



FIFTH SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 4th of SEPTEMBER, 1917.

Published by Authority.

The Gazette is registered at the General Post Office for transmission by Inland Post as a newspaper. The postage rate to places within the United Kingdom, for each copy, is one halfpenny for the first 6 ozs., and an additional halfpenny for each subsequent 6 ozs. or part thereof. For places abroad the rate is a halfpenny for every 2 ounces, except in the case of Canada, to which the Canadian Magazine Postage rate applies.

THURSDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER, 1917.

War Office,
6th September, 1917.

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Men:—

T./Capt. Harold Ackroyd, M.C., M.D., late R.A.M.C. (attd. R. Berks. R.).

For most conspicuous bravery.

During recent operations Capt. Ackroyd displayed the greatest gallantry and devotion to duty. Utterly regardless of danger, he worked continuously for many hours up and down and in front of the line tending the wounded and saving the lives of officers and men. In so doing he had to move across the open under heavy machine gun, rifle and shell fire. He carried a wounded officer to a place of safety under very heavy fire. On another occasion he went some way in front of our advanced line and brought in a wounded man under continuous sniping and machine gun fire.

His heroism was the means of saving many

lives, and provided a magnificent example of courage, cheerfulness, and determination to the fighting men in whose midst he was carrying out his splendid work.

This gallant officer has since been killed in action.

Capt. (T./Lt.-Col.) Bertram Best-Dunkley, late Lan. Fus.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when in command of his battalion, the leading waves of which, during an attack, became disorganised by reason of rifle and machine gun fire at close range from positions which were believed to be in our hands.

Lt.-Col. Best-Dunkley dashed forward, rallied his leading waves, and personally led them to the assault of these positions, which, despite heavy losses, were carried.

He continued to lead his battalion until all their objectives had been gained. Had it not been for this officer's gallant and determined action it is doubtful if the left of the brigade would have reached its objectives.

Later in the day, when our position was threatened, he collected his battalion head-

quarters, led them to the attack, and beat off the advancing enemy.

This gallant officer has since died of wounds.

2nd Lt. (actg. Capt.) Thomas Riversdale Colyer-Fergusson, late North'n R.

For most conspicuous bravery, skilful leading, and determination in attack.

The tactical situation having developed contrary to expectation, it was not possible for his company to adhere to the original plan of deployment, and, owing to the difficulties of the ground and to enemy wire, Capt. Colyer-Fergusson found himself with a Serjeant and five men only. He carried out the attack nevertheless, and succeeded in capturing the enemy trench and disposing of the garrison. His party was then threatened by a heavy counter-attack from the left front, but this attack he successfully resisted.

During this operation, assisted by his Orderly only, he attacked and captured an enemy machine gun and turned it on the assailants, many of whom were killed and a large number were driven into the hands of an adjoining British unit. Later, assisted only by his Serjeant, he again attacked and captured a second enemy machine gun, by which time he had been joined by other portions of his company, and was enabled to consolidate his position. The conduct of this officer throughout forms an amazing record of dash, gallantry and skill, for which no reward can be too great having regard to the importance of the position won.

This gallant officer was shortly afterwards killed by a sniper.

No. 939 Sjt. Robert Bye, Welsh Guards (Penrhiwceiber, Glamorgan).

For most conspicuous bravery.

Sjt. Bye displayed the utmost courage and devotion to duty during an attack on the enemy's position. Seeing that the leading waves were being troubled by two enemy blockhouses, he, on his own initiative, rushed at one of them and put the garrison out of action. He then rejoined his company and went forward to the assault of the second objective.

When the troops had gone forward to the attack on the third objective, a party was detailed to clear up a line of blockhouses which had been passed. Sjt. Bye volunteered to take charge of this party, accomplished his object, and took many prisoners. He subsequently advanced to the third objective, capturing a number of prisoners, thus rendering invaluable assistance to the assaulting companies.

He displayed throughout the most remarkable initiative.

No. 11795 Cpl. Leslie Wilton Andrew, Infy. Bn., N.Z. Force.

For most conspicuous bravery when in charge of a small party in an attack on the enemy's position.

His objective was a machine gun post which had been located in an isolated building. On leading his men forward he encountered unexpectedly a machine gun post which was holding up the advance of another company; he immediately attacked, cap-

turing the machine gun and killing several of the crew.

He then continued the attack on the machine gun post which had been his original objective.

He displayed great skill and determination in his disposition, finally capturing the post, killing several of the enemy, and putting the remainder to flight.

Cpl. Andrew's conduct throughout was unexampled for cool daring, initiative, and fine leadership, and his magnificent example was a great stimulant to his comrades.

No. 31161 Cpl. James Llewellyn Davies, late R. Welsh Fus. (Nantymoel, Glamorgan).

For most conspicuous bravery.

During an attack on the enemy's line, this non-commissioned officer pushed through our own barrage and, single handed, attacked a machine gun emplacement after several men had been killed in attempting to take it.

He bayoneted one of the machine gun crew and brought in another man, together with the captured gun.

Cpl. Davies, although wounded, then led a bombing party to the assault of a defended house, and killed a sniper who was harassing his platoon. This gallant non-commissioned officer has since died of wounds received during the attack.

No. 17114 Pte. Thomas Barratt, late S. Staffs. R. (Tipton).

For most conspicuous bravery when as Scout to a patrol he worked his way towards the enemy line with the greatest gallantry and determination, in spite of continuous fire from hostile snipers at close range.

These snipers he stalked and killed. Later his patrol was similarly held up, and again he disposed of the snipers.

When during the subsequent withdrawal of the patrol it was observed that a party of the enemy were endeavouring to outflank them, Pte. Barratt at once volunteered to cover the retirement, and this he succeeded in accomplishing.

His accurate shooting caused many casualties to the enemy, and prevented their advance.

Throughout the enterprise he was under heavy machine gun and rifle fire, and his splendid example of coolness and daring was beyond all praise.

After safely regaining our lines, this very gallant soldier was killed by a shell.

No. 265579 Pte. George McIntosh, Gord. Highrs. (Buckie, Banffshire).

For most conspicuous bravery when, during the consolidation of a position, his Company came under machine gun fire at close range.

Pte. McIntosh immediately rushed forward under heavy fire, and, reaching the emplacement, he threw a Mill's Grenade into it, killing two of the enemy and wounding a third. Subsequently, entering the dug-out, he found two light machine guns, which he carried back with him.

His quick grasp of the situation and the utter fearlessness and rapidity with which he acted, undoubtedly saved many of his com-

rades and enabled the consolidation to proceed unhindered by machine gun fire.

Throughout the day the cheerfulness and courage of Pte. McIntosh was indomitable, and to his fine example, in a great measure, was due the success which attended his Company.

No. 15067 Pte. Thomas Witham, C. Gds. (Burnley).

For most conspicuous bravery when, during an attack, an enemy machine gun was

seen to be enflading the battalion on the right. Pte. Witham, on his own initiative, immediately worked his way from shell-hole to shell-hole through our own barrage, rushed the machine gun, and, although under a very heavy fire, captured it, together with an officer and two other ranks.

The bold action on the part of Pte. Witham was of great assistance to the battalion on the right, and undoubtedly saved many lives and enabled the whole line to advance.

LONDON:

PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

To be purchased through any Bookseller or directly from
H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:
IMPERIAL HOUSE, KINGSWAY, LONDON, W.C. 2, and 28, ABINGDON STREET, LONDON, S.W. 1:
37, PETER STREET, MANCHESTER; 1, ST. ANDREW'S CRESCENT, CARDIFF;
23, FORTH STREET, EDINBURGH;

or from E. PONSONBY, LTD., 116, GRAFTON STREET, DUBLIN;
or from Agencies in the British Colonies and Dependencies,
the United States of America and other Foreign Countries of
T. FISHER UNWIN, LTD., LONDON, W.C.2.

Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office by WYMAN & SONS, Ltd., Fetter Lane, Fleet St., London, E.C. 4

Thursday, 6 September, 1917.

Price Four Pence net.