



FOURTH SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette.

Of FRIDAY, the 23rd of NOVEMBER, 1917.

Published by Authority.

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MONDAY, 26 NOVEMBER, 1917.

War Office,
26th November, 1917.

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

Maj. (A./Lt.-Col.) Lewis Pugh Evans, D.S.O., R. Highrs., comdg. a Battalion, Linc. R.

For most conspicuous bravery and leadership. Lt.-Col. Evans took his battalion in perfect order through a terrific enemy barrage, personally formed up all units, and led them to the assault. While a strong machine gun emplacement was causing casualties, and the troops were working round the flank, Lt.-Col. Evans rushed at it himself and by firing his revolver through the loophole forced the garrison to capitulate.

After capturing the first objective he was severely wounded in the shoulder, but refused to be bandaged, and re-formed the troops, pointed out all future objectives, and again led his battalion forward. Again badly wounded, he nevertheless continued to command until the second objective was won,

and, after consolidation, collapsed from loss of blood. As there were numerous casualties, he refused assistance, and by his own efforts ultimately reached the Dressing Station.

His example of cool bravery stimulated in all ranks the highest valour and determination to win.

No. P.649 Sjt. William Francis Burman, Rif. Brig. (Stepney, E.).

For most conspicuous bravery when the advance of his Company in attack was held up by an enemy machine gun firing at point blank range. He shouted to the men next to him to wait a few minutes, and going forward alone to what seemed certain death, killed the enemy gunner and carried the gun to the Company's objective, where he subsequently used it with great effect. By this exceptionally gallant deed the progress of the attack was assured.

About 15 minutes later it was observed that the battalion on the right was being impeded by a party of about 40 of the enemy, who were enfilading them. Sjt. Burman with two others ran forward and got behind

the enemy, killing 6 and capturing 2 officers and 29 other ranks.

No. 2060 Sjt. John James Dwyer, Aus. M.G. Corps, Aus. Imp. Force.

For most conspicuous bravery when in attack, Sjt. Dwyer, in charge of a Vickers machine gun, went forward with the first wave of the brigade.

On reaching the final objective this Non-commissioned Officer rushed his gun forward in advance of the captured position in order to obtain a commanding spot. Whilst advancing he noticed an enemy machine gun firing on the troops on our right flank and causing casualties. Unhesitatingly he rushed his gun forward to within thirty yards of the enemy gun and fired point blank at it, putting it out of action and killing the gun crew. He then seized the gun and totally ignoring the snipers from the rear of the enemy position, carried it back across the shell-swept ground to our front line and established both it and his Vickers gun on the right flank of our brigade.

Sjt. Dwyer commanded these guns with great coolness and when the enemy counter-attacked our positions he rendered great assistance in repulsing them.

On the following day when the position was heavily shelled, this Non-commissioned Officer took up successive positions. On one occasion his Vickers gun was blown up by shell fire, but he conducted his gun team back to Headquarters through the enemy barrage, secured one of the reserve guns, and rushed it back to our position in the shortest possible time.

During the whole of the attack his contempt of danger, cheerfulness and courage raised the spirits of all who were in his sector of the line.

No. 8133 Sjt. Joseph Lister, Lan. Fus. (Reddish, Stockport).

For most conspicuous bravery in attack, when advancing to the first objective, his Company came under machine gun fire from the direction of two "Pill-boxes." Seeing that the galling fire would hold up our advance and prevent our troops keeping up with the barrage, Sjt. Lister dashed ahead of his men and found a machine gun firing from a shell hole in front of the "Pill-box." He shot two of the enemy gunners, and the remainder surrendered to him. He then went on to the "Pill-box" and shouted to the occupants to surrender. They did so with the exception of one man, whom Sjt. Lister shot dead; whereupon about 100 of the enemy emerged from shell holes further to the rear and surrendered.

This Non-commissioned Officer's prompt act of courage enabled our line to advance with hardly a check and to keep up with the barrage, the loss of which might have jeopardised the whole course of the local battle.

No. 456 Sjt. Lewis McGee, late Aus. Imp. Force.

For most conspicuous bravery when in the advance to the final objective, Sjt. McGee led his platoon with great dash and bravery, though strongly opposed, and under heavy shell fire.

His platoon was suffering severely and the advance of the Company was stopped by machine gun fire from a "Pill-box" post. Single-handed Sjt. McGee rushed the post, armed only with a revolver. He shot some of the crew and captured the rest, and thus enabled the advance to proceed. He re-organised the remnants of his platoon and was foremost in the remainder of the advance, and during consolidation of the position he did splendid work.

This Non-commissioned Officer's coolness and bravery were conspicuous and contributed largely to the success of the Company's operations.

Sjt. McGee was subsequently killed in action.

No. 1817 Sjt. John Molyneux, R. Fus. (St. Helens).

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. During an attack, which was held up by machine-gun fire which caused many casualties, Sjt. Molyneux instantly organised a bombing party to clear the trench in front of a house. Many enemy were killed and a machine-gun captured.

Having cleared this obstacle, he immediately jumped out of the trench and called for someone to follow him, and rushed for the house. By the time the men arrived he was in the thick of a hand-to-hand fight; this only lasted a short time, and the enemy surrendered, and, in addition to the dead and wounded, between 20 and 30 prisoners were taken.

Apart from the personal bravery of this non-commissioned officer, his initiative and dash prevented a slight check from becoming a serious block in the advance, and undoubtedly prevented many casualties.

No. 15122 L./Sjt. John Harold Rhodes, G. Gds. (Tunstall, Staffs.).

For most conspicuous bravery when in charge of a Lewis gun section covering the consolidation of the right front company.

He accounted for several enemy with his rifle as well as by Lewis gun fire, and, upon seeing three enemy leave a "pill-box," he went out single-handed through our own barrage and hostile machine-gun fire, and effected an entry into the "pill-box." He there captured nine enemy, including a forward observation officer connected by telephone with his battery. These prisoners he brought back with him, together with valuable information.

No. 71130 Cpl. Ernest Albert Egerton, Notts. & Derby. R. (Longton).

For most conspicuous bravery, initiative and devotion to duty when, during attack, owing to fog and smoke, visibility was obscured, and, in consequence thereof, the two leading waves of the attack passed over certain hostile dug-outs without clearing them. Enemy rifles, assisted by a machine-gun, were, from these dug-outs, inflicting severe casualties on the advancing waves. When volunteers were called for to assist in clearing up the situation, Cpl. Egerton at once jumped up and dashed for the dug-outs under heavy fire at short range.

He shot in succession a rifleman, a bomber

and a gunner, by which time he was supported and 29 of the enemy surrendered.

The reckless bravery of this N.C.O. relieved in less than thirty seconds an extremely difficult situation. His gallantry is beyond all praise.

No. 23715 Actg. Cpl. Fred Greaves, Notts. & Derby. R. (Balborough).

For most conspicuous bravery, initiative and leadership, when his platoon was temporarily held up by machine-gun fire from a concrete stronghold. Seeing that his platoon commander and serjeant were casualties, and realising that unless this post was taken quickly his men would lose the barrage, Cpl. Greaves, followed by another non-commissioned officer, rushed forward regardless of his personal safety, reached the rear of the building and bombed the occupants, killing or capturing the garrison, and taking four enemy machine-guns.

It was solely due to the personal pluck, dash and initiative of this non-commissioned officer that the assaulting line at this point was not held up, and that our troops escaped serious casualties.

Later in the afternoon, at a most critical period of the battle, when the troops of a flank brigade had given way temporarily under a heavy counter-attack and when all the officers in his company were casualties, this gallant non-commissioned officer quickly grasped the situation. He collected his men, threw out extra posts on the threatened flank, and opened up rifle and machine-gun fire to enfilade the advance.

The effect of Cpl. Greaves' conduct on his men throughout the battle cannot be over-estimated, and those under his command responded gallantly to his example.

No. 144039 A./Cpl. Filip Konowal, Can. Inf.

For most conspicuous bravery and leadership when in charge of a section in attack. His section had the difficult task of mopping up cellars, craters and machine-gun emplacements. Under his able direction all resistance was overcome successfully, and heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy. In one cellar he himself bayoneted three enemy and attacked single-handed seven others in a crater, killing them all.

On reaching the objective, a machine-gun was holding up the right flank, causing many casualties. Cpl. Konowal rushed forward and entered the emplacement, killed the crew, and brought the gun back to our lines.

The next day he again attacked single-handed another machine-gun emplacement, killed three of the crew, and destroyed the gun and emplacement with explosives.

This non-commissioned officer alone killed at least sixteen of the enemy, and during the two days' actual fighting carried on continuously his good work until severely wounded.

No. 8162 L./Cpl. William Henry Hewitt, S.A. Inf.

For most conspicuous bravery during operations. L./Cpl. Hewitt attacked a "pill-box" with his section, and tried to rush the doorway. The garrison, however,

proved very stubborn, and in the attempt this non-commissioned officer received a severe wound. Nevertheless, he proceeded to the loophole of the "pill-box," where, in his attempts to put a bomb into it, he was again wounded in the arm. Undeterred however, he eventually managed to get a bomb inside, which caused the occupants to dislodge, and they were successfully and speedily dealt with by the remainder of the section.

No. 51507 L./Cpl. Harold Mugford, M.G. Corps (East Ham).

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when, under intense shell and machine-gun fire, L./Cpl. Mugford succeeded in getting his machine gun into a forward and very exposed position. From this point he was able to deal most effectively with the enemy, who were massing for counter-attack. His No. 2 was killed almost immediately, and at the same moment he himself was severely wounded. He was then ordered to a new position, and told to go to a dressing-station as soon as the position was occupied. He refused to go to the dressing-station, but continued on duty with his gun, inflicting severe loss on the enemy.

Soon after he was again wounded, a shell breaking both of his legs. He still remained with his gun, begging his comrades to leave him and take cover.

Shortly afterwards this non-commissioned officer was removed to the dressing-station, where he was again wounded in the arm.

The valour and initiative displayed by L./Cpl. Mugford was instrumental in breaking up the impending counter-attack of the enemy.

No. 114 L./Cpl. Walter Peeler, Aus. Imp. Force.

For most conspicuous bravery when with a Lewis gun accompanying the first wave of the assault he encountered an enemy party sniping the advancing troops from a shell-hole.

L./Cpl. Peeler immediately rushed the position and accounted for nine of the enemy, and cleared the way for the advance. On two subsequent occasions he performed similar acts of valour, and each time accounted for a number of the enemy.

During operations he was directed to a position from which an enemy machine gun was being fired on our troops. He located and killed the gunner, and the remainder of the enemy party ran into a dugout close by. From this shelter they were dislodged by a bomb, and ten of the enemy ran out. These he disposed of.

This non-commissioned officer actually accounted for over thirty of the enemy.

He displayed an absolute fearlessness in making his way ahead of the first wave of the assault, and the fine example which he set ensured the success of the attack against most determined opposition.

No. 3774 Pte. Patrick Bugden, late Aus. Imp. Force.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when on two occasions our advance was temporarily held up by strongly-defended "pill-boxes." Pte. Bugden, in the face of

devastating fire from machine guns, gallantly led small parties to attack these strong points and, successfully silencing the machine guns with bombs, captured the garrison at the point of the bayonet.

On another occasion, when a corporal, who had become detached from his company, had been captured and was being taken to the rear by the enemy, Pte. Bugden, single-handed, rushed to the rescue of his comrade, shot one enemy and bayoneted the remaining two, thus releasing the Corporal.

On five occasions he rescued wounded men under intense shell and machine-gun fire, showing an utter contempt and disregard for danger.

Always foremost in volunteering for any dangerous mission, it was during the execution of one of these missions that this gallant soldier was killed.

No. 21654 Pte. Frederick George Dancox. Worc. R. (Worcester).

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in attack.

After the first objective had been captured and consolidation had been started, work was considerably hampered, and numerous casualties were caused by an enemy machine gun firing from a concrete emplacement situated on the edge of our protective barrage.

Pte. Dancox was one of a party of about ten men detailed as moppers-up. Owing to the position of the machine-gun emplacement, it was extremely difficult to work round a flank. However, this man with great gallantry worked his way round through the barrage and entered the "pill box" from the rear, threatening the garrison with a Mills bomb. Shortly afterwards he reappeared with a machine gun under his arm, followed by about 40 enemy.

The machine gun was brought back to our position by Pte. Dancox, and he kept it in action throughout the day.

By his resolution, absolute disregard of danger and cheerful disposition, the morale of his comrades was maintained at a very high standard under extremely trying circumstances.

No. 241475 Pte. Albert Halton, K.O.R. Lanc. R. (Carnforth).

For most conspicuous bravery in attack. After the objective had been reached Pte. Halton rushed forward about three hundred yards under very heavy rifle and shell fire, and captured a machine gun and its crew, which was causing many losses to our men. He then went out again and brought in about twelve prisoners, showing the greatest disregard of his own safety and setting a very fine example to those around him.

No. 331958 Pte. (A./L.Cpl.) John Brown Hamilton, High. L.I. (Lanarkshire).

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty, during the enemy's attack on the line held by our brigades. The greatest difficulty was experienced in keeping the front and support lines supplied with small-arm ammunition owing to the intense and continuous belt of artillery fire placed systematically by the enemy between our

various lines and battalion headquarters. It was of vital importance for the successful maintenance of the defence of the position that ammunition should be got forward.

At a time when this ammunition supply had reached a seriously low ebb, L./Cpl. Hamilton on several occasions, on his own initiative, carried bandoliers of ammunition through the enemy's belts of fire to the front and support line, and then, passing along these lines in full view of the enemy's snipers and machine guns—who were lying out in front of our line at close range—distributed the ammunition to the men. In so doing he not only ensured the steady continuance of the defence by rifle fire, but by his splendid example of fearlessness and devotion to duty inspired all who saw him with fresh confidence and renewed their determination to hold on at all costs.

No. 267110 Pte. Arthur Hutt, R. War. R. (Earlsdon, Coventry).

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative in attack, when all the officers and non-commissioned officers of No. 2 platoon having become casualties, Pte. Hutt took command of and led forward the platoon. He was held up by a strong post on his right, but immediately ran forward alone in front of the platoon and shot the officer and three men in the post, causing between forty and fifty others to surrender.

Later, realising that he had pushed too far, he withdrew his party. He personally covered the withdrawal by sniping the enemy, killing a number and then carried back a badly wounded man and put him under shelter.

Pte. Hutt then organised and consolidated his position, and learning that some wounded men were lying out and likely to become prisoners if left there, no stretcher bearers being available, he went out and carried in four wounded men under heavy fire.

No. 506 Pte. Reginald Roy Inwood, Aus. Imp. Force.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during the advance to the second objective. He moved forward through our barrage alone to an enemy strong post and captured it, together with nine prisoners, killing several of the enemy. During the evening he volunteered for a special all-night patrol, which went out six hundred yards in front of our line, and there—by his coolness and sound judgment—obtained and sent back very valuable information as to the enemy's movements.

In the early morning of the 21st September, Pte. Inwood located a machine gun which was causing several casualties. He went out alone and bombed the gun and team, killing all but one, whom he brought in as a prisoner with the gun.

No. 871 Pte. Charles Melvin, R. Highrs. (Kirriemuir).

For most conspicuous bravery, coolness and resource in action. Pte. Melvin's company had advanced to within fifty yards of the front-line trench of a redoubt, where, owing to the intensity of the enemy's fire, the men

were obliged to lie down and wait for reinforcements.

Pte. Melvin, however, rushed on by himself, over ground swept from end to end by rifle and machine-gun fire. On reaching the enemy trench, he halted and fired two or three shots into it, killing one or two enemy, but as the others in the trench continued to fire at him, he jumped into it, and attacked them with his bayonet in his hand, as, owing to his rifle being damaged, it was not "fixed."

On being attacked in this resolute manner most of the enemy fled to their second line, but not before Pte. Melvin had killed two more and succeeded in disarming eight unwounded and one wounded.

Pte. Melvin bound up the wounds of the wounded man, and then driving his eight unwounded prisoners before him, and supporting the wounded one, he hustled them out of the trench, marched them in and delivered them over to an officer. He then

provided himself with a load of ammunition and returned to the firing line where he reported himself to his platoon serjeant. All this was done, not only under intense rifle and machine-gun fire, but the whole way back Pte. Melvin and his party were exposed to a very heavy artillery barrage fire.

Throughout the day Pte. Melvin greatly inspired those near him with confidence and courage.

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to award the Military Medal to the undermentioned Lady:—

Sister, Julia Ashbourne Herbert, T.F. Nursing Service.

For conspicuous devotion to duty when, after being wounded in the head by an aerial bomb, she came on duty in the operating theatre, and continued to work there the whole night and all the next day.

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;
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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.

Monday, 26 November, 1917.

Price Four Pence, Net.

