

INDIAN ORDER OF MERIT.

most skilful defence against persistent and determined night attacks by a well armed force who greatly outnumbered the defenders. After four hours fighting the enemy were finally beaten off by rifle fire and bombs, losing many of their best fighting men.

Risaldar Gulzar Singh, I.D.S.M. *Burma Mounted Rifles*. For gallantry on the 25th May 1918. When he extricated his squadron from a very difficult situation in excellent order, and having done so, returned himself to the open to help to bring in the body of an officer, and wounded men, under heavy fire. He was conspicuous for his skilful leadership in every action in which engaged.

(882 of 1919).

Awarded the Indian Order of Merit (2nd class)
(EGYPT).

Jemadar Indar Singh, *3rd Skinner's Horse*. During the action on the 26th October 1918, this Indian officer laid a cable line to Advanced Brigade Headquarters under heavy fire. He was quite regardless of danger throughout the operation, running to fetch messages dropped by aeroplanes, and bringing them to Brigade Headquarters.

Jemadar Abdul Guffar Khan, *Mysore Imperial Service Lancers*. On the 26th October 1918, this Indian officer showed great coolness and gallantry under very heavy fire, while leading his squadron in a charge against a strongly held enemy position. He rallied the squadron after his British officer had been killed, and continued in action though the squadron had suffered heavy casualties.

(934 of 1919).

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Awarded the Indian Order of Merit (2nd class) for acts of gallantry or devotion to duty in the field while serving with the Mesopotamia Expeditionary Force.

Jemadar Mewa Singh, *14th King George's Own Ferozepore Sikhs*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the 26th October 1918. He commanded his platoon in the foremost line of an attack against a strongly fortified position with marked courage and initiative. Though wounded he refused to be evacuated and remained at duty doing all in his power, to make good the success gained until ordered to hospital the next day. His conduct throughout the action was magnificent.

Jemadar Partab Singh, *14th King George's Own Ferozepore Sikhs*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. On the 26th October 1918 he led his platoon with the greatest coolness in the front line of an attack. Later, on the 29th October 1918, he joined in another attack and although wounded at an early stage, continued to encourage and assisted the advance at a critical time.

Jemadar Harnam Singh, *45th Rattray's Sikhs*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the 29th October 1918. At a moment when an enemy counter attack on our left flank was maturing he led his platoon with great dash against it and broke it up. Afterwards he seized and held an advanced position although most of his ammunition was expended. His conspicuously gallant conduct and skilful dispositions had the result of securing our right flank.

No. 4489 Havildar Tara Singh, *45th Rattray's Sikhs*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the afternoon of the 29th October 1918. During an attack he was in charge of the regimental signallers

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and displayed the greatest coolness under heavy fire. Later during an enemy counter attack he rushed forward on his own initiative with his men, and took up a commanding position in a part of the line which was very thinly held. By his prompt action he rendered valuable assistance in repelling the counter attack. He had on previous occasions shown similar courage and resource.

No. 886 Lance Naik Ujagar Singh, *45th Rattery's Sikhs*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the afternoon of the 29th October 1918. He was sent forward with his Lewis gun section to cover the advance of his platoon. While advancing under heavy fire he lost three men before reaching his position and the remainder within 15 minutes. He however held on to his position alone and although exposed to heavy fire from front and flank kept his gun in action until all his ammunition was expended. He then brought back his gun and reported to his officer. By his brave and determined action he rendered valuable assistance to two platoons which were advancing to repel a counter attack.

His behaviour throughout the action was magnificent.

No. 1855 Sepoy Harnam Singh, *45th Rattery's Sikhs*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the 20th October 1918. Whilst his company was acting as covering force to an artillery reconnaissance both during the advance and withdrawal he repeatedly carried important messages under heavy fire over long distances displaying energy and marked determination. He behaved with consummate coolness throughout a critical period.

No. 6979 Sepoy Bakhtawar, *1st Battalion, 113th Infantry*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to

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duty on 22nd October 1918 when the regiment was in action and exposed to heavy fire this man carried out his duties as stretcher bearer with great bravery and self sacrifice. He made repeated journeys over the open regardless of personal risk and tended the wounded, evacuating as many as he could. His courage and perseverance were magnificent. He was eventually killed whilst carrying a wounded man to safety.

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

Subadar Major Mahadeorao Khanvilkar, Bahadur, *114th Mahrattas*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the 29th October 1918. He led his company in an attack with conspicuous ability. When another regiment was pressed back by a strong enemy counter-attack and was withdrawing through his company, he by his example of fortitude and coolness, kept his men in hand and in spite of heavy losses attacked the enemy.

He was eventually killed but his bold and fearless action averted what might have been a very awkward situation.

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

Subadar Ramchandar Bhosle, *114th Mahrattas*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty between 26th and 30th October 1918. During four days for strenuous fighting he led his company with intense bravery and initiative. Though wounded on the third day he remained at duty and ably assisted in repelling a powerful enemy counter attack. Having regained our line he maintained his position with coolness and determination in spite of heavy losses and inspired his men throughout a period of great stress.

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No. 2326 Company Havildar Major Nanbarao Bhosle, *114th Mahrattas*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the 29th October 1918. He displayed marked courage in stemming a strong enemy counter attack which had forced back our line and by his skill and determination restored and reorganised it, thereby rectifying an extremely awkward situation.

No. 2611 Havildar Raghonath More, *114th Mahrattas*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the 29th October 1918. During a determined counter-attack by the enemy our line in places was momentarily forced back. This non commissioned officer rallied all the stragglers and leaderless men he could find and attaching them to his command promptly attacked and drove the enemy back to his lines. His gallant conduct was worthy of the highest commendation.

No. 2113 Havildar Shaijira Sinde, *114th Mahrattas*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the 29th October 1918. He was severely wounded in the arm during an attack on the enemy's position. In spite of intense pain and exhaustion he remained with his platoon and commanded it with marked ability and coolness. He would not be admitted to hospital until the situation was secure and he was directly ordered to do so. He set a fine example.

No. 2772 Naik Rahm Khan, *114th Mahrattas*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on the 29th October 1918. He was commanding a Lewis gun section when the enemy made a strong counter attack. In spite of heavy fire and the onrush of the enemy he maintained his position most courageously and continued to fire his gun although almost overwhelmed. His bold and determined stand was in a great measure instrumental in restoring the line.

(1062 of 1919).

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

Subadar (acting Subadar Major) Nizam-ud-Din, *125th Napier's Rifles*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty. On the 19th September 1918, this officer displayed great dash and skill in leading his platoon to the assault of the enemy's trenches comprising the final objective. Although severely handicapped by a dense fog which overhung the ground, he maintained his direction and on suddenly reaching the enemy's trenches, found them strongly defended by some 170 of the enemy with 7 machine guns. Promptly seizing the initiative, this gallant officer charged the enemy's trenches with his platoon, and although outnumbered by 4 to 1 captured the position with the entire garrison of 170 men and 7 machine guns.

(2028 of 1919).

Admitted to the 2nd Class of the Order.

No. 845 Sepoy Bawa Singh, *21st Punjabis* For conspicuous gallantry and initiative on 8th February 1917. When his company had occupied a captured trench, ammunition ran short, and more was urgently required to repel counter-attack which had commenced.

On hearing this he voluntarily left the trench, and collected ammunition from the dead and wounded who were lying in the open.

This was carried out under heavy shell and machine gun fire.

No. 2565 Sepoy (Lance-Naik) Nawab Khan, *82nd Punjabis*. For conspicuous gallantry and ability on 8th February 1917. In the traverse he occupied both his British officers were killed, and four Lewis gunners were casualties. He himself was hit three

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times through the clothing, yet he remained at his gun and kept the enemy's fire down by bursts of fire as each reinforcement started from the rear trenches. His gun jammed constantly yet he coolly adjusted it. He never wasted ammunition, and was always to be relied on in an emergency. This young soldier was a fine example of cool pluck and daring to all around him.

No. 759 Naik Gulam Khan, *26th Punjabis*. For conspicuous gallantry in action on 8th February 1917. In having volunteered to carry a supply of bombs across the open to the firing line under heavy shell, and rifle fire. He delivered his own bag of bombs, went back and brought a second bag belonging to another of the party who had been killed.

No. 3539 Lance-Naik Kartar Singh, *36th Sikhs*. For conspicuous gallantry and initiative in action on 16th February 1917. He commanded a Lewis gun team and on seeing that the team of another Lewis Gun had either all been killed or wounded he took over the gun and worked them both until forced to withdraw when he brought both guns back. He showed great coolness and ability.

No. 525 Lance-Naik Channan Singh, *45th Rattray's Sikhs*. For conspicuous gallantry and resource in action on 16th February 1917. During an enemy counter-attack, two men firing a Lewis Gun in an exposed position were killed. This young non-commissioned officer rushed forward for 30 yards over the open under a hot fire, seized the Lewis gun brought it into the line with his own gun, and continued to fire it. But for his action the gun would certainly have been lost.

Jemadar Ganga Ram, *102nd King Edward's Own Grenadiers*. For conspicuous gallantry in action on

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20th February 1917. During the final attack on a redoubt he showed marked coolness and contempt for danger, leading his men with great dash. He afterwards took a most prominent part in constructing a block in a communication trench towards the enemy, under heavy rifle, and machine gun fire. He acted with gallantry on a previous occasion.

Jemadar Dhanbir Sonwar, *1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles)*. For conspicuous gallantry and determination in action on 16th February 1917. He was in command of a platoon which took the enemy's trenches in flank, he being the first man to enter them. He then constructed a block and although this was twice blown to pieces, causing heavy casualties among his men he urged them on to build it up a third time which they succeeded in doing, thus saving the situation. He was afterwards severely wounded.

No. 4991 Rifleman Padan Singh Thapa, *1st Battalion, 2nd King Edward's Own Gurkha Rifles, (The Sirmoor Rifles)*. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 16th February 1917. When engaged in bombing up and blocking the main enemy communication trench several of the leading men were killed by shell fire, and he himself was severely wounded. He however, pushed on with the greatest determination and, although alone, succeeded in driving back the advancing enemy until he fell again severely wounded by an enemy bomb. His gallant conduct enabled the men behind to complete the forward end of the block before the enemy could reach it.

Subadar Chaudri Chand, *Burma Military Police*.

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty on 20th February 1917. When advancing to an attack under heavy rifle and machine gun fire both British

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officers were casualties and he ran forward and assumed command, waving an artillery flag and leading the men forward with the utmost resolution. Later when wounded he showed a fine example of pluck and cheerfulness.

No. 2870 Sowar Dalip Singh, *38th King George's Own Central India Horse*. For conspicuous gallantry on 30th August 1917, whereby he prevented the enemy obtaining an indentification, and at the same time saved the lives of two Indian soldiers. On the night of the 29th-30th September 1917 this sowar was one of a patrol of one British officer, and six Indian soldiers, sent forward by a fighting patrol to reconnoitre the enemy's wire.

The patrol came under heavy machine gun fire at close range, and two of the men fell wounded and disabled at a point where they would have been in full view of the enemy if left there until daylight. Realising the situation and acting on his own initiative he carried both casualties back under heavy machine gun fire until he had placed them under cover where stretcher bearers could reach them.

The patrol had been carefully warned of the importance of preventing the enemy from obtaining an indentification. The plan of the ground showed how difficult and dangerous it was in carrying back the wounded men.

No. 4670 Naik Phagga Singh, *2nd Battalion, 23rd Sikh Pioneers*. For great gallantry and ability in command of a section of a raiding patrol on the night of the 8th-9th September 1917. On finding that a wounded man had been left behind this non-commissioned officer immediately volunteered to lead out men in the moonlight in the face of heavy machine gun fire to bring him in. He proceeded until wounded.

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No. 3985 Havildar Mangal Singh, *2nd Battalion, 23rd Sikh Pioneers*. For gallantry and devotion to duty on the 21st September 1917. This Havildar was sent out on a patrol with nine men in "No Man's Land" with the object of searching the ground, and to place surrender literature as close as possible to the enemy's lines. To do this he had to crawl over an exposed sky line 100 yards from the enemy's trenches, when one of his men was mortally wounded. He made arrangements to send this man back to our lines with two of his patrol, having first bandaged him. With the remaining six men he advanced to within 50 yards of the enemy's trenches under sharp fire from their listening posts. He was not deterred but set up the surrender literature tied to a stick, and rested it against a corpse. He then withdrew his patrol without further casualties.

No. 1296 Sowar Dhoukal Singh, *Jodhpur Imperial Service Lancers*. For gallantry and devotion to duty on the morning of the 23rd September 1917. He was signaller on duty in the signalling tent when his camp was subjected to a heavy bombardment with high explosive and shrapnel. All were immediately ordered to get into the only two dug outs in the place; but this man gallantly remained at his post to maintain communication with Battalion Headquarters although shells were continually bursting around his tent. His tent was punctured in four different places and other tents were completely blown to bits. He realising the danger of his position sent his assistant away to take cover and stayed on himself until necessary orders were received over the telephone from the Battalion Commander.

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Promoted to the 1st Class of the Order.

Jemadar Wazir Singh, *36th Jacob's Horse*. On the night of the 17th-18th September 1917, a patrol of six men led by this Indian officer across "No Man's Land" came in contact with a party of 20 of the enemy who bombed them, killing one of the patrol, and wounding the Jemadar. Having now only four men, one having strayed from the patrol, Jemadar Wazir Singh kept it well in hand and succeeded in routing the greatly superior number of the enemy by bombing, and rifle fire.

After this he withdrew his men to the cover of a bank at a short distance and waited for assistance. He was joined later by a British officer and a small party, with whose help the body of the man who was killed was recovered.

(The award of the 2nd Class of the Indian Order Merit was published in Army Department Notification No. 273, dated the 9th February 1918).

(2074 of 1919).

Awarded the Indian Order of Merit (2nd class) for acts of gallantry or devotion to duty in the field while serving with the *British Salonika Force*.

No. 2249 Lance-Dafadar Manawar Khan, *28th Light Cavalry*. For conspicuous gallantry and dash on the 2nd March 1919, when in command of a patrol of 13 men he was surrounded by about 150 of the enemy's cavalry; he without hesitation led his patrol to the charge and broke through the enemy's ranks spearing all opposed to them. Later when pursued by the enemy he himself halted, took up a position and opened rapid fire on the enemy, shooting 3 of them and checking the pursuit thereby saving the lives of the remainder of the patrol with him.

(2077 of 1919).

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Awarded the Indian Order of Merit (2nd class) for acts of gallantry or devotion to duty while serving in South Persia.

No. 1558 Naik Sijawal Khan, *3rd Battalion, 124th Duchess of Connaught's Own Baluchistan Infantry.*

During an action on 24th October 1918, was Commander of the scouts of "C" company who were sent forward under heavy fire to ascertain the enemy's dispositions. Naik Sijawal Khan led his scouts forward gallantly and after being severely wounded came back and made an accurate report to his company commander of the enemy's dispositions before having his wound dressed. The company commander was thereby able to give information to the artillery and get artillery support which materially helped in the subsequent advance.

Jemadar Kishen Singh, *Burma Mounted Rifles.* In an action on 23rd October 1918, two scouts of his troop of Burma Mounted Rifles were wounded about three hundred yards from the enemy's position. Jemadar Kishen Singh gallantly led his troop to their rescue and they were brought in. The Jemadar and two more men were severely wounded and lay out exposed to fire from 4-15 p.m., till dusk at 6 p.m., when it became possible to rescue and bring them in.

(2078 of 1919).

Awarded the Indian Order of Merit, 2nd class.

Jemadar Nausher Khan. I D. S. M., *1st King George's Own Sappers and Miners.* For conspicuous gallantry and leadership on the 19th September 1918, during the attack on the enemy's trenches. He was in command of his section of sappers making a gun road across "No Man's Land" and the enemy trench system, under enemy shell fire, and carried-out his