



SUPPLEMENT
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TUESDAY, 20 MARCH, 1945

War Office, 20th March, 1945.

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

No. 14768011 Fusilier Dennis Donnini, The Royal Scots Fusiliers (Easington Colliery, Co. Durham).

In North-West Europe on 18th January, 1945, a Battalion of the Royal Scots Fusiliers supported by tanks was the leading Battalion in the assault of the German position between the Rivers Roer and Maas. This consisted of a broad belt of minefields and wire on the other side of a stream.

As the result of a thaw the armour was unable to cross the stream and the infantry had to continue the assault without the support of the tanks. Fusilier Donnini's platoon was ordered to attack a small village.

As they left their trenches the platoon came under concentrated machine gun and rifle fire from the houses and Fusilier Donnini was hit by a bullet in the head. After a few minutes he recovered consciousness, charged down thirty yards of open road and threw a grenade into the nearest window.

The enemy fled through the gardens of four houses, closely pursued by Fusilier Donnini and the survivors of his platoon. Under heavy fire at seventy yards range Fusilier Donnini and two companions crossed an open space and reached the cover of a wooden barn, thirty yards from the enemy trenches.

Fusilier Donnini, still bleeding profusely from his wound, went into the open under intense close range fire and carried one of his companions, who had been wounded, into the barn. Taking a Bren gun he again went into the open, firing as he went.

He was wounded a second time but recovered and went on firing until a third bullet hit a grenade which he was carrying and killed him.

The superb gallantry and self-sacrifice of Fusilier Donnini drew the enemy fire away

from his companions on to himself. As the result of this, the platoon were able to capture the position, accounting for thirty Germans and two machine guns.

Throughout this action, fought from beginning to end at point blank range, the dash, determination and magnificent courage of Fusilier Donnini enabled his comrades to overcome an enemy more than twice their own number.

War Office, 20th March, 1945.

REGULAR ARMY.

ROYAL ARMoured CORPS.

Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) J. E. Saxby (105963) to be Capt., 28th Feb. 1945, with seniority, 18th Jan. 1944.

Lt. G. H. A. Hartman (328732) to be Capt., 28th Feb. 1945, with seniority 16th May 1944.

Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) H. H. Firth (137736) to be Capt., 17th Jan. 1945, with seniority, 13th July 1944.

Lt. F. R. McFadyen (134838) to be Capt., 28th Feb. 1945, with seniority, 26th Nov. 1944.

Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) C. A. Windsor (121088) to be Capt., 28th Feb. 1945, with seniority, 5th Dec. 1944.

Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) J. C. Parkhouse (149867) to be Capt., 5th Feb. 1945.

2nd Lt. J. K. England (255222) to be Lt., 15th Mar. 1945.

ROYAL REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY.

Lt.-Col. P. N. Ellis (1793) on completion of tenure of service as Regtl. Lt.-Col. remains on full pay (supern.), 18th Mar. 1945.

Lt. (War Subs. Capt.) C. B. C. Ward (151381) to be Capt., 20th Mar. 1945.

Retd. Offr. Re-Employed.

Maj. Sir R. de V. Shaw, Bt., M.C. (195875):—
1. at his own request reverts to the rank of Lt., 5th June, 1940, whilst so employed.

2. is restored to the rank of Capt., 26th Nov. 1940.

3. is restored to the rank of Maj., 16th Mar. 1941.

4. is granted the hon. rank of Lt.-Col. on ceasing to be employed, 2nd Apr. 1944.

CORPS OF ROYAL ENGINEERS.

2nd Lt. W. D. C. Holmes (195038) to be Lt., 25th Nov. 1942. (Substituted for the notin. in Gazette (Supplement) dated 20th Oct. 1942.)

Lt.-Col. J. E. Ridley (13249) on completion of tenure of service as Regtl. Lt.-Col. remains on full pay (supern.), 19th Mar. 1945.