**Transcript – Major Dinesh Chandra Misra, Second-in-Command, 5th/6th Rajputana Rifles, British Indian Army**

**Warning: This transcript contains derogatory language and descriptions of warfare and death.**

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

**NARRATOR**

During the Battle of Imphal, Allied victory hinged on the ability to airlift in supplies and fresh troops to the beleaguered town. This meant that the defence of the airfields around Imphal was of vital importance.

One such airfield was near Palel, where the ridge of hills overlooking the village, known as the ‘Shenam Saddle’, changed hands multiple times. Major Dinesh Chandra Misra, Second-in-Command of the 5th/6th Rajputana Rifles, explained the difficult position.

**DINESH**

“The Japanese had outflanked and penetrated a place we called Lone Tree Hill, and there were no troops between division HQ and the hill. The CO sent for me and said, ‘I will take two companies, and you stay in the rear’. I asked him to let me take the two companies. He let me take them.

I chose a frontal attack, I thought speed was of the utmost importance, as the Japs were in the middle of preparing positions. We got to within thirty yards of the objective and were grenaded back. We withdrew, took up a defensive position, and spent all night there”.

**NARRATOR**

Major Dinesh Chandra Misra and the men of the Rajputana Rifles would eventually capture Lone Tree Hill with the help of the RAF but would spend the next several hours defending their position against fierce counter attacks.

**DINESH**

“By then it was getting dark. I told the company commanders, ‘expect a counterattack about two hours after dark. It’s 4:15 now and they will come at seven o’clock.’ And sure enough it came at that time. Everything opened up. We had taken a few casualties. I knew that in the early morning there would be a final counterattack. It came and in the hand-to-hand fighting we had casualties.

I felt detached, but a hatred for the Japanese, and I determined to kill them; I became a demon. I was swearing and screaming. We were shouting out battle cries, and the Japs shouting ‘Banzai’, the officers had swords. We fought with bayonets. I had a Sten gun. The Japs withdrew and I knew we had won. There was a tremendous feeling of joy and relief.

In daylight, we counted one hundred and fifty Japs dead. The hill is now known as Rajputana Hill. In battle, you reach an extreme state of hatred, but it goes away. You feel sad. How insane war is, but if you don’t kill the enemy, he will kill you.”

Source: Major Dinesh Chandra Misra, Forgotten Voices of Burma: The Second World War’s Forgotten Conflict by Julian Thompson