

AWARDS TO PERSONNEL OF ASIAN ARMY UNITS THAT SERVED IN THE KOHIMA GARRISON DURING THE SIEGE, 3rd TO 16th APRIL 1944.

By Harry Fecitt MBE TD

During World War II in north-east India there was severe fighting in and around Kohima town for three months from early April 1942. A Japanese force of three Divisions crossed the Burma border in an attempt to capture the town of Imphal in the Princely State of Manipur and also Kohima town further north in Nagaland, as the holding of Kohima would block Allied wheeled and tracked vehicles from entering the Imphal Plain.

For the first fortnight of the battle the British garrison in Kohima town was besieged and cut off by road from other Allied units. Japanese attacks to subdue the Kohima defenders were intense, but the garrison held ground that constantly shrank due to Japanese pressure until the north-western route to Dimapur was opened by British troops, and the siege was ended.

Which units were in the Kohima Garrison during the siege? A host of British historical writers have tended to champion one British infantry unit to the exclusion of several other units from the Indian, Burma and Nepalese Armies. The *Official History of the Indian Armed Forces in The Second World War, 1939 to 1945. Reconquest of Burma, Volume I*, provides the following list of units and detachments in Kohima on 4th April 1944 in its Appendix 4:

ORDER OF BATTLE, KOHIMA GARRISON ON 4 APRIL 1944.

ARTILLERY

One 25-pounder gun with crew from 24 Reinforcement Camp.

INFANTRY

1 Assam Regiment.

One company 3rd/2nd Punjab Regiment – about 140 all ranks.

One company 1 Garrison Battalion, Burma Regiment.

One company 5 Burma Regiment.

Two platoons 27th/5th Mahratta Light Infantry.

3 Assam Rifles (less detachments elsewhere).

Detachments of 'V' Force (border reconnaissance troops).

The Shere Regiment, Nepalese Army Contingent.

SIGNALS

221 Line Construction Section (less a detachment).

A detachment from Burma Postal and Telegraphic Signals.

A detachment from 4 Corps Royal Signals.

Detachment 'T' from the Line of Communication Signals.

MEDICAL

75 Indian Field Ambulance.

A Section from 80 Light Field Ambulance, 50 (Indian) Parachute Brigade.

A detachment from 53 Indian General Hospital.

19 Field Hygiene Section.

ROYAL INDIAN ARMY SERVICE CORPS

46 GPT Company (less two sections)

36 Cattle Conducting Section.

87 Indian Field Bakery Section.

622 Indian Supply Section.

LABOUR

1432 Company, Indian Pioneer Corps (less a detachment).

MISCELLANEOUS

24 Reinforcement Camp.

Administrative Commander Kohima and Staff.

ARRIVALS INTO KOHIMA GARRISON ON 5th- 7th APRIL 1944

20th Indian Mountain Battery, 24th Indian Mountain Regiment.

Forward Observation Officer Party, 2nd (Derajat) Mountain Battery, Indian Artillery.

A Section of 2 Indian Field Company, Indian Engineers.

1st Battalion Royal West Kent Regiment.

'A' Company, 4th/7th Rajput Regiment.

Notes.

- a. Some “non-combatant” personnel from above listed units were marched out of Kohima before the Japanese exercised complete control on road movement, but others stayed and fought or served to the best of their abilities. Exact figures and names of all the soldiers who were in Kohima during the siege do not appear to exist.
- b. 24 Reinforcement Camp was primarily responsible for forwarding to units in the Imphal region British Other Ranks previously wounded or detained in rear areas.
- c. The single 25-pounder field gun was neutralised by enemy gunfire minutes after coming into action.
- d. The 20th Indian Mountain Battery did not come into action because of the lack of suitable gun positions, but its Forward Observation Officer party and signals operators were heavily used.

**AWARDS TO PERSONNEL OF UNITS IN THE INDIAN, BURMA AND NEPALESE ARMIES SERVING IN THE
KOHIMA GARRISON DURING THE SIEGE.**

The London Gazette date and the British National Archives reference for the award appear beneath the unit description.

NAME	RANK NUMBER UNIT	CITATION
ABUL MAJID	Lance Naik. 21739. 2 Indian Field Company, Indian Engineers. 31 August 1944. WO 373/33/368	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AWARDED THE INDIAN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL (IDSM)</u></p> <p>At KOHIMA on the 9th April 1944, a large body of JAPANESE sought shelter in a building in the bakery area of the FSD. Lance Naik ABDUL MAJID was put in charge of a party of Sappers of 2 Independent Field Company, Indian Engineers, ordered to attack the building with explosives. A large charge of guncotton fastened to an old door was improvised and Lance Naik ABDUL MAJID directed two Sappers of his party in running up to the building and placing it in position, covered by light machine gun fire of the infantry.</p> <p>When these two men ran back Lance Naik ABDUL MAJID observed that the charge had not been placed where it would have the maximum effect. Although the enemy, now aware of the assault, were firing on him from the building and there was also a grave risk of the premature explosion of the charges, he at once ran across open ground to the building, lifted the charges to the best position and fired the fuzes.</p> <p>This act of great personal bravery ensured the success of the demolition, which wrecked much of the building, killing some of the enemy and leaving the rest exposed in flight to the fire of our own troops. It is estimated that in the action by this assault demolition over 100 JAPANESE were killed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Recommended by Major I.E. Scott, Commanding No. 2 Field Company, Indian Engineers.</i></p>
ABDUL AZIZ	Naik. 21212. 2 Indian Field Company, Indian Engineers.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL (MM)</u></p> <p>During the operations of 161 Indian Infantry Brigade Group in the ARAKAN and the NAGA HILLS, Naik ABDUL AZIZ has been in command of a sub-section of 2 Indian Field Company, Indian Engineers. At KWELA BINGA on 1st to 3rd January he directed his party during bridging operations under continuous enemy sniping and</p>

	<p>31 August 1944 WO 373/33/319</p>	<p>intermittent gun fire, and it was largely by his determination and courage that the crossings over the chaung were maintained and improved to enable vital supplies to be carried forward.</p> <p>On 6th April 1944 his sub-section accompanied 4 Royal West Kents Regimental Group into KOHIMA and on 7th April 1944 he was wounded in the head by mortar fire. He refused to be evacuated with the last party of wounded to leave before it was encircled by the enemy, and insisted on remaining in active command of his men.</p> <p>During the 12 days that followed when his section was holding defensive positions under heavy fire, Naik ABDUL AZIZ toured and rallied his posts and directed his men's fire with complete disregard for his own safety, and when his Section was relieved on 20th April he was the last man to leave. Throughout these operations he has shown on all occasions great initiative and enthusiasm, consistent courage and coolness, in action and inspiring leadership of his sub-section.</p> <p><i>Recommended by Major I.E. Scott, Commanding No. 2 Field Company, Indian Engineers.</i></p>
<p>AJIT SINGH</p>	<p>Lieutenant. 2794 EC. Indian Signal Corps.</p> <p>8 February 1945. WO 373/80/352</p>	<p><u>APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE MOST EXCELLENT ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE (MBE)</u></p> <p>This officer was responsible for the maintenance of signal communications from Battle Headquarters (in KOHIMA) and he carried out his difficult and dangerous task quietly and efficiently. Lines were broken daily many times by enemy fire, very few escaping any bombardment. With his gallant linemen he saw that the lines were repaired either by day or night, regularly or rapidly. The fact that communications could be maintained up to the end was largely due to his gallantry and his expert handling of his men.</p> <p><i>Recommended by Colonel H.U. Richards CBE, Commanding Kohima Garrison.</i></p>
<p>ALI ZAMAN</p>	<p>Subadar. 64563. 251st Line of Communication Sub</p>	<p><u>AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS (MC)</u></p> <p>Operations on the Indo-Burma border commencing from 26 March 1944 and terminating in the defence of KOHIMA, which was besieged from 5 to 20 April 1944.</p>

	<p>Area, 202nd Line of Communication Area, 4th Corps. 1st Garrison Battalion, The Burma Regiment. Punjabi Mussalman (Pathan).</p> <p>8 February 1945. WO 373/35/133</p>	<p>During March 1944, Subedar ALI ZAMAN was 2nd in command of 'B' Company, 1st Garrison Battalion, The Burma Regiment. He was ordered to dig and occupy defensive positions and carry out intensive patrolling in the area of PHEK. This officer displayed great keenness and initiative and was untiring in his efforts to supervise and encourage his Company in duties for which they, as Garrison Battalion troops, had not been specifically or fully trained.</p> <p>Later the Company was withdrawn to KOHIMA. On 6th April his Officiating Company Commander, Captain A.N. LUNN, 4th Gurkha Rifles, was killed by enemy mortar bombing and the Subedar himself was wounded through the back. In spite of his wounds he rallied as many men of his Company as he could, and occupied and defended new positions. Later he was removed to the Advance Dressing Station which came under heavy enemy mortar fire, and he was again wounded and lost two fingers. After remaining in the Advance Dressing Station for two days, he rejoined his Company and remained in the defensive perimeter inspiring and encouraging his men until evacuated with the wounded seven days later. This Governor's Commissioned Officer displayed Courage of a very high order and displayed great initiative and devotion to duty throughout the operation, although he was of advanced age and must have been considerably weakened though loss of blood and severe illness he suffered just prior to the opening of the campaign.</p> <p>Recommended for the Burma Gallantry Medal but awarded the Military Cross by higher authority.</p>
<p>BROWN, William Felix OBE</p>	<p>Lieutenant Colonel. IA 27. 1st Battalion The Assam Regiment.</p> <p>22 June 1944. WO 373/32/11</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>APPOINTED COMPANION OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER (DSO)</u></p> <p>Lieutenant Colonel BROWN's battalion occupied positions at the villages of JESSAMI and KHARASON, some sixty miles East of KOHIMA, in order to prevent the enemy's advance from that direction. On 28 March, the enemy attacked in force; these attacks continued daily and though unsupported, Lt-Col BROWN continued to fight his battalion with no thought of withdrawal, thereby imposing many valuable days of delay on Japanese forces advancing against KOHIMA. Many attempts by air and runner to order Lt-Col BROWN's battalion to withdraw failed; eventually an officer of the Assam Regt succeeded in getting through the Japanese lines with orders to withdraw. Lt-Col BROWN by his resourcefulness, succeeded in extricating his battalion and in</p>

		<p>leading a large portion of it through successive Japanese ambushes to concentrate at KOHIMA and continue to fight. Throughout the whole of these operations this officer's leadership, initiative, courage and unfailing cheerfulness in adversity instilled in all ranks under his command a high spirit and devotion to duty for which no praise can be too great.</p> <p><i>Recommended by Colonel H.U. Richards CBE, Commanding Kohima Garrison.</i></p>
CALISTAN, Albert Irwin	<p>Major. EC 6602. 1st Battalion, The Assam Regiment.</p> <p>27 July 1944. WO 373/33/75</p>	<p><u>AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS (MC)</u></p> <p>Between 28th March 44 and 2 April at JESSAMI this Officer's Company was heavily attacked by the enemy. In spite of wave after wave of Japanese attacks, this officer by his magnificent example of cool courage and confidence and constant inspiration to his men succeeded in maintaining intact his perimeter. On 2nd April 44 when this perimeter was evacuated, this officer succeeded by his skilful leadership and determination in extricating the majority of his company and leading them safely to KOHIMA.</p> <p>During the siege of KOHIMA this officer continued to display the same cool courage, cool initiative and leadership, especially in defence of the District Commissioner's bungalow area, whereby he inflicted much heavier casualties on the enemy than he himself suffered, gained ground and maintained a very important and difficult sector of the defence intact.</p> <p><i>Recommended by Lieutenant Colonel W.F. Brown OBE, Commanding 1st Battalion Assam Regiment.</i></p>
CORLETT, John Narborough	<p>Lieutenant. 184203. Emergency Commission. Reconnaissance Corps attached the Assam Regiment.</p>	<p><u>AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS (MC)</u></p> <p>When this officer's battalion had been invested at JESSAMI with no other orders than to hold on it became necessary to send orders for it to withdraw. The battalion wireless had been damaged and various attempts by runner and by air had failed to get the message through. Lieutenant CORLETT, who had previously come with a patrol from JESSAMI to PHAKEKEDZUMI, volunteered to deliver the message although he knew not only that this would entail passing through the enemy's lines but also that any movement at night near his own box would be fired on. The battalion dispositions had been changed since he had left JESSAMI, and in</p>

	<p>27 July 1944. WO/373/33</p>	<p>the old battalion position he found himself among the enemy. He however continued in his attempts and succeeded in locating the Garrison and delivering his message. He thereby saved the Garrison from destruction and brought a much-needed accession of strength to the KOHIMA Garrison. On the day after his arrival in JESSAMI (1 Apr 44) and before the evacuation he behaved with great gallantry manning a Light Machine Gun himself when all the men of the Sub-Section had become casualties, and going himself for more ammunition under heavy and continuous fire.</p> <p>Later at JAIL HILL in KOHIMA on 5th April 1944 he helped in manning a 3-inch mortar which could give effective support to the forward troops only from a position that was in full view of the enemy. He continued to do that until the entire crew had been put out of action and he himself had been wounded three times.</p> <p>Throughout this period this officer displayed courage, resourcefulness and leadership of the highest order and by his complete disregard of personal safety he gave a magnificent example to all.</p> <p><i>Recommended for Appointment to the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) by Colonel H.U. Richards CBE, Commanding Kohima Garrison, but downgraded to a Military Cross by Higher Authority.</i></p>
<p>DAN BAHADUR</p>	<p>Rifleman. 446. Shere Regiment, Nepalese Contingent, Kohima Garrison.</p> <p>31 August 1944. WO 373/34/431</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL (MM)</u></p> <p>On 4th April 1944 No.446 Rifleman DANBAHADUR, Shere Regiment, was sent on patrol (from KOHIMA) with the object of delaying the enemy advance. He took up a position with his light machine gun (LMG) and successfully surprised an enemy party, killing fourteen. Enemy strength was greater than first realised and orders were sent to Rifleman DANBAHADUR to retire to the next position.</p> <p>Prior to carrying out this order, he handed his LMG to his No.2 and dashed forward to secure identification material from the enemy dead. Before completing his intention he found himself surrounded; with great presence of mind he rushed the nearest enemy, killing several with his Kukri. He succeeded in joining his No.2 but was later wounded. Rifleman DANBAHADUR displayed a fine example of courage and devotion to duty.</p>

		<i>Recommended for the award of the Indian Distinguished Service Medal by Lieutenant Colonel M.A. Hepworth, Special Service Officer, Shere Regiment, and endorsed by Colonel H.U. Richards CBE, Commander Kohima Garrison, but downgraded to the Military Medal by Higher Authority.</i>
DICKENSON, David Pearson Revell	Lieutenant. 221819. 20 Indian Mountain Battery, 24 Indian Mountain Regiment, Indian Army. 4 January 1945. WO 373/35/282	<u>AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS (MC)</u> At KOHIMA between 5 and 20 1944 Lieutenant DICKENSEN showed complete disregard for his own safety, and great skill and initiative in organising the defence of the gun position and later its withdrawal when the position became untenable. In doing so he repeatedly exposed himself to heavy enemy fire. The fact that vital wireless communications with the supporting batteries outside the garrison never failed, was largely due to his labours. On 19 APRIL under cover of an artillery concentration he got a 3.7-inch howitzer into action in the open 75 yards from two enemy bunkers which he successfully destroyed. <i>Recommended by Lieutenant Colonel R.H.M. Hill, Royal Artillery, Commanding 24 Indian Mountain Regiment.</i>
DILHU ANGAMI	Naik. 555. 1 st Battalion The Assam Regiment. 5 October 1944. WO 373/34/132	<u>AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL (MM)</u> At KOHIMA on 5th April 44, this naik led a small grenade raid on a Japanese bunker position, which had a light machine gun on a fixed line firing direct on Battle Headquarters. His party had advanced to within 15 yards of the Jap bunker when the light machine gun covering their advance had a stoppage thus bringing his party under heavy Jap fire from two sides. Undaunted the naik gallantly rushed the bunker shouting "Charge, Charge!" using his CMT (short rifle) for giving covering fire. Inspired by his action and leadership, his four grenadiers followed, completed their task and withdrew with 7 Jap rifles, 2 grenades and a Warrant Officer's sword, under cover of the light machine gun which by then had been got into action again. <i>Recommended by Lieutenant Colonel W.F. Brown OBE, Commanding 1st Assam Regiment.</i>
DURLINGHAM, M.	Ambulance Naik. 86812.	<u>AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL (MM)</u>

	<p>75 Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Army Medical Corps.</p> <p>27 July 1944. WO 373/33/191</p>	<p>During the siege of the KOHIMA garrison from the 3rd to the 20th April, No. 86812 Ambulance Naik DURLINGHAM was appointed as leader of the stretcher bearers of the Composite Advanced Dressing Station opened for the reception of the casualties. Approximately one hundred and forty lying cases occurred and were cleared from the perimeter trenches to the Advance Dressing Station (ADS) area by the stretcher squads under the direct command of this junior non-commissioned officer.</p> <p>Casualties were often carried in under enemy fire at night under the most difficult circumstances and at considerable danger to the stretcher bearers of whom four were killed in performing this duty. Naik DURLINGHAM worked tirelessly in leading his stretcher squads and by his complete disregard of personal danger and fine example of devotion to duty, was largely responsible for the successful evacuation of the casualties to the ADS.</p> <p><i>Recommended by Lieutenant Colonel W.J. Young, Indian Army Medical Corps, Commanding 75 Indian Field Ambulance.</i></p>
<p>EMTISANG (IMTISANG) AO</p>	<p>Naik. 356. 1st Assam Regiment.</p> <p>8 February 1945. WO 373/35/219</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL (MM)</u></p> <p>Naik Emtisang Ao, having commanded a mortar section with considerable success in the JESSAMI action on 25 March 1944 to 1st April 1944, marched the 56 miles to KOHIMA through enemy lines, arriving there in time for the fighting. On the afternoon of 5 April 1944, he assisted in the firing of a 3-inch mortar from an exposed position on a hillside, engaging an enemy 75-mm gun at 800 yards. When ammunition in the position was exhausted, he assisted in carrying the mortar up a fire-swept hillside to a new position. Later in the evening, having organised ammunition carrying parties, he put down heavy fire in front of our last remaining position on GENERAL PURPOSE TRANSPORT (GPT) RIDGE, broke up a Jap attack and enabled the position to be held for a 210 The 1st Battalion the Assam Regiment and the 3rd (Naga Hills) Battalion the Assam Rifles at the Siege of Kohima further 12 hours, quite regardless of Jap counter-barrage. The following morning, returning to his mortar position at first light he was wounded. This Naik showed a capability in handling his weapon, keen devotion to duty, and a calm disregard of danger that was exemplary.</p>

		<i>Recommended by Lieutenant Colonel W.F. Brown OBE, Commanding 1st Assam Regiment.</i>
FREW, Henry Douglas	<p>Captain. EC 6293. 3rd Battalion, 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles.</p> <p>27 July 1944. WO 373/33/80</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS (MC)</u></p> <p>Captain FREW was given the task of holding the enemy off the last remaining positions of GENERAL PURPOSE TRANSPORT (GPT) RIDGE. This he successfully did for 36 hours thereby gaining valuable time for the preparation of defences in rear. During this time although under heavy and constant mortar and shell fire he beat off 14 separate attacks by the enemy, inflicting many casualties. His position deteriorated until he was holding with a few men a line in the open, outflanked on both sides.</p> <p>Later on JAIL HILL he displayed the same qualities of courage and leadership and when the position was finally overrun went with a party back into the position to get back a party of British Other Ranks which had been cut off, in which action he was wounded.</p> <p>Captain FREW's devotion to duty and cheerful disregard of danger were an inspiration to all. He displayed high qualities of leadership and courage.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Recommended by Major R.H. Lowe, The Assam Regiment, Commanding GPT Ridge Sector, KOHIMA.</i></p>
GILES, Norman Russell	<p>Major. 35887. The Black Watch attached to Royal Indian Army Service Corps.</p> <p>5 October 1944. WO 373/34/4</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>APPOINTED COMPANION OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER (DSO)</u></p> <p>Major GILES was in command of a guerrilla force of two platoons of British Infantry which was sent out from KOHIMA on 4th April 1944 to search for and attack the enemy. During the following night the party was ambushed and surrounded by greatly superior forces of the enemy. The latter began to stalk the party in the dark. The force, which was composed of reinforcements for various units, began to show signs of wavering. Major GILES realised that the situation was becoming desperate and required a desperate remedy. With three men he charged the enemy with the bayonet. His action caused considerable confusion among the enemy thereby enabling him to extricate his force, the majority of whom he brought back to KOHIMA along with valuable information. As an example of individual courage and resourcefulness in an apparently</p>

		<p>hopeless situation, his conduct could not have been surpassed. Major GILES continued to give invaluable service until he was seriously wounded on 6th April.</p> <p><i>Recommended by Lieutenant Colonel H.U. Richards DCM, Commander Kohima Garrison, for the Military Cross but appointed Companion of the Distinguished Service Order by higher authority.</i></p>
<p>GLOVER, Frederick Richard</p>	<p>Captain. ECO. Royal Army Medical Corps attached Field Hygiene Section, Kohima Garrison. (Probably an Indian Army unit.)</p> <p>27 July 1944. WO 373/33/47</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS (MC)</u></p> <p>During the operations about KOHIMA from 3rd to 20th April, Captain GLOVER was a member of the Medical Staff of the composite Advanced Dressing Station (ADS) which was established for the treatment of all casualties occurring in the Garrison.</p> <p>During this period nearly 500 wounded were treated and, with the one exception of the evacuation of approximately 100 walking wounded on the night of 7th April, no casualties could be evacuated until the relief of the Garrison was effected on the 20th April.</p> <p>Whilst these cases were being held the ADS area was being subjected both day and night to heavy mortar and gun fire, the Dressing Station actually receiving direct hits on three separate occasions, resulting in the loss of life of four Medical Officers and some 40 of the wounded already under treatment.</p> <p>From the 13th April, owing to the foreshortening of the perimeter, the area in which the casualties were being held was constantly sniped by the enemy, causing further loss of life of the Medical Staff and making the daily task of redressing and tending of the wounded extremely difficult and often dangerous.</p> <p>On the 15th April this officer was wounded by a sniper whilst tending the casualties and again on the following day received minor wounds from mortar shelling. In spite of this, Captain GLOVER continued to assist in the treatment of the casualties in the ADS, thereby setting a fine example of devotion to duty to the other Medical Personnel. Throughout the siege this officer played an important part in the alleviation of the condition, and in the general treatment of the wounded.</p>

		<i>Recommended by Lieutenant Colonel W.J. Young, Indian Army Medical Corps, Commanding 75 Indian Field Ambulance.</i>
JIA LAL	<p>2nd Grade Sweeper. 227. 75 Indian Field Ambulance. Indian Army Medical Corps.</p> <p>8 February 1945. WO 373/35/245</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL (MM)</u></p> <p>This sweeper has served for over eight years in the field. He has been employed for the last seven months in the Advanced Dressing Stations which the unit has operated and has on several occasions volunteered as a stretcher bearer when there has been a shortage of bearers for the evacuation of the casualties. He was the only sweeper in the Composite Advanced Dressing Station operated on the SUMMER HOUSE HILL at KOHIMA when approximately 350 casualties were held for a period of two weeks until the relief of the garrison on the 20th April 1944. During this siege the Advanced Dressing Station area was repeatedly subject to mortar and artillery fire and to sniping, resulting in the loss of life of a high percentage of the medical staff and the wounded already under medical treatment.</p> <p>On this, as on other occasions, his cheerful willingness to perform other than his normal duties and his tireless consideration in administering to the needs of the casualties, were a fine example of courage and devotion to duty.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Recommended by Lieutenant Colonel W.J.F. Young, Indian Army Medical Corps, Commanding 75 Indian Field Ambulance.</i></p>
JOLLEY, Richard Frederick	<p>Captain. EC 7502. 3rd Battalion, 2nd Punjab Regiment.</p> <p>29 July 1944. WO 373/33/55</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS (MC)</u></p> <p>During the fighting on GENERAL PURPOSE TRANSPORT (GPT) Ridge, KOHIMA and JAIL HILL, Captain JOLLEY by his personal example did much to steady the troops who were under heavy mortar fire. His personal disregard for danger was an inspiration to his men. When their position was finally overrun by the enemy, he was in the forefront encouraging the remnants of our troops.</p>

		<p>He later led a party back into the position to get back a number of British Other Ranks who had been cut off. Captain JOLLEY displayed courage and leadership of the highest order.</p> <p><i>He was part of a company made up of 200 reinforcements for the 3/2nd Punjabis that fought within the Kohima perimeter, all four officers being wounded.</i></p>
KHANDARPA RAJBONGSHI	<p>Havildar. 202. 1st Assam Regiment.</p> <p>8 February 1945. WO/373/35</p>	<p><u>AWARDED THE INDIAN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL (IDSM)</u></p> <p>This platoon havildar commanded a sector of the JESSAMI box between 28th March and 1st April 44. He was a constant inspiration to his men, cheering them on and steadying them as wave after wave of attacks were put in on his front. Time and again he filled the breach when casualties caused gaps in his sector, and often at great hazard to his life he fetched up ammunition to his forward posts. His untiring efforts at JESSAMI and again at KOHIMA between 5th and 20th April displayed superb leadership, devotion to duty of a high order and complete disregard of personal danger.</p> <p><i>Recommended by Lieutenant Colonel W.F. Brown OBE, Commanding 1st Battalion Assam Regiment.</i></p>
KHARKA BAHADUR	<p>Jemadar. 3 (Naga Hills) Battalion, Assam Rifles.</p> <p>27 July 194. WO 373/33/92</p>	<p><u>AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS (MC)</u></p> <p>During the course of the defence of KOHIMA, this officer's platoon was called on to supply numerous patrols. The officer personally led as many as he could and even when eventually his platoon was reduced from 55 to 8 carried on with utmost offensive spirit and inflicted casualties on the enemy and proceeded to obtain identification of a new enemy unit in the area. He showed all the time the utmost devotion to duty combined with a high standard of personal bravery and leadership. Strongly recommended for the Indian Order of Merit, especially in respect of his action in leading his platoon's attack on the enemy on 7 April 1944.</p> <p><i>Recommended for an Indian Order of Merit, 2nd Class, by Commandant 3rd (Naga Hills) Battalion, Assam Rifles and supported by Colonel H.V. Richards CBE, Commander Kohima Garrison, but awarded the Military Cross by higher authority.</i></p>

<p>MOHAMED SYED KHAN</p>	<p>Signalman. A 9232. 221 Line of Communication Signals, Indian Corps of Signals.</p> <p>27 July 1944. WO 373/33/151</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL (MM)</u></p> <p>A driver by trade who when found that he could drive no more due to enemy action, offered his services as a linesman. He went out at any time of day or night. The composure and cheerfulness with which he worked under mortar, gun and small arms fire with utter disregard for personal safety was a source of great encouragement to others. His display of gallantry was an example to all. He continued till he was wounded.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Recommended for an Indian Distinguished Service Medal by Lieutenant Colonel Commanding 'T' Line of Communication Signals, and supported by Colonel H.V. Richards CBE, Commander Kohima Garrison, but downgraded to a Military Medal by higher authority.</i></p>
<p>MULTAN SINGH IOM</p>	<p>Subadar. 8717. 4th Battalion, 7th Rajput Regiment.</p> <p>31 August 1944. WO 373/33/260</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS (MC)</u></p> <p>During the siege of KOHIMA on the ASSAM front 'A' Company of this battalion formed a part of the garrison, having got into KOHIMA on 6 April 1944, the day the garrison was finally cut off, and until the garrison was relieved on 19 April 1944. Throughout the time of the siege with the exception of four and a half days, the company remained in the front line occupying an important position of the perimeter in the FIELD SUPPLY DEPOT (FSD) area. On 13 April 1944 the Company Commander was killed and from that time on Subadar MULTAN SINGH took over command of the Company.</p> <p>His powers of command, personality and tenaciousness of spirit maintained the remnants of that Company, depleted as it was of 40% of its strength, in position until the morning of 18 April 1944, when on his own order he withdrew his Company only after the surrounding position had been evacuated during the previous night's attacks, rendering his position untenable. He achieved the above solely by means of his own personal example and complete disregard of his personal safety by constantly visiting his forward sections and encouraging his men. On occasions, when forward platoons were being pressed, he went to the area under heavy fire and gave his added support to the Platoon Commander.</p>

		<p>His courage, personality, and powers of command, for which he had been previously decorated, were once again displayed under even more exacting circumstances of siege conditions, without the moral and physical support of an English-speaking British officer of his own. Nevertheless, overcoming all these difficulties, he maintained the remnants of his Company, though isolated from its parent unit, in the highest standard and traditions of his Battalion.</p> <p><i>Recommended by Lieutenant Colonel J.C.W. Cargill, Commanding 4th Battalion, 7th Rajput Regiment for promotion to the Indian Order of Merit 1st Class, but awarded a Military Cross by higher authority. For further details of this Rifle Company's brave fight at Kohima refer to Mustasa Ahmad's "Heritage – the History of the Rajput Regiment 1778-1947", and Arthur Campbell's "The Siege – A Story from Kohima".</i></p>
NAVEEN CHAND RAWLLEY	<p>Major. 541 IEC. 4th Battalion (Sikhs), 12th Frontier Force Regiment.</p> <p>27 July 1944. WO 373/33/65</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS (MC)</u></p> <p>This officer was in charge of a sector in the defence of KOHIMA during almost the entire operation. His sector was attacked heavily and repeatedly, after the loss of two sectors above it, he was exposed to observation and fire. Major RAWLLEY handled his difficult task coolly and quietly, the duties of rationing and water alone created an exceedingly difficult problem.</p> <p>During the last few days of the operation, Major RAWLLEY was also in tactical command of this sector. With tired troops he did all that was humanly possible to hold his position, part of which changed hands several times. He personally led troops back into vacated positions on three occasions. When the position was ultimately overrun, he immediately started to reorganise his troops. Throughout the operation, he displayed coolness and gallantry in the highest degree and set an example to all with whom he came in contact.</p> <p><i>Recommended by Colonel H.V. Richards CBE, Commander Kohima Garrison. This was the FSD Sector. Refer to John Whittaker's citation below.</i></p>
RUPDHOZ LIMBU	<p>Rifleman. 31333.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL (MM)</u></p>

	<p>3rd (Naga Hills) Battalion, Assam Rifles.</p> <p>16 November 1944. WO 373/34/423</p>	<p>On the night of the 18th April 1944 during the course of the defence of the District Commissioner's Sector of the KOHIMA defence the enemy put in a strong attack on the position. Grenades were thrown into the trench in which this Rifleman was holding a Gun position. Although severely wounded he carried on firing his gun, and by his very gallant action and devotion to duty materially assisted in driving off the enemy's attack.</p> <p>Recommended most strongly for the Indian Order of Merit (2nd Class).</p> <p><i>Recommended for an Indian Order of Merit, 2nd Class, by Commandant 3rd (Naga Hills) Battalion, Assam Rifles and supported by Colonel H.V. Richards CBE, Commander Kohima Garrison, but levels of higher authority downgraded the award firstly to an Indian Distinguished Service Medal and finally to a Military Medal.</i></p>
<p>SAIENDRA BAHADUR MAHAT</p>	<p>Subadar. Shere Regiment, Nepalese Contingent. Kohima Garrison.</p> <p>16 November 1944. WO 373/34/292</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS (MC)</u></p> <p>On 5th April 1944 at 1900 hours, 'B' Company, Shere Regiment, was ordered to relieve the Assam Regiment in the Treasury (in KOHIMA). En route the two rear platoons were ambushed, suffering severe casualties. Subadar SAIENDRA BAHADUR MAHAT, commanding the leading platoon with considerable presence of mind, successfully worked his platoon under cover of the Treasury only to discover that it was occupied by the enemy. He remained in this position the whole night and completely surprised the enemy by a dawn attack, wiped out the enemy garrison and consolidated his position. Subadar SAIENDRA BAHADUR MAHAT, by his initiative and strength of purpose, displayed not only outstanding courage, but also captured a very valuable stronghold.</p> <p><i>Recommended for the Indian Order of Merit, 2nd Class, by Lieutenant Colonel M.A. Hepworth, Special Service Officer, Shere Regiment, and endorsed by Colonel H.U. Richards CBE, Commander Kohima Garrison, but awarded the Military Cross by Higher Authority.</i></p>
<p>STEYN, Peter</p>	<p>Lieutenant. EC 10806. 1st Battalion, The Assam Regiment.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS (MC)</u></p> <p>In the opening phase of the operations in KOHIMA this Officer was in command of a mixed company covering the road to the South of the box – the objective of the first Japanese attack. When it became necessary to</p>

	<p>8 February 1945. WO 373/35/104</p>	<p>withdraw from this exposed position he was attached as 2nd in Command to a company of Gurkhas holding the Eastern end of GENERAL PURPOSE TRANSPORT (GPT) RIDGE. When the greater part of the ridge had fallen his company continued its resistance. When the Company Commander was wounded he took command and it was only after nightfall when he was ordered to withdraw to JAIL HILL that the position was evacuated.</p> <p>JAIL HILL was attacked by the enemy from three sides and our casualties were heavy. This Officer's Company however held firm and he continued to command and inspire his men until he himself was wounded. Even after his admission to hospital he continued his activities in the care of the wounded and in the organising the defences. He showed fine qualities of leadership, endurance and disregard of danger, and set a splendid example to those under his command.</p> <p><i>Recommended for Appointment as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) by Lieutenant Colonel G. Borrowman, 2nd in Command Kohima Garrison, but upgraded to the Military Cross by Higher Authority.</i></p>
<p>TEKBAHADUR ADHIKARI</p>	<p>Rifleman. 385. Shere Regiment. Nepalese Contingent.</p> <p>16 November 1944. WO 373/34/432</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AWARDED THE MILITARY MEDAL (MM)</u></p> <p>On the evening of 5th April 1944 the Company to which this Rifleman belonged was ordered to occupy the Treasury. Serious resistance was met, casualties were suffered and the attack failed. Among the casualties was his Platoon Commander who was wounded and unconscious. When the withdrawal was ordered Rifleman TEKBAHADUR went forward under heavy fire, picked up his Platoon Commander, and carried him back to safety. By his coolness and courage and disregard of danger he set a very fine example to his comrades.</p> <p><i>Recommended for the award of the Indian Distinguished Service Medal by Lieutenant Colonel M.A. Hepworth, Special Service Officer, Shere Regiment, and endorsed by Colonel H.U. Richards CBE, Commander Kohima Garrison, but downgraded to the Military Medal by Higher Authority.</i></p>

<p>THOMSON, William MRCS</p>	<p>Captain. M-224. 80 (Parachute) Indian Field Ambulance, Indian Army Medical Corps.</p> <p>27 July 1944. WO 373/33/90</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS (MC)</u></p> <p>During the operations about KOHIMA, from 3rd to the 20th APRIL, Captain W. THOMSON, Indian Army Medical Corps, was a member of the medical staff of the Composite Advance Dressing Station (ADS) which was established for the treatment of all casualties occurring in the Garrison. During this period nearly five hundred wounded were treated and, with the one exception of the evacuation of approximately one hundred walking wounded on the night of the 7th April, no casualties could be evacuated until the relief of the Garrison was effected on the 20th April.</p> <p>Whilst these cases were being held, the ADS area was subjected both day and night to heavy mortar and gun fire, the Dressing Station actually receiving direct hits on three separate occasions, resulting in the loss of life of four medical officers and some forty of the wounded already under treatment. From the 13th April, owing to foreshortening of the perimeter, the area in which the casualties were being held was constantly sniped by the enemy, causing further loss of life to the Medical Staff and making the daily task of redressing and tending of the wounded extremely difficult and often dangerous.</p> <p>Captain THOMSON worked ceaselessly day and night dressing cases and organising their reception, often exposing himself regardless to sniper and mortar fire. By his devotion to duty and by his personal disregard of danger he set a fine example to the other medical personnel working with him and thereby contributed largely to the efficiency of the Dressing Station under the most difficult circumstances.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Recommended by Lieutenant Colonel W.J. Young, Indian Army Medical Corps, Commanding 75 Indian Field Ambulance.</i></p>
<p>UTHAM SINGH CHETTRI</p>	<p>Subadar. 3rd (Naga Hills) Battalion, Assam Rifles.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS (MC)</u></p> <p>On 4 April 1944 this Officer was detailed to take out a patrol to obtain information regarding the enemy's advance from Miao to Kohima. He led his patrol with the utmost skill and confidence, obtained and sent back information on two successive days and on the third day, with a depleted force of 10 men laid on a successful</p>

	<p>8 February 1945. WO 373/35/136</p>	<p>ambush. His party inflicted at least 15 casualties and captured (brought in) enemy equipment before withdrawing. The success of the patrol was due to the high standard of leadership and example set by this officer. Again, on 13 April Subadar UTHAM SINGH CHETTRI was sent out in command of a platoon to hold an area of the perimeter, which was being heavily attacked. He carried out his duty with no regard to his personal safety and paid high devotion to duty. He was wounded three times in the course of two days, but carried on commanding his platoon.</p> <p><i>Recommended for an Indian Distinguished Service Medal by Commandant 3rd (Naga Hills) Battalion, Assam Rifles and supported by Colonel H.V. Richards CBE, Commander Kohima Garrison, but awarded the Military Cross by higher authority.</i></p>
<p>WELLINGTON MASSAR</p>	<p>Sepoy. 1778. 1st Battalion The Assam Regiment.</p> <p>27 July 1944. WO 373/33/213</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AWARDED THE INDIAN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL (IDSM)</u></p> <p>Throughout the battle at JESSAMI between 28th March and 1st April this sepoy, a Number 1 on a Light Machine Gun (LMG), showed courage and determination of the highest order. In spite of repeated attacks on his post by ever increasing numbers of the enemy supported by mortar fire and infantry gun, he remained cool and steady, maintaining a very accurate fire which took a heavy toll of the attackers. When his LMG had stoppages he continued to hold the attackers at bay with rifle and grenades. When the withdrawal was ordered on the night of 1st/2nd April he was the last man to leave his sector.</p> <p>At KOHIMA on 15th April 1944 during a grenade raid on a Jap bunker, this sepoy was again No. 1 on a LMG whose task was to cover the grenadiers up to the bunker and then cover their withdrawal when they had completed their task, During the attack his gun had a stoppage thus allowing the Japs to get their heads up and his fire to be returned. In spite of his left leg (which he has now lost) being hit and smashed by this fire, he corrected the stoppage in time to cover the withdrawal of the grenadiers. This was courage and devotion to duty of the highest order.</p>

		<i>Recommended for the Indian Order of Merit, 2nd Class, by Lieutenant Colonel W.F. Brown OBE, Commanding 1st Battalion The Assam Regiment, but downgraded to the IDSM by higher authority. Wellington Massar died of his wounds.</i>
WHITTAKER, John Roger	Lieutenant. 203378 ECO. Royal Indian Army Service Corps. 27 July 1944. WO 373/33/88	<u>AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS (MC)</u> On 17 April some of the troops holding positions in the FIELD SUPPLY DETAIL (FSD) Sector in KOHIMA vacated their positions in the face of heavy mortar fire. The situation began to deteriorate and the morale of the troops was falling. Lieutenant WHITTAKER personally led a counter-attack in the face of heavy enemy fire. He re-occupied not only all the trenches which had been lost during the day, but also some that had been lost the previous day. He continued to re-organise the front and to encourage his men until he himself was seriously wounded. This officer gave a most inspiring example of leadership, courage and determination in the face of heavy odds. <i>Recommended by Major N.C. Rawlley, Commanding F.S.D. Sector, Kohima.</i>
WRIGHT, John Walker	Lieutenant. 224568. ECO. 2 Indian Field Company, Indian Engineers, attached from Royal Engineers. 31 August 1944. WO 373/33/236	<u>AWARDED THE MILITARY CROSS (MC)</u> Lieutenant WRIGHT was commanding a Section of No. 2 Indian Field Company attached to the 4 th Royal West Kent Regiment which held KOHIMA against a superior force of Japanese from 6 th April to 20 th April 1944. During this time Lieutenant WRIGHT's Section was employed both as assault engineers and in defence of the KOHIMA perimeter. On several occasions Lieutenant WRIGHT organised and permanently led parties under fire to demolish buildings and dug-outs occupied by the enemy. On 9 th and 10 th April his Section was holding a part of the perimeter, when it was subjected to heavy gun and mortar fire, which caused the collapse of trenches and dug-outs. Disregarding the enemy shelling Lieutenant WRIGHT reorganised his men, who were dazed by the bombardment, to assist in repelling the enemy attack which followed. Later, when blood poisoning from a slight wound had almost deprived him of the use of his hands, he continued to maintain the morale of his

		<p>own troops in spite of their losses, and by his own example and orders steadied in their positions other detachments of Indian troops which had lost their officers.</p> <p>Lieutenant WRIGHT's continued neglect of his own safety, determination to resist and damage the enemy, and inspiration of the men around him, provided a continuous example of gallantry and endurance under the most difficult conditions.</p> <p><i>Recommended by Major I.E. Scott, Commanding No. 2 Field Company, Indian Engineers.</i></p>
<p>YEO, Richard de Carteret</p>	<p>Major. 33143, 24 Mountain Regiment, Indian Army.</p> <p>27 July 1944. WO 373/33/1</p>	<p><u>APPOINTED COMPANION OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER (DSO)</u></p> <p>At KOHIMA from the 5 – 20 April Major Yeo was the senior Royal Artillery officer in the garrison. During this period he directed the fire of his Regiment bringing down heavy and accurate fire without which the position of the garrison might have been seriously menaced. He directed this fire from three observation posts all of which were under small arms fire in the forward area. To ensure the maximum support Major Yeo frequently visited these positions.</p> <p>Throughout the engagement the positions were frequently subjected to heavy artillery fire. During these periods Major Yeo with complete disregard for his own personal safety moved from position to position to enable him to get an accurate location of enemy guns and the direction of counter battery fire. Doing this he was wounded but continued to carry on. His energy, drive and the speed with which he brought down defensive fire in more than one position at once earned for him the greatest confidence of the garrison. He is recommended for an immediate award of the DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER.</p> <p><i>Recommended by Lieutenant Colonel H.J. Laverty, Commanding 4th Battalion The Royal West Kent Regiment.</i></p>
<p>YOUNG, William John. MBE MRCS</p>	<p>Lieutenant Colonel. MZ. 15202.</p>	<p><u>APPOINTED COMPANION OF THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER (DSO)</u></p> <p>Lieutenant Colonel YOUNG was in charge of the medical arrangements of the garrison of KOHIMA. His care of the wounded in most difficult circumstances, under constant shell and mortar fire was beyond praise and</p>

	<p>75 Field Ambulance. Indian Medical Service.</p> <p>27 July 1944. WO 373/33/8</p>	<p>his personality and influence were responsible for maintaining a high morale among the wounded who were performe, without adequate shelter. Each night, this officer, with a total disregard for his personal safety, led stretcher parties under fire to recover wounded and, on the night of 7-8 April successfully led a party to retrieve essential medical stores from ground in enemy occupation. Throughout the 16 days siege of KOHIMA Lieutenant Colonel YOUNG's conduct was an inspiration to all ranks within the Garrison.</p> <p><i>Recommended by Colonel H.U. Richards CBE, Commander Kohima Garrison.</i></p>
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