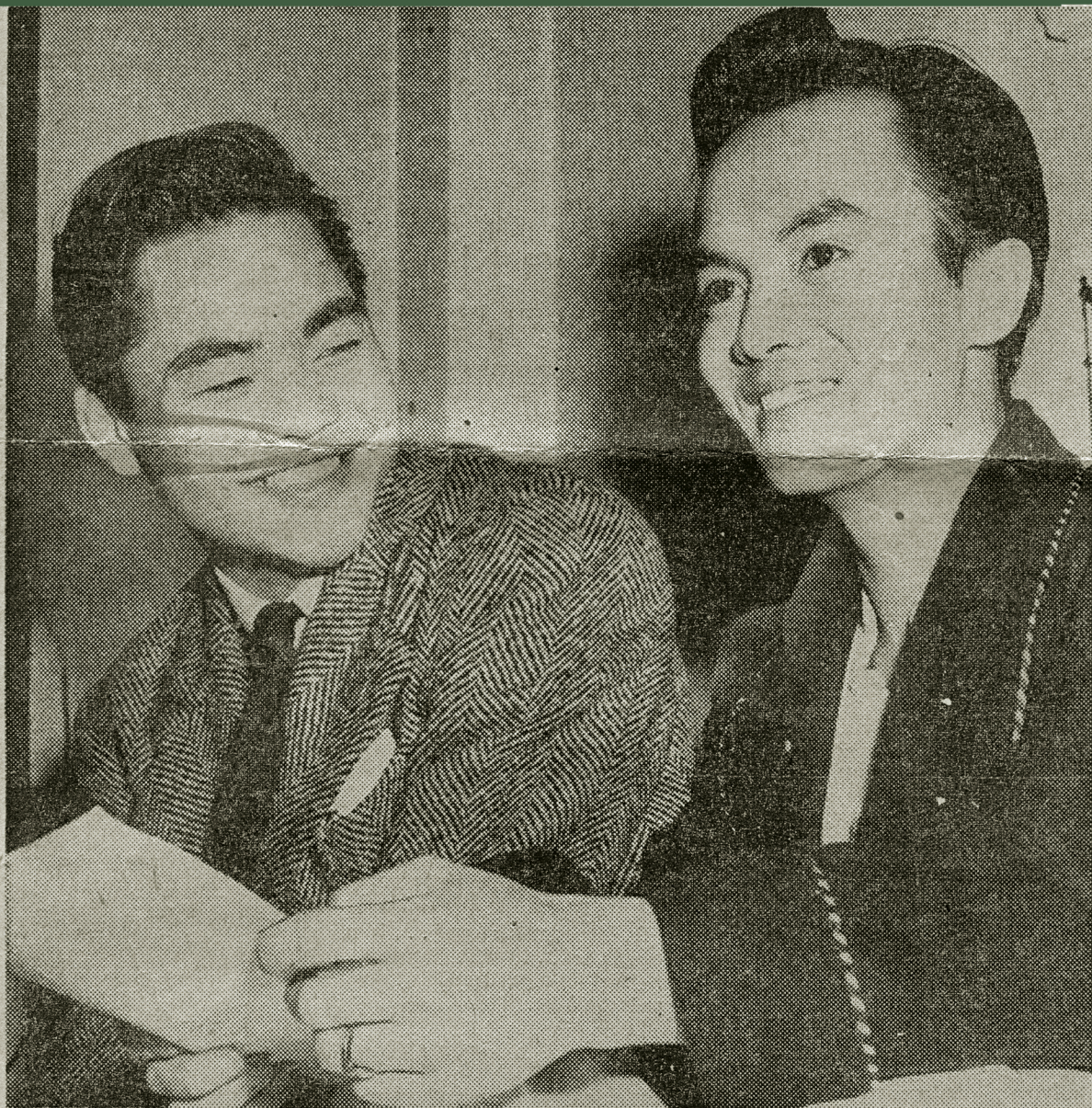
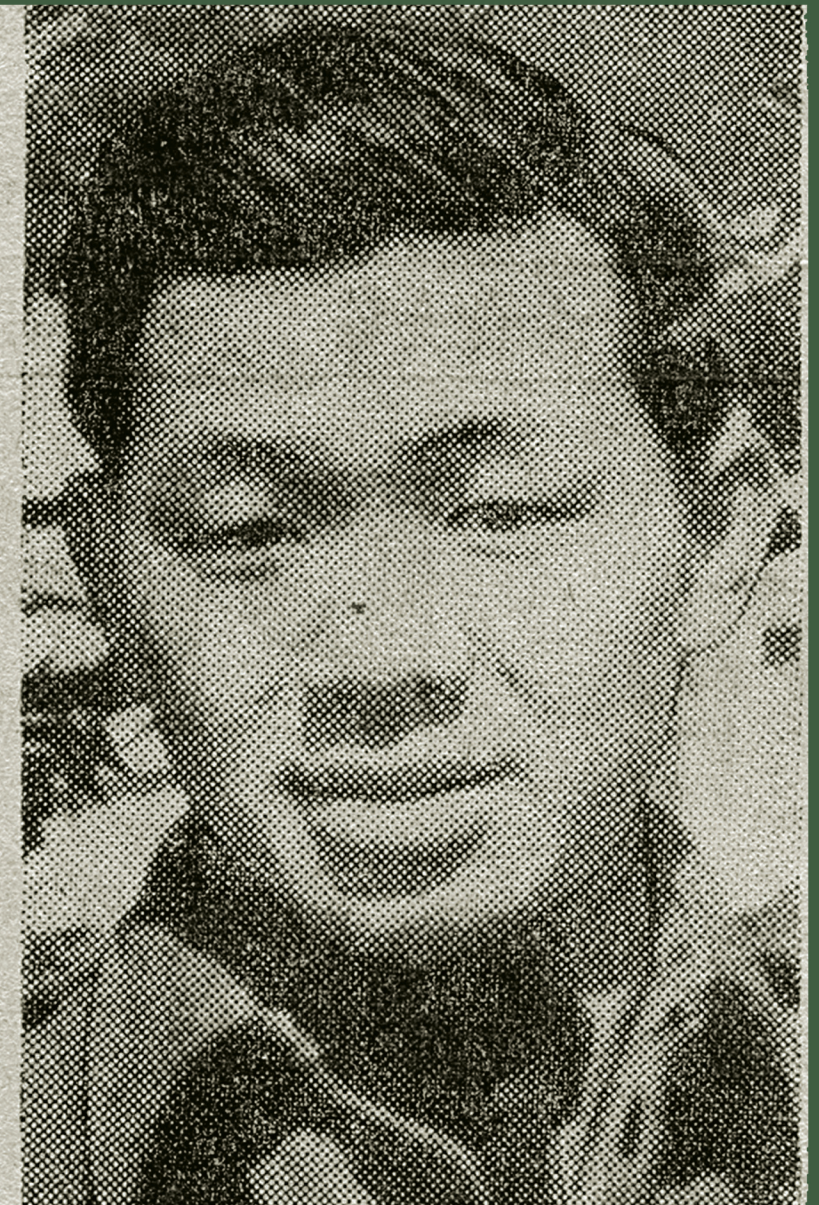


The Vancouver Sun

★ THE VANCOUVER SUN: Mon., Sept. 9, 1946



LOUEY KING (LEFT) AND NORMAN MON LOW smiled with pleasure today as they read citations which accompanied the award to them of the Military Medal. The army's announcement, made public for the first time their exploits in organizing Dyak headhunters as guerrillas and leading them against the Japs in Borneo for five months in 1945. (See page 2 for pictures of two other Chinese heroes.)



ROY SIN TWE CHAN

JAMES SHIU

Roy Chan, who works for his father at the Panama Cafe, 1407 Government, Victoria, and James Shiu, now a university student at Berkeley, Cal., were today awarded the Military Medal for guerrilla exploits in Jap-held Borneo in 1945.

HEROIC JUNGLE FIGHTERS' STORY TOLD

Four Chinese Decorated For Secret Borneo Mission

By RALPH DALY

Award of the Military Medal to four Canadian-born Chinese was announced today as the army partially lifted the lid on the most secret and colorful operations against the Japs in which Canadians participated.

The four—all enlisted in Vancouver and secretly trained in the interior in 1944—parachuted into Jap-held Borneo early in 1945, organized Dyak headhunters into guerilla bands, and led them for five months behind Jap lines.

Citations accompanying the awards credit them with a major role in driving the Japs out of the British protectorate of Sarawak, one of Nippon's last South Pacific strongholds.

So secret were the operations that none of the decorated men has yet told Canadian army intelligence or his own family what he did in Borneo.

Warned by British Intelligence that their activities must not be disclosed to anyone, the four were amazed today at the decorations and the information released by the Canadian army.

The decorated four, all discharged some months ago with the rank of sergeant, are:

Norman Mon Low, 23, of 790 E. Hastings, now recovering in Shaughnessy Hospital from a two-month bout of pneumonia and pleurisy arising out of Borneo-caught malaria.

Louey King, 22, of 790 E. Hastings, a bookkeeper in a Pender Street meat firm.

Roy Shin Twe Chan, 29, who helps his father manage the Panama Cafe at 1407 Government, Victoria.

James Shiu, 25, who returned to Berkeley, Cal., last week to start his third year in civil engineering at the University of Southern California there. His wife, Margaret, lives at 734 Keefer. Born in Saskatoon, Shiu moved to Berkeley as a boy but returned to Canada in 1942 to join the army.

Please Turn to Page Two See "Jungle Heroism"

Jungle Heroism Wins MM for Four Chinese

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All had high praise for Captain Roger K. Cheng, 653 East Pender, who trained with them and led them in the Borneo battles.

"If we deserve a military medal, Roger deserves a Victoria Cross," said Louey King. "We never expected anything like this. The war has been over a year and we've forgotten all about it."

"Anyway, I couldn't say we did anything extraordinary. Anyone in our position would have to do the same to get out alive."

Said Norman Low: "I just can't believe it."

From Victoria, Roy Chan commented when his citation was read to him by telephone: "It sounds pretty, good."

SINGULAR OPERATION

The army release termed the operation "as singular as it is interesting."

The four, with Captain Cheng, were selected from 30 volunteer Canadian-Chinese trained in 1944 in B.C. in jungle fighting, commando tactics, radio communications and other specialized matters.

Later they joined British and Australian commando and guerilla experts for further training and learned to speak Malayan.

Late in March, 1945, just before the Australian Ninth Brigade (the original "Rats of Tobruk") attacked the south and east coasts of Jap-held Borneo, they parachuted from a Flying Fortress with a number of Australians and New Zealanders near the headwaters of the Rejang River, which flows west across Sarawak and became the main escape highway of Japs fleeing for the port of Kuching.

JOINED BY DYAKS

They made friends with the short, wiry, savage Dyak headhunters, who had suffered in the hands of the Japs and were eager for revenge.

The commandos supplied the natives with parachuted rifles, ammunition, food, medicine and clothing, taught them to shoot and to abandon their individualistic fighting methods for co-operation and tactfully-applied discipline.

Splitting up, sometimes joining forces, they led groups of 60 or more natives in harassing the Japs—setting up river blocks to mow them down, splitting up

large parties, then picking off the parts.

They fought in the jungles and on the jungle-bordered river, attacked and took towns held by the Japs, hid in Dyak villages. And many times they saw shrivelled Japanese heads, though there was no open headhunting among the Dyaks.

UNBELIEVABLE STORIES

"The things we saw were so unbelievable that they sound silly when you tell them," says Louey King.

The commandos learned to use blowpipes which shoot a 12-inch poisoned dart, but preferred a sub-machine gun or rifle as safer than the 30-foot blowpipe range.

The Dyaks also taught them to wield the curved, razor sharp, 30-inch parang, a jungle knife which can slice through a three-inch teak tree in one blow of skilled hands.

When air-borne food supplies ran short, they shot monkeys, small deer, wild pigs and blasted tiny fish out of the river with hand grenades.

One of their greatest boons in getting on with the natives was the medical training they had received. They treated civilian Dyaks for malaria and dysentery and opened, sprinkled with sulphur and stitched up hundreds of tropical ulcers.

In five months, they ranged 500 miles and trained an estimated 1000 Dyaks. Casualty figures are not available but they heard reports that guerrilla activities killed as many Japs in Borneo as the entire Ninth Australian Division.

CITATIONS GIVEN

Citations released by the army today said:

"Norman Mon Low... organized communications for patrols which gave field headquarters vital information. With utter disregard for his own safety, he maintained his wireless link inside the enemy's area, frequently passing out intelligence under direct enemy attack. His coolness and bravery, his resourcefulness and initiative played a significant part in the success of the Rejang River operations."

"Louey King... played an outstanding part in the recapture of Sarawak by organizing guerrilla resistance. This also involved setting up and maintaining wireless communications with headquarters of the Ninth Australian Division from spots on the Rejang River area to Lebuau. This was achieved under conditions of greatest hazard. The work of Sgt. King was worthy of the very highest praise."

"Roy Chan... organized and led native guerrillas and succeeded in blocking the Rejang River to the enemy, forcing them back on their headquarters near the coast and controlling river traffic. His patrols also successfully attacked the enemy, inflicting heavy casualties."

"James Shiu... established communications with patrols and with the headquarters of the Ninth Australian Division at Labuan. His untiring efforts, his skill and efficiency contributed largely to the uninterrupted maintenance of vital communications, producing valuable intelligence from behind the enemy's lines, and the success of the operations generally."

So bitter was the fighting that it continued nearly a month after V-J Day, when the Japs refused to surrender.