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MONDAY, 6 JANUARY, 1919.

War Office,

6th January, 1919.

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 Men:—

Capt. (A./Lt.-Col.) Dudley Graham Johnson, D.S.O., M.C., S.W. Bord., attd. 2nd Bn., R. Suss. R.

For most conspicuous bravery and leadership during the forcing of the Sambre Canal on the 4th November, 1918. The 2nd Infantry Brigade, of which the 2nd Bn., R. Suss. R., formed part, was ordered to cross by the lock South of Catillon. The position was strong, and before the bridge could be thrown a steep bank leading up to the lock and a waterway about 100 yards short of the canal had to be crossed.

The assaulting platoons and bridging parties, R.E., on their arrival at the waterway were thrown into confusion by a heavy barrage and machine-gun fire, and heavy casualties were caused.

At this moment Lt.-Col. Johnson arrived, and, realising the situation, at once collected

men to man the bridges and assist the R.E., and personally led the assault.

In spite of his efforts heavy enemy fire again broke up the assaulting and bridging parties.

Without any hesitation, he again re-organised the platoons and bridging parties and led them at the lock, this time succeeding in effecting a crossing, after which all went well.

During all this time Lt.-Col. Johnson was under a very heavy fire, which, though it nearly decimated the assaulting columns, left him untouched.

His conduct was a fine example of great valour, coolness and intrepidity, which, added to his splendid leadership and the offensive spirit that he had inspired in his battalion, were entirely responsible for the successful crossing.

T./Capt. John MacGregor, M.C., D.C.M., 2nd C.M.R. Bn., 1st Central Ontario R.

For most conspicuous bravery, leadership and self-sacrificing devotion to duty near Cambrai from 29th September to 3rd October, 1918.

He led his company under intense fire, and when the advance was checked by machine guns, although wounded, pushed on and located the enemy guns. He then ran forward in broad daylight, in face of heavy fire from all directions, and, with rifle and bayonet, single-handed, put the enemy crews out of action, killing four and taking eight prisoners. His prompt action saved many casualties and enabled the advance to continue.

After reorganising his command under heavy fire he rendered most useful support to neighbouring troops. When the enemy were showing stubborn resistance, he went along the line regardless of danger, organised the platoons, took command of the leading waves, and continued the advance. Later, after a personal daylight reconnaissance under heavy fire, he established his company in Neuville St. Remy, thereby greatly assisting the advance into Tilloy. Throughout the operations Capt. MacGregor displayed magnificent bravery and heroic leadership.

Lt. William Davidson Bissett, 1/6th Bn., Arg. & Suth'd Highrs. (T.F.).

For most conspicuous bravery and leadership East of Maing on the 25th October, 1918, when in command of a platoon, which he led to its objective with great dash.

Later, owing to casualties, he took command of the company and handled it with great skill after a determined enemy counter-attack had turned his left flank. Realising the danger, he withdrew to the railway, thus temporarily saving the situation. The enemy, however, continued to advance in force after his men had exhausted their ammunition. Thereupon, under heavy fire, he mounted the railway embankment, and, calling upon his men to charge with the bayonet, drove back the enemy with heavy loss, and later, again charging forward, established his line.

By his splendid example and fine leadership Lt. Bissett was the means of saving a critical situation.

Lt. George Fraser Kerr, M.C., M.M., 3rd Bn., 1st Central Ontario R.

For most conspicuous bravery and leadership during the Bourlon Wood operations on 27th September, 1918, when in command of the left support company in attack.

He handled his company with great skill, and gave timely support by outflanking a machine-gun which was impeding the advance.

Later, near the Arras-Cambrai road, the advance was again held up by a strong point. Lt. Kerr, far in advance of his company, rushed this strong point single-handed and captured four machine-guns and thirty-one prisoners.

His valour throughout this engagement was an inspiring example to all.

Lt. Milton Fowler Gregg, M.C., R. Can. Regt., Nova Scotia R.

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative during operations near Cambrai, 27th September to 1st October, 1918.

On 28th September, when the advance of the brigade was held up by fire from both flanks and by thick, uncut wire, he crawled

forward alone and explored the wire until he found a small gap, through which he subsequently led his men, and forced an entry into the enemy trench. The enemy counter-attacked in force, and, through lack of bombs, the situation became critical. Although wounded, Lt. Gregg returned alone under terrific fire and collected a further supply. Then rejoining his party, which by this time was much reduced in numbers, and, in spite of a second wound, he reorganised his men and led them with the greatest determination against the enemy trenches, which he finally cleared.

He personally killed or wounded 11 of the enemy and took 25 prisoners, in addition to 12 machine guns captured in this trench. Remaining with his company in spite of wounds, he again on the 30th September led his men in attack until severely wounded. The outstanding valour of this officer saved many casualties and enabled the advance to continue.

Lt. Samuel Lewis Honey, D.C.M., M.M., late 78th Bn., Manitoba R.

For most conspicuous bravery during the Bourlon Wood operations, 27th September to 2nd October, 1918.

On 27th September, when his company commander and all other officers of his company had become casualties, Lt. Honey took command and skilfully reorganised under very severe fire. He continued the advance with great dash and gained the objective. Then finding that his company was suffering casualties from enfilade machine-gun fire he located the machine-gun nest and rushed it single-handed, capturing the guns and ten prisoners.

Subsequently he repelled four enemy counter-attacks and after dark again went out alone, and having located an enemy post, led a party which captured the post and three guns.

On the 29th September he led his company against a strong enemy position with great skill and daring and continued in the succeeding days of the battle to display the same high example of valour and self-sacrifice. He died of wounds received during the last day of the attack by his battalion.

Lt. George Morby Ingram, M.M., 24th Bn., A.I.F.

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative during the attack on Montbréhain, East of Peronne, on 5th October, 1918. When early in the advance his platoon was held up by a strong point, Lt. Ingram, without hesitation, dashed out and rushed the post at the head of his men, capturing nine machine guns and killing 42 enemy after stubborn resistance.

Later, when the company had suffered severe casualties from enemy posts, and many leaders had fallen, he at once took control of the situation, rallied his men under intense fire, and led them forward. He himself rushed the first post, shot six of the enemy, and captured a machine gun, thus overcoming serious resistance.

On two subsequent occasions he again displayed great dash and resource in the capture of enemy posts, inflicting many casualties and taking 62 prisoners.

Throughout the whole day he showed the most inspiring example of courage and leadership, and freely exposed himself regardless of danger.

Lt. Joseph Maxwell, M.C., D.C.M., 18th Bn., A.I.F.

For most conspicuous bravery and leadership in attack on the Beaufort-Fonsomme line near Estrées, North of St. Quentin, on the 3rd October, 1918.

His company commander was severely wounded early in the advance, and Lt. Maxwell at once took charge. The enemy wire when reached under intense fire was found to be exceptionally strong and closely supported by machine guns, whereupon Lt. Maxwell pushed forward single-handed through the wire and captured the most dangerous gun, killing three and capturing four enemy. He thus enabled his company to penetrate the wire and reach the objective. Later, he again dashed forward and silenced, single-handed, a gun which was holding up a flank company. Subsequently, when with two men only he attempted to capture a strong party of the enemy, he handled a most involved situation very skilfully, and it was due to his resource that he and his comrades escaped.

Throughout the day Lt. Maxwell set a high example of personal bravery, coupled with excellent judgment and quick decision.

2nd Lt. James Kirk, late 10th, attd. 2nd, Bn., Manchester R.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty North of Ors on 4th November, 1918, whilst attempting to bridge the Oise Canal.

To cover the bridging of the canal he took a Lewis gun, and, under intense machine-gun fire, paddled across the canal on a raft, and at a range of ten yards expended all his ammunition. Further ammunition was paddled across to him and he continuously maintained covering fire for the bridging party from a most exposed position till killed at his gun.

The supreme contempt of danger and magnificent self-sacrifice displayed by this gallant officer prevented many casualties and enabled two platoons to cross the bridge before it was destroyed.

No. 295536 Sjt. Thomas Caldwell, 12th Bn., R. Sc. Fus. (Carlisle).

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative in attack near Audenarde on the 31st October, 1918, when in command of a Lewis gun section engaged in clearing a farmhouse. When his section came under intense fire at close range from another farm, Sjt. Caldwell rushed towards the farm, and, in spite of very heavy fire, reached the enemy position, which he captured single-handed, together with 18 prisoners.

This gallant and determined exploit removed a serious obstacle from the line of advance, saved many casualties, and led to the capture by his section of about 70 prisoners, eight machine guns and one trench mortar.

No. 37721 Sjt. John Clarke, 15th Bn., Lanc. Fus (Rochdale).

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative during the attack at Happegarbe on 2nd November, 1918, when in command of a platoon, he led his men forward with great determination, and, on being held up by heavy machine-gun fire, rushed forward through a thick, strongly held ridge, captured in succession four machine guns and single-handed bayoneted the crews. Later, he led the remnants of his platoon to the capture of three machine guns and many prisoners.

In the later stages of the attack on the same day, when his platoon was held up by enemy machine guns, he successfully led a Tank against them over very exposed ground.

Continuing the attack on 3rd November, after capturing many prisoners and gaining his objective, he organised his line most skilfully and held up the enemy.

On 4th November, in the attack on the Oise-Sambre Canal, under heavy fire from the Canal bank, he rushed forward with a Lewis gun team in the face of an intense barrage, brought the gun into action, effectively silenced the enemy's fire, thus enabling his company to advance and gain their objectives.

Throughout the whole of these operations Sjt. Clarke acted with magnificent bravery and total disregard of personal safety, and by his gallantry and high sense of duty set an inspiring example to all ranks.

No. 14107 Sjt. Horace Augustus Curtis, 2nd Bn., R. Dub. Fus. (Newlyn East, Cornwall).

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty East of Le Cateau on the morning of the 18th October, 1918, when in attack his platoon came unexpectedly under intense machine-gun fire. Realising that the attack would fail unless the enemy guns were silenced, Sjt. Curtis, without hesitation, rushed forward through our own barrage and the enemy fire, and killed and wounded the teams of two of the guns, whereupon the remaining four guns surrendered. Then, turning his attention to a train-load of reinforcements, he succeeded in capturing over 100 enemy before his comrades joined him.

His valour and disregard of danger inspired all.

No. 20695 Sjt. Fredrick Charles Riggs, M.M., late 6th Bn., York & Lanc. R. (Bournemouth).

For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice on the morning of the 1st October, 1918, near Epinoy, when, having led his platoon through strong uncut wire under severe fire, he continued straight on, and although losing heavily from flanking fire, succeeded in reaching his objective, where he rushed and captured a machine gun.

He later handled two captured guns with great effect, and caused the surrender of fifty enemy.

Subsequently, when the enemy again advanced in force, Sjt. Riggs cheerfully encouraged his men to resist, and whilst

exhorting his men to fight on to the last, this very gallant soldier was killed.

No. 8000 Sjt. William Merrifield, 4th Bn., Central Ontario R.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during the attack near Abancourt on the 1st October, 1918. When his men were held up by an intense fire from two machine-gun emplacements, he attacked them both single-handed. Dashing from shell-hole to shell-hole he killed the occupants of the first post, and, although wounded, continued to attack the second post, and with a bomb killed the occupants. He refused to be evacuated, and led his platoon until again severely wounded.

Sjt. Merrifield has served with exceptional distinction on many former occasions, and throughout the action of the 1st October showed the highest qualities of valour and leadership.

No. 205353 Cpl. (A./Sjt.) John Brunton Daykins, 2/4th Bn., York & Lanc. R. (T.F.) (Jedburgh, Scotland).

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative at Solèsmes on 20th October, 1918, when, with twelve remaining men of his platoon, he worked his way most skilfully, in face of heavy opposition, towards the church. By prompt action he enabled his party to rush a machine gun, and during subsequent severe hand-to-hand fighting he himself disposed of many of the enemy and secured his objective, his party, in addition to heavy casualties inflicted, taking thirty prisoners.

He then located another machine gun which was holding up a portion of his company. Under heavy fire he worked his way alone to the post, and shortly afterwards returned with twenty-five prisoners and an enemy machine gun, which he mounted at his post.

His magnificent fighting spirit and example inspired his men, saved many casualties, and contributed very largely to the success of the attack.

No. 241028 Pte. (L./Cpl.) William Harold Coltman, D.C.M., M.M., 1/6th Bn., N. Staffs. R. (T.F.) (Winhill, Burton-on-Trent).

For most conspicuous bravery, initiative and devotion to duty.

During the operations at Mannequin Hill, N.E., of Sequehart, on the 3rd and 4th October, 1918, L./Cpl. Coltman, a stretcher-bearer, hearing that wounded had been left behind during a retirement, on his own initiative, went forward alone in the face of fierce enfilade fire, found the wounded, dressed them, and on three successive occasions carried comrades on his back to safety, thus saving their lives.

This very gallant N.C.O. tended the wounded unceasingly for forty-eight hours.

No. 213078 Spr. Adam Archibald, 218th Fd. Coy., R.E. (Leith).

For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice on the 4th November, 1918, near Ors, when with a party building a floating bridge across the Canal.

He was foremost in the work under a very heavy artillery barrage and machine-

gun fire. The latter was directed at him from a few yards distance while he was working on the cork floats; nevertheless, he persevered in his task, and his example and efforts were such that the bridge, which was essential to the success of the operations, was very quickly completed.

The supreme devotion to duty of this gallant sapper, who collapsed from gas poisoning on completion of his work, was beyond all praise.

No. 42954 Pte. Norman Harvey, 1st Bn., R. Innis. Fus. (Newton-le-Willows).

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty near Ingoyghen on the 25th October, 1918, when his battalion was held up and suffered heavy casualties from enemy machine guns.

On his own initiative he rushed forward and engaged the enemy single-handed, disposing of twenty enemy and capturing two guns.

Later, when his company was checked by another enemy strong point, he again rushed forward alone and put the enemy to flight.

Subsequently, after dark, he voluntarily carried out, single-handed, an important reconnaissance and gained valuable information.

Pte. Harvey throughout the day displayed the greatest valour, and his several actions enabled the line to advance, saved many casualties, and inspired all.

No. 17324 Pte. Francis George Miles, 1/5th Bn., Glouc. R. (T.F.) (Coleford, Glos.).

For most conspicuous bravery and initiative in attack on the 23rd October, 1918, during the advance against the Bois L'Evêque, when his company was held up by a line of enemy machine guns in the sunken road near the Moulin J. Jacques. Pte. Miles alone, and on his own initiative, went forward, under exceptionally heavy fire, located a machine gun, shot the gunner, and put the gun out of action. Observing another gun near by, he again advanced alone, shot the gunner, rushed the gun, and captured the team of eight. Finally, he stood up and beckoned to his company, who, acting on his signals, were enabled to work round the rear of the line and to capture sixteen machine guns, one officer, and fifty other ranks. It was due to the courage, initiative, and entire disregard of personal safety shown by this very gallant soldier that the company was enabled to advance at a time when any delay would have jeopardised seriously the whole operation.

No. 30245 Pte. James Towers, 2nd Bn., Sco. Rif. (Preston).

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty at Méricourt on the 6th October, 1918, when, under heavy fire, five runners having failed to deliver an important message, Pte. Towers, well aware of the fate of the runners who had already attempted the task, volunteered for the duty.

In spite of heavy fire opened on him as soon as he moved, he went straight through from cover to cover and eventually delivered the message.

His valour, determination, and utter disregard of danger were an inspiring example to all.

No. 43839 Pte. Alfred Wilkinson, 1/5th Bn., Manch. R. (T.F.) (Leigh).

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on 20th October, 1918, during the attack on Marou, when four runners in succession having been killed in an endeavour to deliver a message to the supporting company, Pte. Wilkinson volunteered for the duty. He succeeded in delivering the message, though the journey involved exposure to extremely heavy machine-gun and shell fire for 600 yards. He showed magnificent courage and complete indifference to danger, thinking only of the needs of his company and entirely disregarding any consideration for personal safety.

Throughout the remainder of the day Pte. Wilkinson continued to do splendid work.

No. 3102 Pte. Thomas Ricketts, 1st Bn., R. Newfoundland R.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the 14th October, 1918, during the advance from Ledeghem, when

the attack was temporarily held up by heavy hostile fire and the platoon to which he belonged suffered severe casualties from the fire of a battery at point-blank range.

Pte. Ricketts at once volunteered to go forward with his section commander and a Lewis gun to attempt to outflank the battery. Advancing by short rushes under heavy fire from enemy machine guns with the hostile battery, their ammunition was exhausted when still 300 yards from the battery. The enemy, seeing an opportunity to get their field guns away, began to bring up their gun teams. Pte. Ricketts, at once realising the situation, doubled back 100 yards under the heaviest machine-gun fire, procured further ammunition, and dashed back again to the Lewis gun, and by very accurate fire drove the enemy and the gun teams into a farm.

His platoon then advanced without casualties, and captured the four field guns, four machine guns, and eight prisoners.

A fifth field gun was subsequently intercepted by fire and captured.

By his presence of mind in anticipating the enemy intention and his utter disregard of personal safety, Pte. Ricketts secured the further supply of ammunition which directly resulted in these important captures and undoubtedly saved many lives.

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