

2020

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A CONCISE BIOGRAPHY OF:

MAJOR GENERAL SIR STUART GREEVES

A short biography of Major General Sir Stuart GREEVES, K.B.E., D.S.O.*, M.C.*, *p.s.c.*, who served with the British Army in the First World War, and then transferred to the British Indian Army in 1918. He was a Brigade Commander in the Second World War and served with the Pakistan Army after Partition.

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**A Concise Biography of Major General Sir Stuart GREEVES, K.B.E., D.S.O.*, M.C.*,
*p.s.c.***

Version: 3_1
This edition dated: 21 May 2018
ISBN: Not yet allocated.

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Published privately by: The Author – Publishing as:
www.BritishMilitaryHistory.co.uk

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Major General Sir Stuart GREEVES, K.B.E., D.S.O.*, M.C.*, *p.s.c.*

Introduction

Major General Sir Stuart GREEVES was an officer in the British Indian Army, who served with distinction in both the Great War and the Second World War. During the Great War, he was awarded the Military Cross and Bar. During the Second World War, he became the notable commander of the 80th Indian Infantry Brigade during the battle for Imphal in Burma, being awarded the Distinguished Service Order and Bar, and was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire. After the war, he was the first Quarter-Master-General for the new Pakistan Army after partition in August 1947 and served with the Pakistan Armed Forces through to his retirement in 1957, making him the last or one of the last British officers in Pakistan.

Early Life

Stuart GREEVES was born on 2 April 1897 at 63, Holly Road, Northampton. He was the eldest son of John Stewart GREEVES (1866 – 1940) and Flora Ellen Mann GREEVES (1872 – 1962). His father was also born in Northampton, and he was a boot and shoe manufacturer in the town. John and Flora had married in April 1895 in Northampton. They had four children:

- Stuart – born in 1897,
- Donald – born in 1899,
- Jack Derek – Born on 8 July 1903, one of twins with:
- Corrie Victor – Also born on 8 July 1903.

In 1911, Stuart was living with his grandparents, John Claridge and Mary Ada MANN, and their son Carry Edward MANN at 41, St. Matthew's Parade, Northampton, as Stuart was attending Northampton Town and County Grammar School. John GREEVES was living at 1, King Edward Road, Abingdon Park, Northampton, from which he moved to Hill Top House, Cogenhoe, Northampton in 1920. On 14 September 1914, with the outbreak of the Great War, and aged seventeen years, Stuart GREEVES enlisted in the 7th (Service) Battalion, The Northamptonshire Regiment as a Private soldier, and was granted the service number of 15681. This unit was formed in Northampton in September 1914 as part of the recruitment drive for volunteers for the British Army and KITCHENER's Third New Army, K3.

The First World War

The 7th Bn, The Northamptonshire Regiment came under command of the 73rd Brigade in the 24th Division, which concentrated on the South Downs near Shoreham in Sussex between November 1914 and April 1915. This period was chaotic as the new volunteers had no organised billets or equipment, so the men slept in bell tents. There were few trained officers and few experienced non-commissioned officers to lead, train and teach the new recruits. It was not until March 1915 that the men began to receive olive drab uniforms and rifles were not received until July of that year. The 24th Division moved to Woking in Surrey in June 1915 and undertook final training at Aldershot between 19 and 23 June 1915 ready for deployment to France. Lord KITCHENER inspected the Division at Chobham Ranges on 19 August, and the next day, King GEORGE V inspected the Division. Orders were received on 19 August for the Division to move to France, with the 7th Bn. The Northamptonshire Regiment landing at Boulogne on 2 September 1915.

The 24th Division concentrated between Etaples and St. Pol on 4 September, but it had little time to acclimatise or train in France, as it was thrown in for the British assault at Loos on 26 September. It was left too far behind to be a useful reinforcement on the first day of the battle, but lengthy and demanding forced marches brought it up to the front line, where the Division suffered 4,178 casualties on 26 September for little gain.

Stuart GREEVES left his battalion and the 24th Division on 24 August 1916 and returned to the United Kingdom to attend an Officer Cadet Training Unit in order to become an officer. He had been in the ranks for two years and one-hundred and thirty-three days. Due to his return to the U.K., he missed the involvement of the 24th Division in the Battle of the Somme in November 1916. On completion of his training, with effect from 27 January 1917, Stuart GREEVES was commissioned in the rank of Temporary Second Lieutenant and posted to the Lancashire Fusiliers. At first, he was posted to the 3rd (Militia) Battalion at the Depot of the Regiment, but on 3 March 1917, he was posted to the 18th (Service) Battalion (2nd East Lancashire), The Lancashire Fusiliers.¹ This was a Bantam battalion, formed of men under the usual height limit of 5' 3" imposed by the Army, and had been raised in Bury on 13 January 1915. It had joined the 104th Brigade of the 35th Division. Second Lieutenant GREEVES returned to France and joined his battalion on 3 March 1917. The 35th Division was originally raised on 10 December 1914 as part of the Fifth New Army. The Division arrived in France on 28 January 1916 and participated in the Battle of the Somme later that year.

In December of that year, the General Officer Commanding the 35th Division complained about the standard of his replacements, describing many as underdeveloped, unfit men and boys from the industrial towns of England. A medical inspection was carried out, and 1,439 men were removed from the battalions, and a second inspection brought the total up to 2,784 men. As reinforcements, the Division received men transferred from disbanded Yeomanry regiments, i.e. cavalry.

¹ The fact that Stuart GREEVES' commission was as a Temporary Second Lieutenant meant that it was for the duration of hostilities, and for a year after the end of the war. In other words, he was not an officer of the Regular British Army, but a 'Hostilities Only' officer.

These had to be trained in infantry tactics and were probably not keen on their transfer. This was the nature of the formation that GREEVES joined, and he was probably placed in command of a platoon in the battalion, in order to provide leadership and to motivate them for the forthcoming battles. On 1 June 1917, he was made the battalion's Lewis Gun and Intelligence Officer.

The reformed 35th Division first saw action in the Third Battle of Ypres which commenced on 31 July 1917. Also known as the Battle of Passchendaele, it was a British offensive that began well, but the bad weather soon bogged down the advancing Armies. The advance was slow and cost a large number of casualties, and by the end of October, the battlefield was a quagmire, making movement impossible. The fighting ground to a halt and the offensive was called off on 10 November 1917.

In early 1918, with the collapse of Russia, which had been consumed by revolt and civil war, the German Army was able to transfer a large number of troops from the Eastern to the Western Front. They launched a large-scale offensive on 21 March 1918 in the region of the Somme, and made significant advances into British held territory, resulting in heavy losses being incurred by the British Army. The Allies were for a time in a crisis, but the second phase of the German assault was held at Arras, and British and French reserves held the line at the important rail junction at Amiens. By 5 April, the German advance was halted. It was during this period and battle that Second Lieutenant GREEVES was awarded his first Military Cross for gallantry. It was for his actions between 25 to 28 March 1918, with the citation being published on 26 July 1918. It stated:

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty during operations. His work was beyond all praise, and on one occasion he went forward at great risk during an attack by the enemy, and sent in a most valuable report, which cleared up the situation.²

The third phase of the German offensive commenced on 9 April 1918 with the Battle of the River Lys, but although this attack made some ground, it was held by the British, Commonwealth and French forces and finished by the end of the month. The 35th Division was not involved in the Battle of the Aisne between 27 May and 6 June 1918, but actions continued along the British front line, and Second Lieutenant GREEVES was awarded a Bar to the Military Cross for his actions on 1 June 1918 while acting as the Intelligence Officer of the 18th Battalion.

Transfer to the Indian Army and Inter-War Years

On 20 August 1918, GREEVES left his battalion before the final, and decisive, Allied offensives of October and November 1918 and was granted Home Leave, having been promoted to the rank of Temporary Lieutenant with effect from 25 July 1918. He remained on leave until 24 September 1918. GREEVES had decided to make his career in the Army, so he applied to join the Indian Army on a Regular Commission, and this was granted with effect from 25 September 1918, with his seniority dating from the date of his commission in the Lancashire Fusiliers.

² Currently, I cannot find any date or citation for his Bar to the Military Cross.

GREEVES was granted the rank of Temporary Second Lieutenant, on probation. He travelled to India by passenger vessel between 26 September and 30 October 1918. On 29 October, he was formally transferred to the Indian Army (on probation) and was granted the rank of Lieutenant (with his seniority dating from 25 October 1918). With effect from 30 October, he was attached to the 2nd Battalion, 152nd Punjabis as the Acting Commanding Officer. This battalion was only formed at Hinaidi near Baghdad in Mesopotamia between 16 and 19 May 1918. In June 1918, the battalion moved to Egypt and took part in the Battle of Sharon in the Sinai and Palestine Campaign as part of the 181st Brigade of the 60th (2nd/2nd London) Division.

After the Armistice of Mudros, the 60th Division was withdrawn to Alexandria by the end of November 1918, and the Division was disbanded. The battalion returned to India by February 1919 and it was disbanded on 4 September 1921. Having travelled out to India with his battalion, GREEVES was involved in the Third Afghan War of 1919 after being attached to the 82nd Punjabis at about this time. His appointment to the Indian Army was confirmed with effect from 29 October 1919, and his rank was confirmed as Lieutenant on the same date. Apart from the two Military Cross awards he was given, he was also granted the 1914 – 15 Star, the British War Medal 1914 – 1918 and the Victory Medal.

Lieutenant Stuart GREEVES left the 2nd Bn. 152nd Punjabis on 9 July 1919, and then found himself undertaking a variety of roles with the Supply and Transport Corps. These were:

- 10/07/19 – 24/01/20 Officer Commanding, Cattle Depot,
- 25/01/20 – 22/07/20 Attached Officer with No. 1 D. S. Company,
- 23/07/20 – 19/11/20 Officer Commanding, No. 65 Brigade Supply Section,
- 20/11/20 – 29/03/21 Officer Commanding, No. 5 D. C.,
- 30/03/21 – 24/07/21 Officer Commanding, No. 125 Base Supply Section,
- 25/07/21 – 21/09/21 60 days leave,
- 22/09/21 – 02/11/21 Officer Commanding, No. 125 Base Supply Section,
- 02/11/21 – 28/02/22 Signals and Telegraph School (course),
- 01/03/22 – 19/08/22 Officer Commanding, No. 1 Base Supply Section,
- 20/08/22 – 07/09/22 Proceeded to Deolali for service with the R.A.F.

With the post-war retrenchment of the Indian Army, and the fact that his battalion was disbanded, Lieutenant GREEVES transferred to the Supply and Transport Corps with effect from 8 October 1921.³ In 1923, the Corps was renamed as the Indian Army Service Corps, which in 1935, was granted the prefix 'Royal'. On 26 September 1922, GREEVES was promoted to the rank of Captain, at the age of twenty-five years. On 15 September 1922, he commenced a four-year long attachment to the R.A.F. in Baghdad in Iraq, being in charge of the petrol dump at that base. He left Iraq on 5 April 1926 to return to India.

³ The probable reason for his transfer was that with the reorganisation of the Indian Army in 1922, there were officers who faced unemployment or poor promotion prospects, so several changed regiments or corps during this period.

On his arrival back in India on 5 May 1926, he was appointed the Assistant Commandant of No. 13 Infantry Brigade Transport Company based at Landi Kotal. Between 4 September 1926 and 26 October 1926, Captain GREEVES was the Officiating Deputy Assistant Adjutant & Quarter-Master-General of the Kohat District. He returned to his post in No. 13 Infantry Brigade Transport Company on 27 October, and remained there until 31 October 1927, when he was granted leave in India for almost a year's duration.

On his return from leave, Captain GREEVES was appointed Assistant Commandant of No. 2 Cavalry Brigade Transport Company at Quetta on 28 October 1928. On 21 November 1928, he became the Officiating Commandant of No. 24 Divisional Troops Transport Company based at Quetta. He returned to his own unit on 7 December 1928, but this time as Officiating Commandant.

On 15 February 1929, GREEVES commenced his training as a student of the Indian Staff College at Quetta. This was a much sought after posting, which came after the applicant had received the approval of their commanding officers and passed an entrance examination. The purpose of the Staff Course was to train officers with potential to occupy staff positions within the British Indian Army and usually led to promotion to at least the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. While GREEVES was in the Junior Division of the Staff College, Douglas GRACEY and Henry DAVIES were in the Senior Division, not aware that fate would decree they were to become friends and close colleagues during the war and in the formation of the new Pakistan Army in 1947.

With the successful completion of the staff course on 15 December 1930, GREEVES was posted to No. 14 Motor Transport Company, also based in Quetta. This company was equipped with 30 cwt and 3 ton four and six wheeled lorries. On 25 March 1931, he was posted to 'G' Supply Depot Company at Quetta for eight months. On 18 November 1931, Captain GREEVES commenced an attachment to the Quarter-Master-General's Branch at the Army Headquarters at Simla. He was then appointed an officiating Staff Captain at the Directorate of Supplies and Transport at Army Headquarters, The Army in India, which was based in Simla. This posting was from 3 December 1931 and lasted for about eighteen months. On 1 August 1932, GREEVES was appointed as the Commandant of No. 14 District Supply Company at Razmak.

On 16 August 1932, Captain GREEVES was granted the appointment as the Brigade Major of the Wana Brigade on the North-West Frontier in India. He was to remain in this post for the usual four-year period, until he relinquished the post on 16 August 1936. The Brigade Major was the senior staff officer in the Brigade and was responsible directly to the Brigadier commanding the brigade for all aspects of training, organisation and staff duties. During that period, GREEVES was promoted to the rank of Brevet Major on 1 July 1934 and then substantive Major on 26 September 1935. On 16 March 1936, GREEVES returned to the U.K. on Combined Leave, ex-India, and went to see his parents who now lived at a house called 'Red Gables', Cogenhoe, Northamptonshire. He left the Port of London on 15 October 1936 bound for Ceylon, aboard the Japanese ship the Fushimi Maru. His father died at home on 2 February 1940 aged seventy-three years, so this was probably the last time Stuart saw him.

During this period of leave, GREEVES was attached for personnel purposes to the Army Headquarters at Simla and H.Q. No. 14 District Supply Company (supernumerary) until 25 November 1936, after which he was attached the H.Q. Meerut District on his return to India. Back in harness, Major GREEVES was posted to H.Q. Wazirforce on 30 May 1937 for operations in Waziristan against the Pathan tribesmen. These were concluded on 28 June 1937.

On his return to India, Major GREEVES was posted to the Directorate of Supplies and Transport at Army Headquarters from 26 November 1936. On 1 April 1938, he was posted to No. 15 Independent Mechanical Transport (I.M.T.) Section at Trimulgheery in southern India. On 8 April 1938, he was the Officer Commanding the I.M.T. section at Trimulgheery, and then on 1 July 1938, he was the Officer Commanding the I.M.T. Section at Poona. On 1 August 1938, he was appointed the Officer Commanding No. 3 Motor Ambulance Unit at Belgaum. This latter unit was responsible for maintaining and driving the ambulances used by the Indian Medical Service. He relinquished that role on 4 February 1939, and on 11 February he became the Officiating Deputy Assistant Director of Supply and Transport at Poona. Following this period of regimental duties, GREEVES was appointed General Staff Officer 2nd Grade (G.S.O. 2) in the Rawalpindi District in Northern Command on 1 June 1939. He had been an Officiating G.S.O. 2 in this District since 15 March 1939.

The Second World War

The commencement of the Second World War found forty-two-year-old Major GREEVES serving in the Rawalpindi District of Northern Command. Britain was at war with Germany, so British India was not affected significantly, although some mobilisation commenced. When Italy entered the war on the side of Germany, and not the United Kingdom and France with whom the country had fought the First World War, strategic matters changed greatly. The British Protectorate of Egypt and the Suez Canal were now at risk of attack from Italian controlled Libya. Commonwealth forces from Australia, South Africa and New Zealand were sent to Egypt, and the Indian Army was ordered to expand massively in order to send troops to Egypt and later Iraq and The Sudan.

On 17 June 1941, GREEVES was appointed the General Staff Officer 1st Grade in the Rawalpindi District in Northern Command on the Commands and Staff of the British Indian Army, and he was promoted to the rank of Acting Lieutenant Colonel with effect from the same date.⁴ On 20 June 1941, GREEVES was made an Officer of the Order of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) for his services in Waziristan in 1940 and 1941 while holding the rank of Major. On 17 September 1941, GREEVES was promoted to the rank of Temporary Lieutenant Colonel.

The next change in GREEVES's career was unusual for an officer in the Royal Indian Army Service Corps and was possibly instrumental in his rise to become a general in the British Indian Army.

⁴ It is presumed GREEVES was promoted Acting Lieutenant Colonel on taking up his new appointment. He was promoted to the rank of Temporary Lieutenant Colonel on 17 September 1941, three months after the Acting promotion.

Having proved himself as a G.S.O. 1 of a static District formation, on 22 November 1941, he was appointed to the 34th Indian Infantry Division, which was stationed in Ceylon. Tension with Japan, which had been at war in China since July 1937, was escalating. The U.S.A. supported the government of the Republic of China headed by Chiang Kai-shek and imposed increasingly restrictive trade embargos on Japan. The country of Japan lacked many basic resources and was then still extensively an agricultural economy. Oil, tin, rubber and other resources were to be found in European and American colonies across South-East Asia, and it was to these that the militaristic Japanese government turned to solve its lack of oil and commodities. A Japanese invasion of the American controlled Philippine Islands, the Netherland East Indies, and British colonies of Hong Kong, Malaya (including Singapore) and Burma had been anticipated, and on 7 December, an invasion convoy was sighted off the coast of northern Malaya. The landings took place the next day with a land invasion from Thailand. Six hours later, Japanese naval forces attacked the U.S. fleet and its base at Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands. From being essentially a European war, the conflict was now truly a world war. The United Kingdom was now fighting three countries in three continents spread across the globe, and it was overstretched. British India, the jewel in the crown of the British Raj, was now in the front-line and at threat of invasion and attack. India was now at war, and the great country mobilised for total war, to raise the largest volunteer army ever in world history, and one that eventually inflicted the greatest land defeat on the Japanese Army.

Ceylon was now a major base in the Indian Ocean, and one at risk of invasion. Lieutenant Colonel GREEVES was now on the front-line in the Second World War. The General Officer Commanding, 34th Indian Infantry Division was Major General MOORE, who in a report on Lieutenant Colonel GREEVES stated: *'I grade this officer as outstanding – recommend command of an infantry brigade immediate'*. Between 14 March and 7 April 1942, GREEVES acted as the Officiating Brigadier General Staff, Ceylon Command, the senior staff officer of the command, and usually a Brigadier's post. Major General MOORE's recommendation was apparently acted upon as on 31 August 1943, Lieutenant Colonel GREEVES relinquished his post as G.S.O. 1, 34th Indian Division, and was appointed to command an infantry brigade.

The 80th Indian Infantry Brigade had been raised in May 1942 to be part of the 20th Indian Division. On 1 September 1943, Temporary Lieutenant Colonel GREEVES was promoted to the rank of Acting Brigadier and Acting Colonel on being appointed the Brigade Commander.⁵ On 26 September 1943, GREEVES received promotion to the substantive rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Indian Army at the age of forty-six years. The 80th Indian Infantry Brigade comprised one British, one Indian and one Gurkha infantry battalions, namely the:

- 1st Bn. The Devonshire Regiment,
- 9th Bn. 12th Frontier Force Regiment,
- 3rd Bn. 1st King George V's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Malaun Regiment).

⁵ [Loyalty and Honour, Part II, Brigades](#) states that GREEVES raised the Brigade in May 1942 as its first commander. This is contradicted by the dates of his promotion in September 1943, suggesting that another Brigadier raised the Brigade and that GREEVES replaced him in 1943.

The brigade had joined the 20th Indian Infantry Division on 31 July 1942, the division being commanded by Major General Douglas GRACEY with whom GREEVES had been a student at the Indian Staff College. GREEVES was known within the British Indian Army as 'Sam GREEVES' and was respected as a career Indian Army soldier and the holder of two Military Crosses. Both he and Major General GRACEY were seen as enthusiastic, with GRACEY described as an imaginative and keen teacher, who constantly visited training areas and made efforts to get to know by name the officers and men who served under him. GRACEY needed the support and commitment from his Brigadiers to make the 20th Indian Division capable of fighting in the most demanding of situations for long periods of time. It is likely that the previous friendship and respect between Douglas GRACEY and Sam GREEVES was such that GRACEY may have requested this officer from the Royal Indian Army Service Corps to be one of his operational infantry Brigade commanders. GREEVES was promoted to the rank of Temporary Brigadier and Temporary Colonel on 1 March 1944.

In October 1943, the brigade moved to the north of the Kabaw Valley in Burma. This was a period of frequent patrolling by both the British and Japanese troops, but otherwise was quiet. In March 1944, the brigade moved to the eastern part of the Imphal plain, guarding the Sittaung track at the eastern end of the Shenam Pass. The Japanese launched a major attack in that month, and the brigade bore the brunt of their determined efforts to break through the Shenam Pass to reach Imphal. In a series of fierce battles, although the brigade was forced back, it held the pass firmly shut to the Japanese. The main focus centred on a hill called 'Scraggy', which was the limit reached by the Japanese. The brigade suffered severe casualties, and after the Japanese assault subsided in late April, the brigade moved to the Ukhrul area to cover the lines of communication.

The brigade crossed the River Chindwin on 14 January 1945 as part of the major advance by the 14th Army, and then crossed the Irrawaddy River in mid-February 1945. It then moved into the Myinmu bridgehead and fought off repeated Japanese attacks on the Allied positions. After nearly three years in command, a long time on active service during the war, GREEVES relinquished command of the 80th Indian Brigade on 18 March 1945. In Confidential Reports on GREEVES during his time as a brigade commander, his divisional commander and friend, Major General Douglas GRACEY, described GREEVES in October 1944 as: '*A firm, strong, energetic and enthusiastic personality*'. Lieutenant General Geoffrey SCOONES, who commanded IV Corps of which the 20th Indian Division was part, said in April 1944 of GREEVES: '*lacks the personality necessary for a Major General's command*'. His less positive view of Brigadier GREEVES is also apparent in his endorsement of the citation for the award of a Periodic C.B.E. (see below). Why this was the case is not known, perhaps SCOONES had a wider perspective of the attributes of his senior officers across the Corps, as opposed to the close relationship between a Divisional Commander and his four Brigadiers (three infantry brigade commanders and the Commander Royal Artillery).

Sam GREEVES received several honours and awards for his successful leadership of the 80th Infantry Brigade. On 27 July 1944, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order (D.S.O.), his citation dated 21 May 1944 states:

FOR GREAT GALLANTRY IN ACTION AND MOST CONSPICUOUS DEVOTION TO DUTY

From April 8th 1944 until May 15th 1944, Brigadier GREEVES has been in command of the Brigade Group holding the Tenganoupal-Shenam position. During this period, the enemy has delivered several very heavy attacks on our forward areas, supported invariably by concentrated medium and field artillery fire, and at times by medium tanks, but has only succeeded in advancing just over two-thousand yards.

Brigadier GREEVES has throughout this period of attack and counter-attack showed complete disregard of his personal safety. In the initial stages, directly after the successful attack by 1 Devon on Nippon Hill, he immediately went forward under heavy artillery fire and long range, but direct, small arms fire, to the hill, in the underground tunnels of which several Japanese were still active, in order to ensure that everything possible was being done to consolidate the position against the inevitable counter-attack, which was beaten off with very heavy casualties the next morning. His presence at the time in this danger spot was a great incentive to the battalion which had suffered heavy casualties in officers and men in the attack and was new to this kind of warfare.

For the next few days, while his troops were getting inoculated to the artillery bombardment, and were being attacked by medium tanks and very determined infantry, it was very largely due to Brigadier GREEVES' personal example, personal daily visits to the forward areas, and determination, that the enemy failed to get more forward than he did. Throughout the whole period there were many crisis calling for cool judgment and initiative. Brigadier GREEVES' first action was invariably to go the forward areas to see for himself, regardless of the fact that movement forward from his headquarters was in full view of enemy observation posts, and that the enemy snipers were very active.

By these personal reconnaissances, and quick appreciations the correct decisions were made, and the reserves, which owing to the lack of troops, could only be made available by thinning out elsewhere in the position, were used to the best advantage. Brigadier GREEVES by his complete disregard for his own safety and by his personal leadership very soon imbued his troops with his own determined spirit, so that after his initial advances the enemy made very little further progress, and paid very heavily indeed for every yard that he did advance. The enemy's passage to the vital parts of the position was successfully parried, and no more vital ground given up. His gallantry, bold reconnaissances under fire, initiative, personal example, over a very long period of strain are most rewarding of high praise.

This award was recommended by Lieutenant General SCOONES, the Commander IV Corps on 23 May, and recommended by Lieutenant General SLIM, the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Fourteenth Army on 31 May 1944. General GIFFARD, the Commander-in-Chief of the 11th Army Group approved this award on 13 June 1944, and it was gazetted just over a month later.

On 21 June 1945, Brigadier GREEVES was awarded a Bar to the Distinguished Service Order. The citation for this award reads:

Brigadier GREEVES commanded 80th Indian Infantry Brigade of 20th Indian Division. After the capture of Monyra on 22nd January 1945, his brigade was ordered to clear the large area of the Irrawaddy and Chindwin confluence up to the Habet River and deceive the enemy into believing that a crossing was to take place in that area. This difficult task he planned and carried out most admirably and achieved his both his objects by hard fighting and tireless manoeuvre, during which he himself was always right forward, enthusing his troops and setting a wonderful example of fearlessness and dash, at all times completely regardless of his own safety, and quite indifferent to the fire of the enemy artillery, automatics and snipers to which he was subjected in each of the many actions fought by his brigade.

Later, after a small bridgehead had been established across the Irrawaddy, he disengaged his brigade with great skill and speed, and crossed over into the bridgehead; and thanks to fine planning, determination and speed, inflicted defeat after defeat on the Japanese, not only in close battle in the bridgehead area itself, but in a lightning sweep which carried his brigade in four days over 35 miles of difficult country through the enemy's artillery area, completely disorganizing it and various units of the 31st and 53rd Japanese Divisions to a position to threaten seriously the main Mandalay – Meiktila Road near Kyaukse. His troops killed a great number of the enemy during this drive, destroyed many dumps of ammunition, petrol and supplies, and captured no less than eleven guns most of whose crews fought them to the last. As usual, Brigadier GREEVES was in the forefront of all the actions fought. He has throughout shown all the qualities of a great and fearless leader, and has carried out with his brigade ~~in one month~~ the many difficult tasks given to him ~~in such a brilliant way that he is most thoroughly deserving of the immediate award of a Bar to the Distinguished Service Order.~~

This citation was prepared by his Divisional Commander, Major General GRACEY on 15 March 1945 as an Immediate award of a Bar to his D.S.O.. This was passed to Lieutenant General STOPFORD, Commanding 33 Indian Corps, who amended the citation (as above) on 18 March 1945 to that for Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (C.B.E.) and endorsed the citation: 'most strongly'. Lieutenant General SLIM reverted the award to a Bar to the D.S.O. when he recommended the citation on 26 March 1945. Finally, Lieutenant General LEESE, the Commander-in-Chief of allied Land Forces South-East Asia approved the award of a Bar to the D.S.O. on 12 April 1945, with the notification of the award being published on 21 June.

On 5 April 1945, GREEVES was Mentioned in Dispatches for his gallant and distinguished services in Burma. He was again Mentioned in Dispatches for the same reasons on 10 January 1946, and again on 9 May 1946. Lastly, he was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (C.B.E.) on 28 June 1945. His citation was signed by Major General GRACEY on 8 October 1944, and reads:

FOR CONSPICUOUSLY MERITORIOUS SERVICE

During the period from the 7th June to the 23rd August 1944, Brigadier GREEVES commanded 80th Indian Infantry Brigade Group which carried out a most successful and arduous encircling movement over very difficult flooded jungle and mountainous country; his Force cut loose from its base for the whole period of nearly 2 ½ months during which it was supplied throughout from the air. His organisation and tactics were excellent. He started his move by marching his Brigade Group in three nights over the flooded Iril Valley under the enemy's noses to a position which cut the enemy's direct line of communication to the forces facing the 5th Indian Division to the North of Imphal astride the Imphal – Kohima road. He achieved complete surprise. From there, he organised his columns to harry continuously the enemy supply columns and after inflicting severe losses on several of these, his force completely stopped any further enemy movement along this line of communication. Aggressive action in other directions forced the enemy battalion which had been overlooking the Iril Valley to withdraw eastwards, and thus removed the threat to Imphal from that direction. As soon as the enemy in front of the 5th Indian Division started to withdraw, he harried the enemy parties retiring to the North-Eastwards, and moved his whole Brigade Group over extremely difficult country, made more so by heavy monsoon weather, to an area to the South-West of Ukhrul from where three columns were sent out – two to block the two escape routes of the Japanese 51st Regiment in the Aishan and Chepu areas, and one to block the Imphal – Ukhrul road at Lammu. All these were most successful in carrying out their tasks, but not without heavy fighting.

Throughout these very extensive and arduous operations, Brigadier GREEVES's energy, boldness, drive and initiative were of the very highest order and contributed in great measure (initially to the breaking of the enemy resistance in front of the 5th Indian Division, and latterly) to the almost complete annihilation of the enemy's 51st Regiment.

Having been recommended for a Periodic C.B.E. by Major General GRACEY, the citation was passed to Lieutenant General SCOONES, the General Officer Commanding IV Corps, for his endorsement. On 28 October 1944, he wrote:

Although I consider the statement that Brig GREEVES's action 'contributed in great measure initially to the breaking of the enemy resistance in front of the 5th Ind Division' to be an overstatement, I agree with the remainder of the citation and recommend that Brig GREEVES's work received due recognition.

On 18 June 1945, Brigadier GREEVES was appointed the Brigadier in charge of Administration of the Madras Area retaining the rank of Temporary Brigadier. On 7 January 1946, he was appointed to the Avadi Sub-Area in the Madras Area as the Commanding Officer of that formation. In his annual appraisal dated 25 February 1946, Major General C. W. W. FORD, the General Officer Commanding No. 105 Area (also known as the Madras Area) stated: *'he is a born commander'*. He added that: *'he has a strong personality – his powers of command are outstanding – He has initiative and drive and can accept responsibility. He is exceptionally energetic and can stand up to hard work. He is popular and gets the best out of his staff. Fit for command of an Area'*.

Post Second World War

GREEVES was promoted to the rank of Colonel on 1 January 1947 (his seniority dating from 26 September 1946), by which date he was holding the rank of Acting Major General, as he had been promoted to that rank with effect from 19 November 1946, on being appointed a Deputy Adjutant-General at Army Headquarters, The Army in India. On 15 August 1947, with the partition of British India, the new country of Pakistan was born. An officer from the former British Indian Army, General Sir Frank MESSERVY was appointed the first Commander-in-Chief of the Pakistan Army. Its new Chief of the General Staff was Lieutenant General Douglas GRACEY, and GREEVES was one of the former British Indian Army officers to transfer to Pakistan where he was able to renew the working relationship between these two men. At first, he remained a Deputy Adjutant-General in A.H.Q. India to work on the separation of the former British Indian Army, and then on 24 November 1947, he transferred to the same role within the new G.H.Q. Pakistan Army at Rawalpindi, in the former headquarters of Northern Command. GREEVES was promoted to the substantive rank of Major General on 1 October 1947, with his seniority dating from 22 June 1947. His service was extended by three years on 1 January 1948 to serve with the Pakistan Army, and on 1 September 1948, he was formally retired from the Indian Army, but continued to be borne on the Special List (ex-Indian Army) of the British Army while employed by the Pakistan Armed Forces.

GREEVES was appointed Quarter-Master-General in the new army on 24 December 1947 with the rank of Major General and took up his new role on 1 January 1948.⁶ He was described by a colleague (Lieutenant Colonel James WILSON) as being a respected brigade commander but, was rough in manner and sometimes uncouth, however, he was seen as having a heart of gold beneath his brusque manner.⁷ As Quarter-Master General, he had a very difficult job of obtaining sufficient equipment and materials for the new army. They were often in short supply or non-existent, but GREEVES used his strongly defined common sense to obtain results. He also loved cricket and was a regular spectator at the Rawalpindi Club matches. On 10 February 1948, General MESSERVY retired, with General GRACEY replacing him as Commander-in-Chief, and Lieutenant General Sir Ross McCAY becoming the Chief of Staff vice General GRACEY.

⁶ His entry in *Who was Who*, states that he held the appointment of Deputy Adjutant-General in India. His appointment in the Pakistani Armed Forces is confirmed by other reliable sources.

⁷ 'Unusual Undertaking, A Military Memoir' by Lieutenant General Sir James WILSON.

On 10 June 1948, Major General GREEVES was appointed a Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (C.B.) in The King's Birthday Honours List. On 1 September 1948, GREEVES and other officers attached to the Pakistan Armed Forces (including General GRACEY) retired from the Indian Army, but continued to be borne on the Special List (ex-Indian Army) of the British Army while employed by the Pakistan Armed Forces. On 8 November 1948, Major General GREEVES relinquished his role as Quarter-Master-General of the Pakistan Army, and was appointed to command the Bahawalpur State Forces. As this former Princely State in the Punjab region of British India was now part of Pakistan, GREEVES was responsible for reforming these forces as the 6th (Bahawalpur) Division of the Pakistan Army.

GREEVES' friend and mentor, Douglas GRACEY, stood down as the Commander-in-Chief of the Pakistan Army on 16 January 1951, following tension within Pakistan about the involvement of the Army in the war with India over the state of Jammu and Kashmir. He was succeeded by the first Pakistani Army officer to hold that prestigious position, Acting General Ayub KHAN. The Pakistan government had called for native commanders within its Armed Forces, and the Pakistan Prime Minister selected Major General Iftikhar KHAN as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Army, and so he was sent on the Imperial Defence College course for senior officers in the U.K. As he returned, his aircraft crashed, and he was killed.

Ayub KHAN was the most junior of the Major Generals in the Pakistan Army, but it was he whom Prime Minister Ali KHAN chose to replace Iftikhar KHAN and become the first Pakistani and Muslim Commander-in-Chief on 17 January 1951. In January 1951, Lieutenant General McCAY was also replaced by a Pakistani officer, Major General Akbar KHAN, and became the Chief Military Advisor to the Commander-in-Chief of the Pakistan Army. Major General GREEVES was appointed the Senior Military Advisor, while also remaining the General Officer Commanding, 6th (Bahawalpur) Division. Lieutenant General McCAY retired on 26 September 1953.

On 1 January 1955, in the New Year's Honours List, GREEVES was created a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire (K.B.E.) on the advice of Pakistani ministers and became Sir Stuart. On 30 November 1955, Major General GREEVES relinquished his appointment as a Divisional Commander, having spent seven years in this role, which was a long time compared to the usual three or four, or later just two years a Major General could expect to command a formation. He proceeded to Karachi to embark for Bombay. He left Pakistan on 8 April 1956 and arrived in Bombay, India, the next day. On 14 April 1956, he embarked at Bombay for Sydney in Australia, and en-route he visited Tonga and Nuku Alofa, both islands in the Pacific. On 15 April 1957, and now aged sixty years, Sir Stuart GREEVES ceased to be employed with the Pakistan Armed Forces and reverted to the Retired List.

Sir Stuart GREEVES decided to settle in South Africa, which was common amongst several former officers of the British Indian Army. The Indian sub-continent had been his home since October 1918, with many officers and officials who served in British India viewing the sub-continent as their home and feeling disconnected with post-war austerity Britain. South Africa was a white dominated society at this time, and probably felt similar to live in as pre-partition British India. The climate was more amenable than that of the United Kingdom and the cost of living cheaper than that at home. It is possible that all these were factors in his decision to live in South Africa after his retirement. Major General Sir Stuart GREEVES died on 11 October 1989, aged ninety-two years. At the time of his death he was living at Flat 601, Grosvenor Square, College Road, Rondebosch, Cape Town, South Africa. He was unmarried and had no children.



Above – Gurkha troops clearing ‘Scraggy’ on the Shenam Saddle.

Right – A view of the hill called ‘Malta’ from ‘Scraggy’.

Below – Gurkha and Indian troops from the 20th Indian Division inspecting discarded Japanese ordnance on the Shenam Saddle.

All courtesy of the National Army Museum.





*Above – A photograph of Nippon Hill taken from the road in April 2014.
Below – A general view of the hills alongside the road running up to the Shenam Saddle from 'Scraggy' towards 'Crete'.*

Taken by the Author (2014)



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www.BritishMilitaryHistory.co.uk

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Printed by: The Author
