



SECOND SUPPLEMENT
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*War Office,
21st April, 1942.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve posthumous awards of the VICTORIA CROSS to the undermentioned:—

Second-Lieutenant George Ward Gunn, M.C. (143906), Royal Horse Artillery (Wirral, Cheshire).

On the 21st November, 1941, at Sidi Rezegh, Second-Lieutenant Gunn was in command of a troop of four anti-tank guns which was part of a battery of twelve guns attached to the Rifle Brigade Column. At 10.00 hours a covering force of enemy tanks was engaged and driven off but an hour later the main attack developed by about sixty enemy tanks. Second-Lieutenant Gunn drove from gun to gun during this period in an unarmoured vehicle encouraging his men and reorganising his dispositions as first one gun and then another were knocked out. Finally only two guns remained in action and were subjected to very heavy fire. Immediately afterwards one of these guns was destroyed and the portee of another was set on fire and all the crew killed or wounded except the Sergeant, though the gun itself remained undamaged. The Battery Commander then arrived and started to fight the flames. When he saw this, Second-Lieutenant Gunn ran to his aid through intense fire and immediately got the one remaining anti-tank gun into action on the burning portee, himself sighting it while the Sergeant acted as loader. He continued to fight the gun, firing between forty and fifty rounds regardless alike of the enemy fire which was by then concentrated on this one vehicle, and of the flames which might at any moment have reached the ammunition with which the portee was loaded. In spite of this, Second-Lieutenant Gunn's shooting was so accurate at a range of about 800 yards that at least two enemy tanks were hit and set on fire and others were damaged before he fell dead, having been shot through the forehead.

Second-Lieutenant Gunn showed the most conspicuous courage in attacking this large number of enemy tanks with a single unarmoured gun, and his utter disregard for extreme danger was an example which inspired all who saw it. He remained undismayed by intense fire and overwhelming odds, and his gallant resistance only ceased with his death.

But for this very gallant action the enemy tanks would undoubtedly have over-run our position.

No. 6846197 Rifleman John Beeley, The King's Royal Rifle Corps (Winchester).

On the 21st November, 1941, during the attack by a Battalion of The King's Royal Rifle Corps at Sidi Rezegh against a strong enemy position,

the Company to which Rifleman Beeley belonged was pinned down by heavy fire at point-blank range from the front and flank on the flat and open ground of the aerodrome. All the officers but one of the Company and many of the other ranks had been either killed or wounded. On his own initiative, and when there was no sort of cover, Rifleman Beeley got to his feet carrying a Bren Gun and ran forward towards a strong enemy post containing an anti-tank gun, a heavy machine gun and a light machine gun. He ran thirty yards and discharged a complete magazine at the post from a range of twenty yards, killing or wounding the entire crew of the anti-tank gun. The post was silenced and Rifleman Beeley's platoon was enabled to advance, but Rifleman Beeley fell dead across his gun, hit in at least four places.

Rifleman Beeley went to certain death in a gallant and successful attempt to carry the day. His courage and self-sacrifice was a glorious example to his comrades and inspired them to further efforts to reach their objective, which was eventually captured by them, together with 700 prisoners.

*War Office,
21st April, 1942.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the publication of the names of the undermentioned as having been commended for brave conduct:—

The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment).
No. 6287280 Private James Smith.

The Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own).
Captain (temporary Major) Fitzroy Hubert Fyers, C.V.O. (1070).

REGULAR ARMY.

*War Office,
21st April, 1942.*

Maj.-Gen. Sir Frederick Gwatkin, K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C. (39080), Ind. Army, is granted the local rank of Lt.-Gen. 27th Feb. 1942.

The undermentioned Cols. (temp. Brigs.), are granted the actg. rank of Maj.-Gen.:—

P. G. S. Gregson-Ellis, O.B.E. (15399). 17th Mar. 1942. (Substituted for the notifn. in the Gazette of 14th Apr. 1942.)

P. H. Mitchiner, C.B.E., T.D., M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S., K.H.S. (2162), T.A. 15th Apr. 1942.

ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY.

Lt.-Col. H. Greene, M.C. (8018), on completion of tenure of serv. as Regtl. Lt.-Col., remains on full pay (supernumerary). 21st Apr. 1942.