



SUPPLEMENT
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THURSDAY, 14 JANUARY, 1943

*War Office,
14th January, 1943.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the posthumous award of The VICTORIA CROSS to:—

No. QX.1071 Corporal John Alexander French, Australian Military Forces.

At Milne Bay on the afternoon of the 4th September, 1942, a company of an Australian Infantry Battalion attacked the Japanese position East of the Buna Mission where it encountered terrific rifle and machine-gun fire.

The advance of the section of which Corporal French was in command was held up by the fire from three enemy machine-gun posts, whereupon Corporal French, ordering his section to take cover, advanced and silenced one of the posts with grenades. He returned to his section for more grenades and again advanced and silenced the second post.

Armed with a Thompson sub-machine gun, he then attacked the third post, firing from the hip as he went forward. He was seen to be badly hit by the fire from this post, but he continued to advance. The enemy gun then ceased to fire and his section pushed on to find that all members of the three enemy gun crews had been killed and that Corporal French had died in front of the third gun pit.

By his cool courage and disregard of his own personal safety, this non-commissioned officer saved the members of his section from heavy casualties and was responsible for the successful conclusion of the attack.

CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.
14th January, 1943.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following promotion in, and appointments to, the Most Excellent Order of

the British Empire, in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in Iraq, Syria and Persia during the period April, 1941, to February, 1942:—

To be Additional Commanders of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:—

Brigadier (temporary) Charles Hamilton Boucher, D.S.O., 3rd Queen Alexandra's Own Gurkha Rifles, Indian Army.

Brigadier (temporary) George William Clement Hickie, O.B.E., Indian Army.

To be Additional Officers of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:—

Colonel (temporary) Francis Robert Roy Bucher, M.C., Indian Army.

Brigadier (local) John Frankland Charlesworth (462), Royal Corps of Signals (Acton Hill, W.).

Brigadier (temporary) Douglas David Gracey, M.C., Indian Army.

Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Frank Hollamby Skinner, 19th Hyderabad Regiment, Indian Army.

Colonel (temporary) Arthur Hugh Jay Snelling, Royal Indian Army Service Corps.

To be Additional Members of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:—

Captain (temporary Major) Walter Johnston Armstrong, 13th Frontier Force Rifles, Indian Army.

Lieutenant (Quarter - Master) Llewellyn Coombes, Royal Corps of Signals (Indian Army).

Captain (temporary Major) Terence Diarmuid FitzPatrick (40615), The Welch Regiment.

Captain (temporary Major) David McKenna (98061), Corps of Royal Engineers (London, N.W.11).