



# TWELFTH SUPPLEMENT TO The London Gazette.

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TUESDAY, 4 JUNE, 1918

War Office,

4th June, 1918

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 Man —

Lt (A /Capt) Eric Stuart Dougall, M C, late R F A (S R)

For most conspicuous bravery and skilful leadership in the field when in command of his battery

Captain Dougall maintained his guns in action from early morning throughout a heavy concentration of gas and high-explosive shell. Finding that he could not clear the crest owing to the withdrawal of our line, Captain Dougall ran his guns on to the top of the ridge to fire over open sights. By this time our infantry had been pressed back in line with the guns. Captain Dougall at once assumed command of the situation, rallied and organised the infantry, supplied them with Lewis guns, and armed as many gunners as he could spare with rifles. With these he formed a line in front of his battery which during this period was harassing the advancing enemy with a rapid rate of

fire. Although exposed to both rifle and machine gun fire, this officer fearlessly walked about as though on parade, calmly giving orders and encouraging everybody. He inspired the infantry with his assurance that "So long as you stick to your trenches I will keep my guns here." This line was maintained throughout the day, thereby delaying the enemy's advance for over twelve hours. In the evening, having expended all ammunition, the battery received orders to withdraw. This was done by man-handling the guns over a distance of about 800 yards of shell-cratered country, an almost impossible feat considering the ground and the intense machine gun fire.

Owing to Captain Dougall's personality and skilful leadership throughout this trying day there is no doubt that a serious breach in our line was averted.

This gallant officer was killed four days later whilst directing the fire of his battery.

T /2nd Lt Cecil Leonard Knox, R E

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. Twelve bridges were entrusted to this Officer for demolition, and all of them

were successfully destroyed. In the case of one steel girder bridge, the destruction of which he personally supervised, the time fuze failed to act.

Without hesitation 2nd Lt. Knox ran to the bridge, under heavy rifle and machine-gun fire, and when the enemy were actually on the bridge he tore away the time fuze and lit the instantaneous fuze, to do which he had to get under the bridge.

This was an act of the highest devotion to duty, entailing the gravest risks, which, as a practical civil engineer, he fully realised.

T./2nd Lt. Ernest Frederick Beal, late Yorks. R.

For most conspicuous bravery and determined leading when in command of a company detailed to occupy a certain section of trench. When the company was established, it was found that a considerable gap of about 400 yards existed between the left flank of the company and the neighbouring unit, and that this gap was strongly held by the enemy. It was of vital importance that the gap should be cleared, but no troops were then available. Organising a small party of less than a dozen men, he led them against the enemy. On reaching an enemy machine gun, 2nd Lt. Beal immediately sprang forward, and with his revolver killed the team and captured the gun. Continuing along the trench he encountered and dealt with another machine gun in the same manner, and in all captured four enemy guns, and inflicted severe casualties.

Later in the evening, when a wounded man had been left in the open under heavy enemy fire, he, regardless of danger, walked up close to an enemy machine gun and brought in the wounded man on his back.

2nd Lt. Beal was killed by a shell on the following morning.

No. 62990 Pte. (A./L./Cpl.) Arthur Henry Cross, M.G. Corps (Camberwell).

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative. L./Cpl. Cross volunteered to make a reconnaissance of the position of two machine guns which had been captured by the enemy. He advanced single-handed to the enemy trench and with his revolver forced seven of the enemy to surrender and carry the machine guns with their tripods and ammunition to our lines. He then handed over his prisoners, collected teams for his guns which he brought into action with exceptional dash and skill, annihilating a very heavy attack by the enemy.

It is impossible to speak too highly of the extreme gallantry, initiative and dash displayed by this N.C.O., who showed throughout four days of operations supreme devotion to duty.

No. 203590 Pte. Thomas Young, Durh. L.I. (High Spen, co. Durham).

For most conspicuous bravery in face of the enemy when acting as a stretcher-bearer.

He showed throughout the whole course of the operations a most magnificent example of courage and devotion to duty. On nine different occasions he went out in front of our line in broad daylight under heavy rifle, machine gun and shell fire which was directed on him, and brought back wounded to safety, those too badly wounded to be moved before dressing he dressed under this harassing fire, and carried them unaided to our lines and safety; he rescued and saved nine lives in this manner.

His untiring energy, coupled with an absolute disregard of personal danger, and the great skill he showed in dealing with casualties, is beyond all praise.

For five days Pte. Young worked unceasingly, evacuating wounded from seemingly impossible places.

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