



SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette

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THURSDAY, 31 MAY, 1945

War Office, 31st May, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the VICTORIA CROSS to:—

No. 44928 Havildar UMRAO SINGH, Indian Artillery.

In the Kaladan Valley, in Burma, on 15th/16th December, 1944, Havildar Umrao Singh was in charge of one gun in an advanced section of his battery when it was subjected to heavy fire from 75 mm. guns and mortars for 1½ hours prior to being attacked by two Companies of Japanese.

When the attack came he so inspired his gun detachment by his personal example and encouragement to fight and defend their gun, that they were able to beat off the attack with losses to the enemy.

Though twice wounded by grenades in the first attack, he again held off the second enemy attack by skillful control of his detachment's small arms fire, and by manning a Bren gun himself which he fired over the shield of his gun at the Japanese who had got to within five yards range. Again the enemy were beaten off with heavy losses. Third and fourth attacks were also beaten off in the same manner by the resolute action and great courage of Havildar Umrao Singh.

By this time all his gun detachment had been killed or wounded with the exception of himself and two others.

When the final attack came, the other gun having been over-run and all his ammunition expended, he seized a gun bearer and calling once again on all who remained, he closed with the enemy in furious hand-to-hand fighting and was seen to strike down three Japanese in a desperate effort to save his gun, until he was overwhelmed and knocked senseless.

Six hours later, when a counter-attack restored the position, he was found in an exhausted state beside his gun and almost unrecognisable with seven severe wounds, and ten dead Japanese round him.

By his personal example and magnificent bravery Havildar Umrao Singh set a supreme example of gallantry and devotion to duty. When recovered, his gun was fit to fire and was in fact in action again and firing later that same day.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS
OF KNIGHTHOOD.

St. James's Palace, S.W.1.

31st May, 1945.

The KING has been graciously pleased, on the advice of His Majesty's Canadian Ministers, to give orders for the following appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Italy (appointments to be dated 28th April, 1945):—

To be Additional Officers of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:—

Lieutenant-Colonel John Stronach ADAM, Canadian Infantry Corps.

Major Ronald James BRSS, Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Colonel (acting) Joseph William BISHOP, Royal Canadian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mortimer Patrick BOBERT, D.S.O., Canadian Infantry Corps.

Lieutenant-Colonel Harold Edward BROWN, The Royal Canadian Artillery.

Lieutenant-Colonel William Lawrence COKE, Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps.

Major David William DAVIDSON, Canadian Armoured Corps.

Lieutenant-Colonel (acting) William Clement DICK, Canadian Infantry Corps.

Major D'Arcy Manning DOHERTY, The Royal Canadian Artillery.

Lieutenant-Colonel Chipman Hazen DRURY, The Royal Canadian Artillery.

Lieutenant-Colonel (acting) John Wallace EATON, Canadian Armoured Corps.