



TWELFTH SUPPLEMENT
TO
The London Gazette.

Of FRIDAY, the 31st of MAY, 1918

Published by Authority.

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TUESDAY, 4 JUNE, 1918

War Office,

4th June, 1918

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned Officers, Non-commissioned Officer and Man —

Lt (A /Capt) Eric Stuart Dougall, M C, late R F A (S R)

For most conspicuous bravery and skilful leadership in the field when in command of his battery

Captain Dougall maintained his guns in action from early morning throughout a heavy concentration of gas and high-explosive shell. Finding that he could not clear the crest owing to the withdrawal of our line, Captain Dougall ran his guns on to the top of the ridge to fire over open sights. By this time our infantry had been pressed back in line with the guns. Captain Dougall at once assumed command of the situation, rallied and organised the infantry, supplied them with Lewis guns, and armed as many gunners as he could spare with rifles. With these he formed a line in front of his battery which during this period was harassing the advancing enemy with a rapid rate of

fire. Although exposed to both rifle and machine gun fire, this officer fearlessly walked about as though on parade, calmly giving orders and encouraging everybody. He inspired the infantry with his assurance that "So long as you stick to your trenches I will keep my guns here." This line was maintained throughout the day, thereby delaying the enemy's advance for over twelve hours. In the evening, having expended all ammunition, the battery received orders to withdraw. This was done by man-handling the guns over a distance of about 800 yards of shell-cratered country, an almost impossible feat considering the ground and the intense machine gun fire.

Owing to Captain Dougall's personality and skilful leadership throughout this trying day there is no doubt that a serious breach in our line was averted.

This gallant officer was killed four days later whilst directing the fire of his battery.

T /2nd Lt Cecil Leonard Knox, R E

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. Twelve bridges were entrusted to this Officer for demolition, and all of them