



SUPPLEMENT TO The London Gazette

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TUESDAY, 26 SEPTEMBER, 1944

War Office, 26th September, 1944.

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

Captain (temporary Major) Frank Gerald Blaker, M.C. (193864), The Highland Light Infantry (City of Glasgow Regiment) (attached 9th Gurkha Rifles, Indian Army).

In Burma on 9th July, 1944, a Company of the 9th Gurkha Rifles was ordered to carry out a wide, encircling movement across unknown and precipitous country, through dense jungle, to attack a strong enemy position on the summit of an important hill overlooking Taungni.

Major Blaker carried out this movement with the utmost precision and took up a position with his Company on the extreme right flank of the enemy, in itself a feat of considerable military skill.

Another Company, after bitter fighting, had succeeded in taking the forward edge of the enemy position by a frontal assault, but had failed to reach the main crest of the hill in the face of fierce opposition.

At this crucial moment Major Blaker's Company came under heavy and accurate fire at close range from a medium machine gun and two light machine guns, and their advance was also completely stopped.

Major Blaker then advanced ahead of his men through very heavy fire and, in spite of being severely wounded in the arm by a grenade, he located the machine guns, which were the pivot of the enemy defence, and single handed charged the position. When hit by a burst of three rounds through the body, he continued to cheer on his men while lying on the ground.

His fearless leadership and outstanding courage so inspired his Company that they stormed the hill and captured the objective, while the enemy fled in terror into the jungle.

Major Blaker died of wounds while being evacuated from the battlefield. His heroism and self sacrifice were beyond all praise and

contributed in no small way to the defeat of the enemy and the successful outcome of the operations.

War Office, 26th September, 1944.

Col. (Temp. Maj.-Gen.) D. H. Pratt, C.B., D.S.O., M.C. (4584), late R.T. Corps, is appointed A.D.C. to The KING, 11th July 1944, vice Col. (actg. Brig.) T. H. Darwell, O.B.E., M.C., late R.T. Corps, retired.

War Office, 26th September, 1944.

REGULAR ARMY.

Col. (Actg. Maj.-Gen.) E. P. Nares, C.B.E., M.C. (4593) to be Temp. Maj.-Gen., 31st May 1944.

Col. (Temp. Brig.) C. M. Barber, D.S.O. (6512) is granted the actg. rank of Maj.-Gen., 3rd Aug. 1944.

ROYAL ARMOURD CORPS.

4th H.

Capt. D. P. Templer (66930) is placed on the h.p., list on account of ill-health, 26th Sept. 1944.

ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY.

The undermentioned Majs. (War Subs. Lt.-Cols.) to be Lt.-Cols., 30th June 1944:—

W. W. Cowan (13505). D. A. Learmont, O.B.E. (13494). V. R. W. Crawford, M.C. (11154).

Lt. (D.O.) (War Subs. Capt. (D.O.)) W. D. Green (78375) to be Capt. (D.O.), 27th Sept. 1944.

CORPS OF ROYAL ENGINEERS.

Lt.-Col. J. F. D. Steedman, M.B.E., M.C. (13486) on completion of tenure of service as Regtl. Lt.-Col. remains on full pay (supern.), 24th Sept. 1944.

Lt.-Col. L. I. Jacques, M.C. (14843) on completion of tenure of service as Regtl. Lt.-Col. remains on full pay (supern.), 24th Sept. 1944.

ROYAL ARMY CHAPLAINS' DEPARTMENT.

Rev. J. J. O'Brien (53559) Chapln. to the Forces, 2nd Cl. (R.C.) retires on ret. pay, 26th Sept. 1944.

ROYAL ARMY SERVICE CORPS.

Lt. (Qr.-Mr.) (War Subs. Capt. (Qr.-Mr.)) J. Haycock (77438) to be Capt. (Qr.-Mr.), 27th Sept. 1944.

ROYAL ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS.

Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) C. N. Ward (75115) to be Capt., 1st Apr. 1944, with precedence next below Capt. J. W. Cox, B.Sc.(Eng.) (75105).

ARMY EDUCATIONAL CORPS.

The surname of Lt. (Temp. Capt.) W. P. Meldrum (65133) is as now described and not as notified in Gazette (Supplement) dated 1st Sept. 1944.

Lt. (Edcn. Offr.) (War Subs. Capt. (Edcn. Offr.)) C. J. Quarrell (13335) to be Capt. (Edcn. Offr.), 27th Sept. 1944.