



# SECOND SUPPLEMENT

TO

# The London Gazette

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FRIDAY, 19 JUNE, 1942

*War Office,  
19th June, 1942.*

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

Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Geoffrey Charles Tasker Keyes, M.C. (71081), The Royal Scots Greys (2nd Dragoons), Royal Armoured Corps (Buckingham).

Lieutenant-Colonel Keyes commanded a detachment of a force which landed some 250 miles behind the enemy lines to attack Headquarters, Base Installations and Communications.

From the outset Lieutenant-Colonel Keyes deliberately selected for himself the command of the detachment detailed to attack what was undoubtedly the most hazardous of these objectives—the residence and Headquarters of the General Officer Commanding the German forces in North Africa. This attack, even if initially successful, meant almost certain death for those who took part in it.

He led his detachment without guides, in dangerous and precipitous country and in pitch darkness, and maintained by his stolid determination and powers of leadership the morale of the detachment. He then found himself forced to modify his original plans in the light of fresh information elicited from neighbouring Arabs, and was left with only one officer and an N.C.O. with whom to break into General Rommel's residence and deal with the guards and Headquarters Staff.

At zero hour on the night of 17th-18th November, 1941, having despatched the covering party to block the approaches to the house, he himself with the two others crawled forward past the guards, through the surrounding fence and so up to the house itself. Without hesitation, he boldly led his party up to the front door, beat on the door and demanded entrance.

Unfortunately, when the door was opened, it was found impossible to overcome the sentry silently, and it was necessary to shoot him. The noise of the shot naturally aroused the inmates of the house and Lieutenant-Colonel Keyes, appreciating that speed was now of the utmost importance, posted the N.C.O. at the foot of the stairs to prevent interference from the floor above.

Lieutenant-Colonel Keyes, who instinctively took the lead, emptied his revolver with great success into the first room and was followed by the other officer who threw a grenade.

Lieutenant-Colonel Keyes with great daring then entered the second room on the ground floor but was shot almost immediately on flinging open the door and fell back into the passage mortally

wounded. On being carried outside by his companions he died within a few minutes.

By his fearless disregard of the great dangers which he ran and of which he was fully aware, and by his magnificent leadership and outstanding gallantry, Lieutenant-Colonel Keyes set an example of supreme self sacrifice and devotion to duty.

*War Office,  
19th June, 1942.*

## REGULAR ARMY.

Maj.-Gen. Sir Arthur F. Smith, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.C. (12914), is granted the local rank of Lt.-Gen. 16th June 1942.

Col. (temp. Maj.-Gen.) R. M. Weeks, C.B., D.S.O., M.C. (51084), T.A., is granted the actg. rank of Lt.-Gen. 15th June 1942.

Col. (actg. Maj.-Gen.) M. C. Dempsey, D.S.O., M.C. (9391), to be temp. Maj.-Gen. 15th June 1942.

Col. (actg. Maj.-Gen.) St. J. D. Arcedeckne-Butler (10309), to be temp. Maj.-Gen. 16th June 1942.

Col. C. W. Massey, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C. (4133), retires on ret. pay. 13th June 1942.

The undermentioned Lt.-Cols. to be Cols.:—

Brig. (temp.) A. E. Robinson, D.S.O. (9713), from Green Howards, 1st June 1942, with seniority 19th Jan. 1942.

Brig. (temp.) H. U. Richards (1626), Empld. List (late W. York. R.), 13th June 1942, with seniority 25th Jan. 1942.

Col. (temp.) F. W. Nicholls, O.B.E. (14301), from R. Signals, 14th June 1942, with seniority 15th Feb. 1942.

War Subs. Lt.-Col. (temp. Brig.) D. C. Bullen-Smith, M.C. (26087), K.O.S.B., is granted the actg. rank of Maj.-Gen. 31st May 1942.

## ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY.

Lt.-Gen. T. J. Hutton, C.B., M.C. (19400), (late R.A.), to be Col. Comdt. 11th Mar. 1942, vice Maj.-Gen. Sir James M. S. Bruncker, K.C.M.G. (dec.).

The undermentioned Majs. to be Lt.-Cols. 15th June 1942:—

W. P. A. Robinson, M.C. (14668).

V. A. Young, M.C. (11516).

2nd Lt. J. A. Stewart (73761), to be Lt. 2nd July 1941.

## CORPS OF ROYAL ENGINEERS.

Col. E. St. G. Kirke, D.S.O. (26581), ret. Ind. Pens. at his own request, reverts to the rank of