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*Department of National Defence, Ottawa.
3rd August, 1945.*

THE CANADIAN ARMY.

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

No. B.39039 Corporal Frederick George TOPHAM, 1st Canadian Parachute Battalion.

On 24th March, 1945, Corporal Topham, a medical orderly, parachuted with his Battalion on to a strongly defended area east of the Rhine. At about 1100 hours, whilst treating casualties sustained in the drop, a cry for help came from a wounded man in the open. Two medical orderlies from a field ambulance went out to this man in succession but both were killed as they knelt beside the casualty.

Without hesitation and on his own initiative, Corporal Topham went forward through intense fire to replace the orderlies who had been killed before his eyes. As he worked on the wounded man, he was himself shot through the nose. In spite of severe bleeding and intense pain, he never faltered in his task. Having completed immediate first aid, he carried the wounded man steadily and slowly back through continuous fire to the shelter of a wood.

During the next two hours Corporal Topham refused all offers of medical help for his own wound. He worked most devotedly throughout this period to bring in wounded, showing complete disregard for the heavy and accurate enemy fire. It was only when all casualties had been cleared that he consented to his own wound being treated.

His immediate evacuation was ordered, but he interceded so earnestly on his own behalf that he was eventually allowed to return to duty.

On his way back to his company he came across a carrier, which had received a direct hit. Enemy mortar bombs were still dropping around, the carrier itself was

burning fiercely and its own mortar ammunition was exploding. An experienced officer on the spot had warned all not to approach the carrier.

Corporal Topham, however, immediately went out alone in spite of the blasting ammunition and enemy fire, and rescued the three occupants of the carrier. He brought these men back across the open and, although one died almost immediately afterwards, he arranged for the evacuation of the other two, who undoubtedly owe their lives to him.

This N.C.O. showed sustained gallantry of the highest order. For six hours, most of the time in great pain, he performed a series of acts of outstanding bravery and his magnificent and selfless courage inspired all those who witnessed it.

War Office, 3rd August, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

Col. (temp. Brig.) (actg. Maj.-Gen.) W. H. A. BISHOP, O.B.E. (11689), Dorset R., retains the actg. rank of Maj.-Gen., 18th July 1945.

Lt.-Col. R. F. WALKER, C.B.E., M.C., M.B. (22118), from R.A.M.C., to be Col., 1st Aug. 1945, with seniority 11th May 1943.

Col. H. A. F. CREWDSON (2514) is granted the hon. rank of Brig., 17th Aug. 1943.

Maj.-Gen. O. W. MCSHEEHY, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.B., K.H.S. (15664), late R.A.M.C., retires on ret. pay, 3rd Aug. 1945.

Col. D. H. S. SOMERVILLE, M.C. (6681), retires on ret. pay, 4th Aug. 1945, and is granted the hon. rank of Brig.

ROYAL ARMOURED CORPS.

2nd Lt. (War Subs. Lt.) Frank WATSON (237962), from Emerg. Commn., to be Lt., 4th Aug. 1945, with seniority 29th Nov. 1939.

2nd Lt. (War Subs. Lt.) Alan George BOND (333871), from Emerg. Commn. (Ind. Army), to be Lt., 4th Aug. 1945, with seniority 13th June 1943.

ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY.

The undermentioned 2nd Lts. (War Subs. Lts.), from Emerg. Commns., to be Lts., 4th Aug. 1945, with seniority as shown:—

James Gordon LOGAN (134202), 1st Sept. 1941.
Philip Kirshaw ROOKE (151471), 24th Sept. 1941.