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*War Office, 12th December, 1944.*

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

Lieutenant (temporary Captain) John Niel Randle (130097), The Royal Norfolk Regiment (Radlett, Herts.).

On the 4th May, 1944, at Kohima in Assam, a Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment attacked the Japanese positions on a nearby ridge. Captain Randle took over command of the Company which was leading the attack, when the Company Commander was severely wounded. His handling of a difficult situation in the face of heavy fire was masterly and although wounded himself in the knee by grenade splinters he continued to inspire his men by his initiative, courage and outstanding leadership, until the Company had captured its objective and consolidated its position. He then went forward and brought in all the wounded men who were lying outside the perimeter.

In spite of his painful wound Captain Randle refused to be evacuated and insisted on carrying out a personal reconnaissance with great daring in bright moonlight prior to a further attack by his Company on the positions to which the enemy had withdrawn.

At dawn on 6th May the attack opened led by Captain Randle and one of the platoons succeeded in reaching the crest of the hill held by the Japanese. Another platoon, however, ran into heavy medium machine gun fire from a bunker on the reverse slope of the feature. Captain Randle immediately appreciated that this particular bunker covered not only the rear of his new position but also the line of communication of the Battalion and therefore the destruction of the enemy post was imperative if the operation was to succeed.

With utter disregard of the obvious danger to himself Captain Randle charged the Japanese machine gun post single-handed with rifle and bayonet. Although bleeding

in the face and mortally wounded by numerous bursts of machine gun fire he reached the bunker and silenced the gun with a grenade thrown through the bunker slit. He then flung his body across the slit so that the aperture should be completely sealed.

The bravery shown by this officer could not have been surpassed and by his self sacrifice he saved the lives of many of his men and enabled not only his own Company but the whole Battalion to gain its objective and win a decisive victory over the enemy.

*War Office, 12th December, 1944.*

Colonel J. S. K. Boyd, O.B.E., M.B. (15763), late R.A.M.C., is appointed Honorary Physician to the King with effect from the 11th Nov. 1944, vice Major-General Sir Percy S. Tomlinson, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., M.R.C.P., late R.A.M.C., retired.

Major-General W. C. Hartgill, O.B.E., M.C. (8648), late R.A.M.C., is appointed Honorary Surgeon to the King with effect from the 27th Nov. 1944, vice Major-General O. W. McSheehy, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.B., late R.A.M.C., retired.

Major-General T. O. Thompson, C.B.E., D.M. (4850), late R.A.M.C., is appointed Honorary Physician to the King with effect from the 12th Dec. 1944, vice Major-General J. A. Manifold, C.B., D.S.O., M.D., late R.A.M.C., retired.

*War Office, 12th December, 1944.*

## REGULAR ARMY.

Col. (temp. Brig.) (actg. Maj.-Gen.) E. Phillips, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., M.B. (8555), late R.A.M.C., to be Maj.-Gen., 12th Dec. 1944.

Lt.-Col. G. H. K. Smith, O.B.E., M.C., M.B. (15663), from R.A.M.C., to be Col., 12th Dec. 1944, with seniority from 20th May 1942.

Col. (local Maj.-Gen.) J. Walker, C.B.E., M.C., M.B. (1310), late R.A.M.C., to be a D.D.M.S. and to be actg. Maj.-Gen., 12th Dec. 1944.

Maj.-Gen. J. A. Manifold, C.B., D.S.O., M.D., K.H.P. (9044), late R.A.M.C., having attained the age for retirement, retires on ret. pay, 12th Dec. 1944.

Col. R. E. Barker, C.B.E. (4680), retires on ret. pay, 13th Dec. 1944, and is granted the hon. rank of Maj.-Gen.

## ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY.

Capt. (D.O.) W. Taylor (57323) to be Maj. (D.O.), 11th Dec. 1944.

Capt. W. S. H. Garforth (62525) retires on account of disability, 9th Dec. 1944, and is granted the hon. rank of Maj.