the Malabar Force (Mopla Rebellion) 1921-22.

Jemadar Po Daing, *3rd Battalion, 70th (Kachin) Rifles*. For conspicuous gallantry on 27th October 1921 near Edavanna, Malabar. During an attack on a stone building occupied by rebels, he set a fine example to his men and was killed in hand-to-hand fighting after having disposed of several of the enemy.

(The widow of Jemadar Po Daing was admitted to the pension of the Order, with effect from the date of his death.)

No. 3669 Rifleman Tha Htu, *3rd Battalion, 70th (Kachi) Rifles*. For conspicuous gallantry on the 27th October 1921 in action near Edavanna, Malabar. During an attack on a stone building this rifleman