

of his position. This necessitated crossing 20 to 30 yards of ground devoid of cover from fire which was being raked by intense enemy machine-gun fire. Once in his command position he controlled his platoons' action by voice and ordered that only visible targets should be engaged at short range so as to conserve ammunition. This was done to effect. He then doubled to his forward observation officer's position and caused defensive fire from two 105 mm howitzers to be brought down on the enemy. He ordered that the fire should come down 150 yards from his perimeter in order to cause maximum casualties amongst the enemy. The enemy mounted a total of four separate and determined attacks against Major Erskine-Tulloch. Every one he beat back with heavy loss to the Indonesians until finally the enemy was forced to retreat.

Throughout this major engagement Major Erskine-Tulloch's command and control were outstanding. For 30 minutes he was exposed without cover to continuous machine-gun fire. His personal conduct and the way in which he handled his platoons inspired his soldiers to gain victory. Although the Indonesians achieved complete surprise initially Major Erskine-Tulloch swiftly reversed their advantage, inflicting a severe defeat on them in a most gallant and professional fashion.

#### *Military Cross*

Captain Christopher John Douglas BULLOCK (463321), 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles).

On the 2nd September 1965, Captain Bullock was commanding the Support Company, 2/2nd Gurkha Rifles, comprising of some 50 men on an operation to ambush enemy filtration routes in the Border areas of Sarawak's Lundu District. One of the suspected routes was a stream, and in laying his ambush he took the precaution of placing two groups, each of the ten men, on a near by parallel track as flank protection.

The force had been in ambush for about two days when the unexpected happened. Instead of the anticipated enemy movement down the stream, an Indonesian Company, some 100 strong, appeared patrolling down the track on the far side of the stream. Fire was opened by the Bren gunner of the Northern flank group when the leading Indonesian was 10 feet away and when 25 enemy were in the killing ground.

A savage battle then commenced with the numerically superior enemy pinning down Captain Bullock's ambushers with heavy fire from the West bank of the stream, attempting to overrun his Northern flank group and cut off his whole force from the East. Neither the sudden appearance of the enemy nor their unanticipated manoeuvre caught Captain Bullock by surprise. After 10 minutes of fierce fighting he realised he could hold out no longer without facing annihilation. Leaping to his feet, regardless of the hail of enemy automatic fire enveloping him, he yelled to his Northern flank group to break contact and withdraw to hold the rendezvous. The Indonesians charged to follow this group, but Captain Bullock threw them back in disorder, inflicting heavy casualties, with fire from his centre group. Again the enemy assaulted en masse. Captain Bullock quickly reorganised his Southern flank group (his final group) to cover the centre group back under a screen of Machine-gun fire. Mortar fire now started to range on Support Company and the enemy again attacked from three sides. Captain Bullock then withdrew his Southern flank group of 15 men and 4 light machine-guns to the Check Point where he proceeded to hold the enemy company at bay for a further 15 minutes. Covered by their light machine-guns, the Indonesians charged on countless occasions, but at every attempt Captain Bullock's heavy and accurate fire beat them back with considerable losses. Finally, the enemy had had enough and he discontinued his attacks. Seizing this opportunity, Captain Bullock withdrew his final group to the rendezvous. He was the last man to leave. On reaching the rendezvous he called down heavy artillery fire on the contact area.

A conservative estimate of enemy casualties was at least 17 killed with countless numbers wounded. The Support Company had 1 Non Commissioned Officer wounded.

Captain Bullock's personal bravery under fire was an inspiration to his soldiers, and his command and control of an extremely dangerous battle lasting over half an hour was exemplary. His expertise turned what could have been defeat into victory.

#### *Military Cross*

Captain LALBAHADUR PUN (463364) 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles).

On the 25th September 1965, Captain Lalbahadur Pun with two platoons of D Company 1/2 Gurkha Rifles, was on patrol close to the border between Sabah and Indonesia in the Pensiangan area.

Reconnaissance patrols had discovered tracks of a force approximately sixty strong. At approximately 1200 hours the force halted on the bank of a large river, and Captain Lalbahadur decided to keep it under observation. The banks were steep and precipitous but the curve of the river provided good observation for nearly two miles. At about three o'clock he spotted four boats moving up the river which eventually pulled into the bank at a small shingle beach estimated to be approximately fifteen hundred yards away. Twenty-five armed and uniformed Indonesian soldiers got out and disappeared into the jungle, whilst eighteen others appeared on the beach a short while afterwards, and having embarked into the boats disappeared down river. It now seemed clear that the enemy camp was in the area of the beach, and Captain Lalbahadur immediately set off towards the area.

The country proved to be far more difficult than he anticipated, and by nightfall no sign of the enemy had been found. Not knowing how close he might be and apprehensive that cooking fires might give away their presence, no eating or cooking was allowed. Heavy rain fell during the night making conditions even worse. The next morning the platoons moved off as soon as possible, and after two hours marching discovered signs of the enemy. A quick but careful reconnaissance showed that about sixty were in a newly built camp.

Captain Lalbahadur made a quick plan sending part of his force on a flanking attack to try and cut off the enemy's retreat, whilst he himself led the main attack. Unfortunately the flanking force came up against a cliff and were unable to make any progress. They were recalled and joined in the main attack. Surprise was complete and the enemy fled in confusion. Thirteen bodies were found, many more were seen in the river, and blood trails testified to the large number wounded. Twenty-five weapons were captured including two light machine guns.

The success of the operations were due solely to the determination, initiative and courage of this officer.

#### *Military Cross*

Lieutenant (temporary Captain) Peter Royson DUFFELL (466356) 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles).

During the latter part of August and early in September 1965, reports indicated that a special operations force of enemy had established themselves on the Sabah side of the border in the Gap areas, with the probable intention of making an incursion towards Pensiangan. Captain Duffell, commanding A Company of the 1/2 Gurkha Rifles based in Pensiangan, was ordered to find and destroy this enemy base. The area concerned is one of uninhabited primeval forest, mountainous, and intersected by large and fast flowing rivers.

On the 7th August the company was ferried into the area by helicopter and set off to find the suspected enemy camp. Captain Duffell despatched one platoon in a wide circling movement to take up a position well to the south in order to act as a cut off, while he himself took two platoons towards the main enemy location. By the evening of the 9th August a careful reconnaissance had shown the enemy living in two separate sets of huts on the bank of a wide river approximately one mile apart. Captain Duffell decided to send a small force across the river to engage the southern group with fire and distract their attention, whilst he attacked the northern group.

At dawn on the 10th August the attack commenced and the enemy in the northern huts were quickly dealt with. Captain Duffell then moved south and was in time to contact the enemy as they fled from the southern camp. A short fierce fight took place, and at one stage the company had to beat off a strong counter attack. Approximately sixty enemy were encountered, who fought extremely well for a time, but then broke off the engagement taking some dead and wounded with them. Captain Duffell had strict orders not to follow but allow them to retire over the border. Fourteen bodies were found,