



FOURTH SUPPLEMENT

TO

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THURSDAY, 2 AUGUST, 1917.

War Office,

2nd August, 1917.

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

Capt. Robert Cuthbert Grieve, Aus. Inf.

For most conspicuous bravery.

During an attack on the enemy's position, in the face of heavy artillery and machine gun fire, and after all his officers had been wounded and his company had suffered very heavy casualties, Capt. Grieve located two hostile machine guns which were holding up his advance. He then, single-handed, under continuous fire from these two machine guns, succeeded in bombing and killing the two crews, reorganised the remnants of his company and gained his original objective.

Capt. Grieve, by his utter disregard of danger, and his coolness in mastering a very difficult position, set a splendid example, and when he finally fell wounded, the position had been secured and the few remaining enemy were in full flight.

2nd Lt. John Manson Craig, R. Sc. Fus.

For most conspicuous bravery on the occasion of an advanced post being rushed by a large party of the enemy. This officer immediately organised a rescue party, and the enemy was tracked over broken country back to his trenches. 2nd Lt. Craig then set his party to work removing the dead and wounded.

During the course of this operation his men came under heavy rifle and machine gun fire. An N.C.O. was wounded, and the Medical Officer who went out to his aid was also severely wounded. 2nd Lt. Craig at once went to their assistance and succeeded in taking the N.C.O. under cover. He then returned for the Medical Officer, and whilst taking him to shelter was himself wounded.

Nevertheless, by great perseverance, he succeeded in rescuing him also.

As the enemy continued a heavy fire and in addition turned on shrapnel and high explosives, 2nd Lt. Craig scooped cover for the wounded and thus was the means of saving their lives.

These latter acts of bravery occurred in broad daylight, under full observation of the enemy and within close range.

On three previous occasions this officer has behaved in a conspicuously brave manner, and has shown an exceptional example of courage and resource.

2nd Lt. John Spencer Dunville, late Dragoons.

For most conspicuous bravery.

When in charge of a party consisting of scouts and Royal Engineers engaged in the demolition of the enemy's wire, this officer displayed great gallantry and disregard of all personal danger.

In order to ensure the absolute success of the work entrusted to him, 2nd Lt. Dunville placed himself between an N.C.O. of the Royal Engineers and the enemy's fire, and, thus protected, this N.C.O. was enabled to complete a work of great importance.

2nd Lt. Dunville, although severely wounded, continued to direct his men in the wire-cutting and general operations until the raid was successfully completed, thereby setting a magnificent example of courage, determination and devotion to duty, to all ranks under his command.

This gallant officer has since succumbed to his wounds.

2nd Lt. Thomas Harold Broadbent Maufe, R.G.A.

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative.

Under intense artillery fire this officer on his own initiative repaired, unaided, the telephone line between the forward and rear positions, thereby enabling his battery to immediately open fire on the enemy.

2nd Lt. Maufe further saved what might have proved a most disastrous occurrence by extinguishing a fire in an advanced ammunition dump, caused by a heavy explosion, regardless of the risk he ran from the effects of gas shells which he knew were in the dump.

By his great promptitude, resource and entire disregard of his own personal safety, he set an exceptionally fine example to all ranks.

2nd Lt. Frank Bernard Wearne, Essex R.

For most conspicuous bravery when in command of a small party on the left of a raid on the enemy's trenches.

He gained his objective in the face of much opposition and by his magnificent example and daring was able to maintain this position for a considerable time, according to instructions.

During this period 2nd Lt. Wearne and his small party were repeatedly counter attacked. Grasping the fact that if the left flank was lost his men would have to give way, 2nd Lt. Wearne, at a moment when the enemy's attack was being heavily pressed and when matters were most critical, leapt on the parapet and, followed by his left section, ran along the top of the trench, firing and throwing bombs. This unexpected and daring manoeuvre threw the enemy off his guard and back in disorder. Whilst on the top of the trench 2nd Lt. Wearne was severely wounded, but refused to leave his men. Afterwards he remained in the trench directing operations, consolidating his position and encouraging all ranks. Just before the order to withdraw was given, this gallant

officer was again severely hit for the second time, and while being carried away was mortally wounded.

By his tenacity in remaining at his post, though severely wounded, and his magnificent fighting spirit, he was enabled to hold on to the flank.

T/2nd Lt. Frederick Youens, late Durh. L.I.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty.

While out on patrol this officer was wounded and had to return to his trenches to have his wounds dressed. Shortly afterwards a report came in that the enemy were preparing to raid our trenches. 2nd Lt. Youens, regardless of his wound, immediately set out to rally the team of a Lewis Gun, which had become disorganised owing to heavy shell fire. During this process an enemy's bomb fell on the Lewis Gun position without exploding. 2nd Lt. Youens immediately picked it up and hurled it over the parapet. Shortly afterwards another bomb fell near the same place; again 2nd Lt. Youens picked it up with the intention of throwing it away, when it exploded in his hand, severely wounding him and also some of his men.

There is little doubt that the prompt and gallant action of 2nd Lt. Youens saved several of his men's lives and that by his energy and resource the enemy's raid was completely repulsed.

This gallant officer has since succumbed to his wounds.

No. 6/2133 L/Cpl. Samuel Frickleton, N.Z. Infy.

For most conspicuous bravery and determination when with attacking troops, which came under heavy fire and were checked.

Although slightly wounded Cpl. Frickleton dashed forward at the head of his section, pushed into our barrage and personally destroyed with bombs an enemy machine gun and crew which was causing heavy casualties.

He then attacked a second gun, killing the whole of the crew of twelve.

By the destruction of these two guns, he undoubtedly saved his own and other units from very severe casualties, and his magnificent courage and gallantry ensured the capture of the objective.

During the consolidation of the position he received a second severe wound.

He set, throughout, a great example of heroism.

No. 1804 Pte. John Carroll, Aus. Infy.

For most conspicuous bravery.

During an attack, immediately the barrage lifted, Pte. John Carroll rushed the enemy's trench and bayoneted four of the enemy.

He then noticed a comrade in difficulties, and at once proceeded to his comrade's assistance and killed one of the enemy. He continued working ahead with great determination until he came across a machine gun and team of four men in a shell-hole.

Single-handed he attacked the entire team, killing three of the men and capturing the gun.

Later on two of his comrades were buried by a shell, and, in spite of very heavy shelling and machine gun fire, he managed to extricate them.

During the 96 hours the battalion was in the line Pte. Carroll displayed most wonderful courage and fearlessness.

His magnificent example of gallantry and devotion to duty inspired all ranks in his battalion.

No. 808887 Pte. John George Pattison, Can. Infy.

For most conspicuous bravery in attack.

When the advance of our troops was held up by an enemy machine gun, which was inflicting severe casualties, Pte. Pattison, with utter disregard of his own safety, sprang forward and, jumping from shell-hole to shell-hole, reached cover within 30 yards of the enemy gun.

From this point, in face of heavy fire, he hurled bombs, killing and wounding some of the crew, then rushed forward, overcoming and bayonetting the surviving five gunners.

His valour and initiative undoubtedly saved the situation and made possible the further advance to the objective.

No. 2251 Pte. William Ratcliffe, S. Lanc. R. For most conspicuous bravery.

After an enemy's trench had been captured, Pte. Ratcliffe located an enemy machine gun which was firing on his comrades from the rear, whereupon, single-handed and on his own initiative, he immediately rushed the machine gun position and bayoneted the crew. He then brought the gun back into action in the front line.

This very gallant soldier has displayed great resource on previous occasions, and has set an exceptionally fine example of devotion to duty.

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