



FIFTH SUPPLEMENT TO The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 21st of DECEMBER, 1915.

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, 23 DECEMBER, 1915.

*War Office,
23rd December, 1915.*

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to award the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned Officers:—

Temporary Lieutenant Wilbur Dartnell, late 25th (Service) Battalion (Frontiersmen), The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment).

For most conspicuous bravery near Maktau (East Africa) on 3rd September, 1915.

During a mounted infantry engagement the enemy got within a few yards of our men, and it was found impossible to get the more severely wounded away. Lieutenant Dartnell, who was himself being carried away wounded in the leg, seeing the situation, and knowing that the enemy's black troops murdered the wounded, insisted on being left behind in the hopes of being able to save the lives of the other wounded men.

He gave his own life in the gallant attempt to save others.

Second Lieutenant Gilbert Stuart Martin Insall, No 11 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps

For most conspicuous bravery, skill and determination, on 7th November, 1915, in France.

He was patrolling in a Vickers Fighting Machine, with First Class Air Mechanic T. H. Donald as gunner, when a German machine was sighted, pursued, and attacked near Achiet.

The German pilot led the Vickers machine over a rocket battery, but with great skill Lieutenant Insall dived and got to close range, when Donald fired a drum of cartridges into the German machine, stopping its engine. The German pilot then dived through a cloud, followed by Lieutenant Insall. Fire was again opened, and the German machine was brought down heavily in a ploughed field 4 miles south-east of Arras.

On seeing the Germans scramble out of their machine and prepare to fire, Lieutenant Insall dived to 500 feet, thus enabling Donald to open heavy fire on them. The Germans then fled, one helping the other who was apparently wounded. Other Germans then commenced heavy fire, but in spite of this, Lieutenant Insall turned again, and an incendiary bomb was dropped on the German machine, which was last seen wreathed in smoke.

Lieutenant Insall then headed west in order to get back over the German trenches, but as he was at only 2,000 feet altitude he dived across them for greater speed, Donald

firing into the trenches as he passed over. The German fire, however, damaged the petrol tank, and, with great coolness, Lieutenant Insall landed under cover of a wood 500 yards inside our lines.

The Germans fired some 150 shells at our machine on the ground, but without causing material damage. Much damage had, however, been caused by rifle fire, but during the night it was repaired behind screened lights, and at dawn Lieutenant Insall flew his machine home with First Class Air Mechanic T. H. Donald as a passenger.

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the appointment of the undermentioned Officers to be Companions of the Distinguished Service Order, in recognition of their gallantry and devotion to duty in the Field:—

Lieutenant - Colonel Victor Wentworth Odlum, 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion.

For conspicuous ability and energy. He personally superintended all arrangements for a bombing attack made by his battalion on the night of 16th/17th November, 1915, near Messines, and by his coolness and determination was largely instrumental in bringing about the success of the exploit.

Major William Robinson Warren, 73rd Battery, Royal Field Artillery.

For conspicuous gallantry near Croix Barbée on 16th September, 1915.

When one of his battery wagons had been set on fire by a shell, and both wagon body and one cartridge were blazing, he removed the remainder of the ammunition at great personal risk. The enemy at the time were directing a heavy and accurate fire on the battery.

Captain Charles Telford Costigan, 10th Canadian Infantry Battalion.

For conspicuous gallantry near Messines on the night of 16th/17th November, 1915.

He led a bombing party into the German trench, shot the first three Germans he met with his revolver, and then led his bombers along the trench, which was filled with the enemy.

Temporary Lieutenant Charles Roper Gorell-Barnes, Adjutant, 8th Battalion, The Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own).

For conspicuous gallantry near Ypres on 23rd November, 1915.

A wounded Officer was lying out in front of the German lines. After three attempts at rescue had failed and an Officer and four men had been wounded, Lieutenant Gorell-Barnes formed one of a fourth party to make the attempt. Although there was bright moonlight and a German covering party was

heard quite close, they crawled out to the wounded Officer, and succeeded with great difficulty in dragging him back under heavy rifle and machine-gun fire, thus undoubtedly saving his life.

Lieutenant William Dumbledon Holmes, 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion.

For conspicuous gallantry and resource near Messines on the 16th/17th November, 1915, when in charge of the scouts during a bombing attack.

He superintended the cutting of the German wire and the laying of a bridge over the Douve, sixteen yards from a heavily-manned German trench.

His gallant conduct at Festubert was brought to notice in May last.

Lieutenant John Raymond McIlree, 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion.

For conspicuous gallantry near Messines on the night of 16th/17th November, 1915.

He led a bombing party into the German trench, threw down the first German he met, and felled the second with a rifle. He was then joined by his bombing party and led them along the trench, which was heavily manned by the enemy.

His Majesty the KING-EMPEROR has been graciously pleased to approve of the appointment of the undermentioned Non-commissioned Officer to the 2nd Class of the Indian Order of Merit for gallantry and distinguished service in the campaign in France:—

No. 4551 Havildar Abas Khan, 40th Pathans.

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to confer the Military Cross on the undermentioned Officers, in recognition of their gallantry and devotion to duty in the Field:—

Temporary Captain Henry James Burke, Royal Army Medical Corps (attached 1st/8th Battalion, West Yorkshire Regiment, Territorial Force).

For conspicuous gallantry on 8th November, 1915, near Turco Farm.

A Serjeant in the front line had his leg crushed by the blowing in of a dug-out, and Captain Burke found immediate amputation necessary. In order to save time he crawled across the open to get his instruments, while the enemy turned a machine-gun on to him. In spite of their fire he returned the same way, and coolly performed the operation in the trench while the enemy were shelling it heavily.

Temporary Captain Bartholomew James Hackett, M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps (attached 7th Battalion, Suffolk Regiment).

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at Loos on 2nd October, 1915.

When the battalion to which he was attached had suffered very heavy casualties and had run out of dressings, Captain Hackett brought up a fresh supply from the dressing station, crossing over about 1,000 yards in the open. He has frequently attended the wounded under fire, and has shown great bravery.

Captain Edward Marie Felix Momber, 176th Tunnelling Company, Royal Engineers.

For consistent good service and resource on several occasions, notably on 25th November, 1915, near Givenchy, when, by firing a small charge, he induced the enemy to occupy the crater in considerable force. Two large charges were then at once fired, by which about fifty of the enemy are believed to have been killed, and much damage was done to the German parapet and galleries.

Temporary Lieutenant Arthur Ronald Backus, 8th Battalion, The Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own).

For conspicuous gallantry near Ypres on 23rd November, 1915.

A wounded Officer was lying out in front of the German lines. After three attempts at rescue had failed and an Officer and four men had been wounded, Lieutenant Backus formed one of a fourth party to make the attempt. Although there was bright moonlight and a German covering party was heard quite close, they crawled out to the wounded Officer and succeeded, with great difficulty, in dragging him back under heavy rifle and machine-gun fire, thus undoubtedly saving his life.

Lieutenant James John Donnelly, 1st Battalion, 1st Newfoundland Regiment.

For conspicuous gallantry and determination on the night of 4th/5th November, 1915, on the Gallipoli Peninsula.

He occupied, with eight men, a knoll, to which our firing line was extended the next day. By his coolness and skill in handling this small party, which was reduced to five by casualties, he repelled several determined Turkish bomb and rifle attacks on his front and flanks, and held his own during the night.

Lieutenant Archibald Wrightson, 7th Canadian Infantry Battalion.

For conspicuous gallantry near Messines on the night of 16th/17th November, 1915.

He was in command of parties of bombers in a successful raid on the German trench, and displayed great coolness and judgment. After he had given the order to retire he was the last man to leave the trench.

Second Lieutenant James Campbell Kingscote Alexander, 1st/8th Battalion (Leeds Rifles), The Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment), Territorial Force.

For conspicuous gallantry and coolness, notably at Turco Farm, on 8th November, 1915, when he assisted a medical officer to perform an operation under fire, although he had no medical knowledge. Also at Hale Farm, on 11th November, when he assisted to dig out a man who was buried while the enemy were shelling the farm.

Second Lieutenant Jasper Mountain Chester Badgley, 1st/6th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, Territorial Force.

For conspicuous gallantry at Gommecourt on the night of 25th/26th November, 1915.

When in charge of an assaulting party he cut through two lines of wire entanglements, and, though met by a heavy bomb fire, succeeded in entering the German trench with a portion of his party. Although subsequently driven out by superior numbers, he withdrew his men successfully, after he himself had been wounded.

Second Lieutenant William Henry Carter, 2nd Battalion, The South Staffordshire Regiment.

For consistent good work throughout the campaign, notably on 24th November, 1915.

The enemy exploded a mine under Gibson's crater, south of the La Bassée road, killing and wounding most of the garrison. Lieutenant Carter at once went up and commenced reorganising the defence of the crater. He was slightly wounded, but remained at his post, and it was mainly due to his courage and example that two hostile bomb attacks on the crater were repulsed. He also organised a bomb attack on the enemy, thus keeping them quiet for four hours while the position was being consolidated.

Temporary Second Lieutenant Henry de la Maziere Harpur, 15th Battalion (North Belfast), The Royal Irish Rifles.

For conspicuous gallantry near Beaumont Hamel on 21st November, 1915.

Hearing that a wounded man was lying out near the enemy's lines, he went out with Company Serjeant-Major Magookin to his rescue. After proceeding some 350 yards they found the wounded man only about 20 yards from a German listening post, and carried him back under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire which the enemy opened on them.

Temporary Second Lieutenant John Owen Leach, 11th Battalion, The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment).

For conspicuous gallantry on the night of 20th/21st October, 1915, near The Quarries.

When a bombing party of another regi-

ment had suffered heavy casualties and there was considerable danger of the Germans entering our trench, Second Lieutenant Leach took charge and rapidly bombed the enemy back beyond the barricade. There is no doubt that his prompt action and the gallant behaviour and good throwing of his bombers saved the situation.

Second Lieutenant William Alexander Lytle, 1st/6th Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment), Territorial Force.

For excellent work on several occasions, notably on 26th November, 1915, near Boar's Head trench.

He organised and carried out a bomb attack with great ability and collected valuable information regarding the enemy. He was finally forced to withdraw before superior numbers, but not before he had thrown over 95 bombs and inflicted serious loss on the Germans. He showed great judgment in withdrawing, his casualties being only one man missing and three wounded.

Second Lieutenant Lytle has shown a total disregard for danger, and leads his grenadiers with great coolness.

Second Lieutenant Robert Macfarlane Neill, 3rd Battalion, The Royal Scots Fusiliers (attached 6th Battalion).

For conspicuous gallantry near Zillebeke on 24th November, 1915.

When moving up to the trenches and approaching "Hell Fire Corner," on

the Menin road, the enemy suddenly opened on his party with shrapnel. One man was wounded and the party scattered, but Lieutenant Neill remained with the wounded man, bandaged him, and finally got him safely to the dressing station, although on the way he and two men who were assisting him were knocked down by a shell.

Second Lieutenant Thomas Tannatt Pryce, 1st/6th Battalion, The Gloucestershire Regiment, Territorial Force.

For conspicuous gallantry at Gommecourt on the night of 25th/26th November, 1915.

When in charge of an assaulting column he succeeded in entering the German trenches unobserved, clearing them, and bombing large parties of the enemy, who were crowded in deep dug-outs. Although wounded himself, he subsequently extracted his men successfully in face of superior numbers.

Temporary Second Lieutenant Harold Ralph Ruggles-Brise, 175th Tunnelling Company, Royal Engineers.

For conspicuous gallantry and initiative near Hooge on 1st December, 1915.

He explored a German mine gallery, and, although attacked and wounded by two Germans, fought them off, lit his fuze and crawled out.