



FOURTH SUPPLEMENT

TO

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WEDNESDAY, 27 JUNE, 1917.

War Office,
27th June, 1917.

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned Officer, Warrant Officer, Non-commissioned Officers and men:—

Lt. Robert Grierson Combe, late Can. Inf. Bn.

For most conspicuous bravery and example.

He steadied his Company under intense fire, and led them through the enemy barrage, reaching the objective with only five men.

With great coolness and courage Lt. Combe proceeded to bomb the enemy, and inflicted heavy casualties. He collected small groups of men and succeeded in capturing the Company objective, together with eighty prisoners.

He repeatedly charged the enemy, driving them before him, and, whilst personally leading his bombers, was killed by an enemy sniper.

His conduct inspired all ranks, and it was entirely due to his magnificent courage that the position was carried, secured and held.

No. 201154 C. S./M. Edward Brooks, Oxf. & Bucks. L.I.

For most conspicuous bravery.

This Warrant Officer, while taking part in a raid on the enemy's trenches, saw that the front wave was checked by an enemy machine gun at close quarters. On his own initiative, and regardless of personal danger, he rushed forward from the second wave with the object of capturing the gun, killing one of the gunners with his revolver and bayonetting another. The remainder of the gun's crew then made off, leaving the gun in his possession.

C. S./M. Brooks then turned the machine gun on to the retreating enemy, after which he carried it back into our lines.

By his courage and initiative he undoubtedly prevented many casualties, and greatly added to the success of the operations.

No. 24866 Sjt. Albert White, late S. Wales Bord.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty.

Realising during an attack that one of the enemy's machine guns, which had previously been located, would probably hold up the whole advance of his Company, Sjt. White, without the slightest hesitation and regardless of all personal danger, dashed ahead of his Company to capture the gun. When within a few yards of the gun he fell riddled with bullets, having thus willingly sacrificed his life in order that he might secure the success of the operations and the welfare of his comrades.

No. 13290 Cpl. Edward Foster, E. Surr. R.

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative.

During an attack the advance was held up in a portion of a village by two enemy machine guns, which were entrenched and strongly covered by wire entanglements.

Cpl. Foster, who was in charge of two Lewis guns, succeeded in entering the trench and engaged the enemy guns.

One of the Lewis guns was lost, but Cpl. Foster, with reckless courage, rushed forward and bombed the enemy, thereby recovering the gun.

Then getting his two guns into action, he killed the enemy gun team and captured their guns, thereby enabling the advance to continue successfully.

No. 2445 Cpl. George Julian Howell, Inf. Bn., Aus. Imp. Force.

For most conspicuous bravery.

Seeing a party of the enemy were likely to outflank his Battalion, Cpl. Howell, on his own initiative, single-handed and exposed to heavy bomb and rifle fire, climbed on to the top of the parapet and proceeded to bomb the enemy, pressing them back along the trench.

Having exhausted his stock of bombs, he continued to attack the enemy with his bayonet. He was then severely wounded.

The prompt action and gallant conduct of this N C.O. in the face of superior numbers was witnessed by the whole Battalion and

greatly inspired them in the subsequent successful counter attack.

No. 8763 Lce.-Cpl. James Welch, R. Berk. R.

For most conspicuous bravery.

On entering the enemy trench, he killed one man after a severe hand-to-hand struggle. Armed only with an empty revolver, L/Cpl. Welch then chased four of the enemy across the open and captured them single-handed.

He handled his machine gun with the utmost fearlessness, and more than once went into the open fully exposed to heavy fire at short range, to search for and collect ammunition and spare parts in order to keep his guns in action, which he succeeded in doing for over five hours till wounded by a shell.

He showed throughout the utmost valour and initiative.

No. 242697 Pte. Tom Dresser, York. R.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty.

Pte. Dresser, in spite of being twice wounded on the way, and suffering great pain, succeeded in conveying an important message from Battalion Headquarters to the front line of trenches, which he eventually reached in an exhausted condition.

His fearlessness and determination to deliver this message at any cost, proved of the greatest value to his Battalion at a critical period.

No. 18105 Pte. Jack White, R. Lanc. R.

For most conspicuous bravery and resource.

This signaller during an attempt to cross a river saw the two pontoons ahead of him come under heavy machine-gun fire, with disastrous results.

When his own pontoon had reached mid-stream, with every man except himself either dead or wounded, finding that he was unable to control the pontoon, Pte. White promptly tied a telephone wire to the pontoon, jumped overboard, and towed it to the shore, thereby saving an officer's life and bringing to land the rifles and equipment of the other men in the boat, who were either dead or dying.