

CITATIONSBURMAD.S.O.

MAJOR (temporary Lieut.Colonel) CECIL ARTHUR CHISHOLM SINKER (33762) The Lincolnshire Regiment (Old Woking).

16th and 17th Feb.1944. In order to relieve enemy pressure on an Indian Divisional Headquarters and to create a diversion, Lt.Col. C.A.C.Sinker with a small HQ. and two companies was ordered to attack a position and inflict as many casualties as possible on the enemy. The advance to the objective was through enemy occupied territory for a distance of about 2½ miles. Lt.Col.Sinker with great skill led his force through at night and reached the base of this hill unseen. The attack went in and severe casualties were inflicted on the Japanese. As the operation could not be supported, and as Lt.Col.Sinker and his command were now under very heavy fire, the officer withdrew his troops, bringing his casualties with him. Tanks from the Division assisted in taking the casualties into their area.

Lt.Col.Sinker was then ordered to return to his own base. The route was literally lined with Japs on both sides who were now ready for him. This officer, however, kept control of his command and brought it back safely under considerable fire with all the casualties sustained on the way. Lt.Col.Sinker throughout the operation displayed superb courage, coolness, powers of leadership and initiative. The success of the operation and the excellent aggressive spirit of his men which made this action possible were largely due to the magnificent example set by this officer.

D.S.O.

LIEUT. (acting Major) CHARLES CECIL ANSELL (I.A.1127) 7th Rajput Regiment, Indian Army.

On 31st December, 1943, during an attack on an enemy strong point, containing an MMG.bunker supported by several LMG.posts covering a point on the Arakan Front, this officer displayed superb leadership, personal gallantry and a complete disregard for his own personal safety throughout the attack, being severely wounded on two separate occasions in the thigh, arm and stomach.

/He personally

He personally led his company, shouting encouragement, and having armed himself with a tommy gun taken from the R.O. Observation Officer went forward to reconnoitre when his forward troops were held up.

Whilst crossing a belt of machine gun fire he was wounded by a long burst in the thigh and shoulder. In spite of these wounds he carried on and under further intense fire led his men across the two lines of enemy wire and was second into the enemy position, where he received a second burst of MG fire in the stomach and arm. He continued to carry on reorganising for the next attack, and during the lull was assisted back to the Forward Observation Officer where he was given morphia. He also under intense fire personally removed two wounded men, one of whom was utterly helpless. It was not until he was personally ordered to go back to the Regimental Aid Post by the CO that he finally handed over his company.

MC

Lt. George Edward HUDSON (186975) Royal Fusiliers attached 1st Punjab Regiment, Indian Army) (Randwick, Australia).

At Ahkaunbaukya (Arakan) on 25th January 1944 this officer was in command of two platoons whose objective was a hill to be taken by a flanking attack. The force reached to within 20 yards of the objective when it was held up by a strong wired enemy post. Lt. Hudson dashed forward under heavy fire with five men and attempted to tear down the wire with his hands. Three of his five men were hit and further casualties had been inflicted on the platoons. He re-organised ten yards back in dead ground and began to dig his way forward to the wire. Four hours later he had got to within a few feet of the wire. He again personally led an assault of two sections, covered by fire from the remainder. Intense MG fire beat off the attack as they attempted to cross the wire. Lt. Hudson held his original position under heavy enemy fire until dusk when he was ordered to rejoin his company. He showed very great courage and leadership throughout the day.

MC

Lt. (temp. Captain) acting Major John Patrick ROCHE (93588) The West Yorkshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's Own) (Punjab, India)

On 8th Jan. Major Roche was ordered to advance across several miles of open country and occupy Maungdaw. In the afternoon his company were harassed by MG and mortar fire from Kenyindan, but continued their advance, entered Maungdaw during the night and drove out the few remaining Japanese. Next day he continued aggressive patrolling and after a sharp encounter drove the Japanese out of Kenyindan. A few days later his company were occupying a somewhat isolated position on the south flank of the enemy at Razabil, doing extremely good work in patrolling and in harassing the Japanese. The company was three times attacked but successfully held their own. In the early morning of 16th Jan., however, the Japanese put in a really determined attack, working a machine gun forward to a position where it inflicted a number of casualties

Major/

Major Roche counter-attacked with two sections and drove away the machine gun, but could not prevent the enemy surrounding his position. Shortly afterwards he received orders to move to another position, fighting his way out if necessary. He decided to move in the afternoon, under cover of smoke caused by burning vegetations. Unfortunately the smoke dispersed just as the company reached open ground, and they were in full view of the enemy on three sides, at close range. Major Roche ordered one platoon to act as rear guard and give covering fire while the remainder, in some cases assisting wounded men, crawled across many hundred yards of open paddy field, under accurate enemy machine-gun fire. Major Roche supervised the withdrawal of his whole company before getting away himself.

M.M.

No. 4626346 Lance Corporal Frederick George SALTER, the  
Suffolk Regiment (Exeter)

On 28th January 1944, when "A" Company attacked Bamboo Hill Pte. Salter went with the leading section. With conspicuous courage and disregard of enemy grenade and mortar fire, he destroyed two enemy positions single handed, and then moved round to deal with an enemy L.M.G. position which was holding up the rest of his platoon. Having no more grenades left, he engaged the position by steady and accurate fire with his rifle and killed all three enemy who attempted to man the L.M.G. Pte. Salter's determination and coolness enabled the rest of his platoon to reach the top of the hill, where they inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy.

M.M.

No. 4538693 Lance Corporal Geoffrey RILEY, The West Yorkshire  
Regiment (Maltby, Yorks)

On the night of 15/16 January L/Cpl. Riley was in command of a section of "A" Company which was holding a position S.E. of Dilpara, Arakan. During the night approximately one platoon of enemy infiltrated into the coy position, right up to the post of which L/Cpl. Riley was in command. L/Cpl. Riley held the fire of his section until the enemy was within a few yards of it when he engaged them with hand grenades and all weapons. The enemy suffered heavy casualties and were forced to withdraw hastily and dig-in. Subsequently the enemy made further attacks on his post which caused casualties in Lance Corporal Riley's section, and also shortage of grenades. L/Cpl. Riley with the aid of his one remaining man successfully maintained the aggressive defence of his post and contrived at times to hold it alone while his remaining man went back with information to the company commander.

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