**Transcript – CSM Walter Gilding, B Company, 2nd Battalion, Royal Norfolk Regiment, British Army**

**Warning: This transcript contains mild language and descriptions of warfare**

**All narration and voices are provided by actors.**

**NARRATOR**

After the relief of Kohima, newly resupplied Allied units began advancing south, recapturing positions lost to the Japanese during the early days of the battle. One such position was the Aradura Spur, near Jail Hill.

On 28th May 1944, B Company, 2nd Battalion of the Royal Norfolk Regiment, prepared to make the assault, as Company Sergeant Major Walter Gilding explains.

**WALTER**

“The company were lined up on the base of the hill, it was all jungle covered, no tracks leading up to it, and must have been about one in four. You couldn’t walk up it; it had to be scrambled.

The Royal Scots had a company on our left flank. Solid shot was to be fired from 25-pounders to break up the Japanese bunkers on the crest of the hill…

With us was Colonel Scott. We were all within touching distance, there was no space to spread out. The artillery fired and this allowed us to start scrambling up the hill, bypassing a clump of bamboo, or round a tree, you couldn’t go straight up.

We could hear the thudding of shot on the top of the hill. We got almost halfway up when the artillery stopped and then the fun began. Small-arms fire, machine-gun fire and grenades – we got the lot.

The leading lads got within twenty feet of the crest. Robert Scott came up and he was with the leading troops throwing grenades, shouting ‘Get on, get on, get at ‘em.’ By this time, I was ten yards from him.

I had a Sten gun and was firing, scrambling up, grabbing hold of a tree, firing the Sten, going a little further, encouraging the lads. You couldn’t see the bunkers or slits; they were so well camouflaged. I heard the stretcher-bearers being called as people were getting hit.”

**NARRATOR**

One of those hit by a grenade was Colonel Robert Scott.

**WALTER**

“I saw him go down and the stretcher-bearers come to try and pick him up. They cut his trousers open to put a field dressing on his wounds. This uncovered his bottom and through all the noise that was going on, Robert was shouting out, ‘COVER MY BLOODY ARSE UP!’

Source: CSM Walter Gilding, Forgotten Voices of Burma: The Second World War’s Forgotten Conflict by Julian Thompson