

#### LIEUTENANT WINS M.C.

The story is now told of the action in Italy for which the Military Cross was awarded to Lieut. Peter Hugh Bartholomew, Scots Guards, son of Mr and Mrs John Bartholomew, Manor House, Inveresk.

The citation states:  
"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty near Cologne on the approaches to the River Po on 24th April 1945.

"Lieut. Bartholomew was commanding a platoon in "B" Company and was ordered to attack a group of houses dominating the crossing over the Frossa Montecchio. To reach his objective he had to cross a damaged bridge and pass through another platoon which was already pinned down about half-way to the houses. The approach was completely open and under spandau fire from both flanks, while mortaring and sniping were continuous. The enemy were in fact sparing no effort to hold their Po bridgehead south of Cologne.

Under cover of 2 inch mortar smoke and covering fire from the forward platoon he led his men at the double over the bridge and across the 300 yards of open ground. Hurling grenades and firing tommy guns they captured the houses, killing two Germans and taking five prisoners, and quickly consolidating. One Churchill tank then succeeded in crossing the damaged bridge and reached the houses, but as the smoke cleared it was promptly knocked out by a well camouflaged self-propelled gun 150 yards away. This gun then started to fire directly at the houses together with four others. Realising that his position would become untenable Lieut. Bartholomew seized a Piat and from a most exposed position personally knocked out one of the self-propelled guns. When a second gun was knocked out by another Piat, the remainder were abandoned by their crews and the situation was restored. Lieut. Bartholomew, throughout the action, set a magnificent example of leadership and determination to his men, and it was undoubtedly due to his personal courage and great initiative that his platoon was able to capture and hold its objective."

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