



FIFTH SUPPLEMENT

TO

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TUESDAY, 18 DECEMBER, 1917.

*Chancery of the Order of  
Saint Michael and Saint George,*

*Downing Street,  
18th December, 1917.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give directions for the following appointment to the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, for services rendered in connection with Military operations in the field. Dated 4th June 1917:—

*To be an Additional Member of the Third Class, or Companions, of the said Most Distinguished Order:—*

T./Lt.-Col. Edward Gelson Gregson, C.I.E.,  
Ind. Army, R. of O.

*War Office,  
18th December, 1917.*

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Victoria

Cross to the undermentioned Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Man:—

Lt.-Col. Arthur Drummond Borton,  
D.S.O., Lond. R.

For most conspicuous bravery and leadership. Under most difficult conditions in darkness and in an unknown country, he deployed his battalion for attack, and at dawn led his attacking companies against a strongly held position.

When the leading waves were checked by a withering machine-gun fire, Lt.-Col. Borton showed an utter contempt of danger, and moved freely up and down his lines under heavy fire. Reorganising his command, he led his men forward, and captured the position.

At a later stage of the fight, he led a party of volunteers against a battery of field guns in action at point-blank range, capturing the guns and the detachments.

His fearless leadership was an inspiring example to the whole Brigade.

Maj. Alexander Malius Lafone, late Yeo.

For most conspicuous bravery, leadership and self-sacrifice when holding a position for over seven hours against vastly superior enemy forces. All this time the enemy were shelling his position heavily, making it very difficult to see. In one attack, when the enemy cavalry charged his flank, he drove them back with heavy losses. In another charge they left fifteen casualties within twenty yards of his trench, one man, who reached the trench, being bayoneted by Maj. Lafone himself.

When all his men, with the exception of three, had been hit and the trench which he was holding was so full of wounded that it was difficult to move and fire, he ordered those who could walk to move to a trench slightly in the rear, and from his own position maintained a most heroic resistance. When finally surrounded and charged by the enemy, he stepped into the open and continued the fight until he was mortally wounded and fell unconscious.

His cheerfulness and courage were a splendid inspiration to his men, and by his leadership and devotion he was enabled to maintain his position, which he had been ordered to hold at all costs.

Capt. Clarence Smith Jeffries, late Australian Imperial Force.

For most conspicuous bravery in attack, when his company was held up by enemy machine-gun fire from concrete emplacements. Organising a party, he rushed one emplacement, capturing four machine guns and thirty-five prisoners. He then led his company forward under extremely heavy enemy artillery barrage and enfilade machine-gun fire to the objective.

Later, he again organised a successful attack on a machine-gun emplacement, capturing two machine guns and thirty more prisoners.

This gallant officer was killed during the attack, but it was entirely due to his bravery and initiative that the centre of the attack was not held up for a lengthy period. His example had a most inspiring influence.

Lieutenant Robert Shankland, Canadian Infantry.

For most conspicuous bravery and resource in action under critical and adverse conditions.

Having gained a position he rallied the remnant of his own platoon and men of other companies, disposed them to command the ground in front, and inflicted heavy casualties upon the retreating enemy. Later, he dispersed a counter-attack, thus enabling supporting troops to come up unmolested.

He then personally communicated to Battalion Headquarters an accurate and valuable report as to the position on the Brigade frontage, and after doing so rejoined his command and carried on until relieved.

His courage and splendid example inspired all ranks and coupled with his great gallantry and skill undoubtedly saved a very critical situation.

Lieutenant Henry Strachan, M.C., Can. Cav.

For most conspicuous bravery and leadership during operations.

He took command of the squadron of his regiment when the squadron leader, approaching the enemy front line at a gallop, was killed. Lt. Strachan led the squadron through the enemy line of machine-gun posts, and then, with the surviving men, led the charge on the enemy battery, killing seven of the gunners with his sword. All the gunners having been killed and the battery silenced, he rallied his men and fought his way back at night through the enemy's line, bringing all unwounded men safely in, together with 15 prisoners.

The operation—which resulted in the silencing of an enemy battery, the killing of the whole battery personnel and many infantry, and the cutting of three main lines of telephone communication two miles in rear of the enemy's front line—was only rendered possible by the outstanding gallantry and fearless leading of this officer.

2nd Lieutenant Clement Robertson, late R.W. Surrey R., Special Reserve (T./Lieutenant, A./Captain, Tank Corps).

For most conspicuous bravery in leading his Tanks in attack under heavy shell, machine-gun and rifle fire, over ground which had been heavily ploughed by shell fire. Captain Robertson, knowing the risk of the Tanks missing the way, continued to lead them on foot, guiding them carefully and patiently towards their objective, although he must have known that his action would almost inevitably cost him his life.

This gallant officer was killed after his objective had been reached, but his skilful leading had already ensured successful action.

His utter disregard of danger and devotion to duty afford an example of outstanding valour.

No. 4926 Sjt. Harry Coverdale, Manchester R. (Old Trafford, Manchester).

For most conspicuous bravery in attack on enemy strong points. He showed the utmost gallantry in approaching his objective, and when close to it disposed of an enemy officer and two men who were sniping our flank, killing the officer and taking the two men prisoners. He then rushed two machine guns, killing or wounding the teams. He subsequently reorganised his platoon in order to capture another position, but, after getting within a hundred yards of it, he was held up by our own barrage, and was obliged to return, having sustained nine casualties.

Later, this gallant non-commissioned officer again went out with five men to capture this position and when he had gone some distance he saw a considerable number of the enemy advancing. He thereupon withdrew his detachment man by man, he himself being the last to retire, when he was able to report that the enemy were forming for a counter-attack.

By his gallant leadership and utter disregard of danger throughout the attack he set a splendid example of fearlessness to his men, and inspired all with a spirit of emulation which undoubtedly contributed largely to the success of the operations.

No. 43537 Corporal William Clamp, late York. R. (Flemington).

For most conspicuous bravery when an advance was being checked by intense machine-gun fire from concrete blockhouses and by snipers in ruined buildings. Corporal Clamp dashed forward with two men and attempted to rush the largest blockhouse. His first attempt failed owing to the two men with him being knocked out, but he at once collected some bombs, and, calling upon two men to follow him, again dashed forward. He was first to reach the blockhouse and hurled in bombs, killing many of the occupants. He then entered and brought out a machine-gun and about twenty prisoners, whom he brought back under heavy fire from neighbouring snipers.

This non-commissioned officer then again went forward encouraging and cheering the men, and succeeded in rushing several snipers' posts. He continued to display the greatest heroism until he was killed by a sniper.

His magnificent courage and self-sacrifice was of the greatest value and relieved what was undoubtedly a very critical situation.

No. 355652 A./Cpl. John Collins, R. Welsh Fus. (Merthyr Tydvil).

For most conspicuous bravery, resource and leadership, when, after deployment, prior to an attack, his battalion was forced to lie out in the open under heavy shell and machine-gun fire, which caused many casualties.

This gallant non-commissioned officer repeatedly went out under heavy fire and brought wounded back to cover, thus saving many lives. In subsequent operations throughout the day Cpl. Collins was conspicuous in rallying and leading his command. He led the final assault with the utmost skill, in spite of heavy fire at close range and uncut wire. He bayoneted fifteen of the enemy, and with a Lewis gun section pressed on beyond the objective and covered the re-organisation and consolidation most effectively, although isolated and under fire from snipers and guns.

He showed throughout a magnificent example of initiative and fearlessness.

No. 33316 Pte. Thomas Henry Sage, Som. L.I. (Tiverton).

For most conspicuous bravery during an attack on an enemy strong post. He was in a shell hole with eight other men, one of

whom was shot while in the act of throwing a bomb. The live bomb fell into the shell hole, and Private Sage, with great courage and presence of mind, immediately threw himself on it, thereby undoubtedly saving the lives of several of his comrades, though he himself sustained very severe wounds.

His Majesty the KING has been pleased to confer the following rewards in recognition of gallantry and distinguished service in connection with Anti-Aircraft services in the United Kingdom:—

*Awarded a Bar to Distinguished Service Order.*  
Temporary Captain Gilbert Ware Murles Green, D.S.O., M.C., General List, Royal Flying Corps.

*Awarded the Distinguished Service Order.*  
Lieut.-Colonel William Maxwell Thompson, R.E.  
Temporary Captain William Harold Haynes, R.F.C.

*Awarded the Military Cross.*  
2nd Lieut. Frederick Arthur Darien Grace, Special Reserve, R.F.C.  
Temp. 2nd Lieut. George Murray, General List, R.F.C.  
Temp. 2nd Lieut. Thomas Bradley Pritchard, late General List and R.F.C.

*Awarded the Military Medal.*  
No. 564555 Sapper Ralph Eric Frazer, R.E.  
No. 23555 Fitter Joseph Horner, R.G.A.

His Majesty the KING has been pleased to confer the Military Medal for bravery in the Field on the undermentioned Ladies of the Nursing Service for bravery and conspicuous devotion in the performance of their duties whilst exposed to enemy shell fire or bombs dropped by enemy aircraft:—

Miss Elizabeth Mountford Humphries, Matron, T.F.N.S.  
Miss Gladys Victoria King, Queen Alexandra Hpl. (V.A.D.).  
Miss Helena Kate Repton, Queen Alexandra Hpl., B.R.C.S.  
Miss Ethel Isabella Devenish Meares, Sister, Q.A.I.M.N.S. (R).  
Miss Annie Weir, Nurse, B.R.C.S. (V.A.D.).  
Miss Lelia Helen Ann Thomson, Sister, T.F.N.S.  
Miss Annie Alexander, Nursing Sister, Queen Alexandra Hpl., B.R.C.S.

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