Awards approved by His Majesty the King

Office of the Minister of Defence, Wellington, 30th April, 1946.

The following awards to personnel of the New Zealand Military Forces, which have been approved by His Majesty the King, and published from time to time in the London Gazette, have not previously appeared in the New Zealand Gazette. —

Bar to Victoria Cross

Captain Charles Haukitt Upham, V.C. (3077), New Zealand Military Forces.

Captain C. H. Upham, V.C., was commanding a company of New Zealand troops in the Western Desert during the operations which culminated in the attack on El Ruweisht Ridge on the night of the 14th–15th July, 1944.

In spite of being twice wounded, once when crossing open ground swept by enemy fire to inspect his forward sections guarding our minefields and again when he completely destroyed an entire truck load of German soldiers with hand grenades, Captain Upham insisted on remaining with his men to take part in the final assault.

Between the 19th and 26th April, Captain Upham's company formed part of the reserve battalion, but, when communications with the forward troops broke down and he was instructed to send up an officer to report on the progress of the attack, he went out himself armed with a Spandau gun, and after several sharp encounters with enemy machine-gun posts succeeded in bringing back the required information.

Before dawn the reserve battalion was ordered forward, but when it had almost reached its objective very heavy fire was encountered from a strongly defended enemy locality consisting of four machine-gun posts and a number of tanks.

Captain Upham, without hesitation, at once led his company in a determined attack on the two nearest strong-points on the left flank of the sector. His voice could be heard above the din of battle cheering on his men, and in spite of the fire resistance of the enemy and the heavy casualties on both sides the objective was captured.

Captain Upham, during the engagement, himself destroyed a German tank and several guns and vehicles with grenades, and although he was shot through the elbow by a machine-gun bullet and had his arm broken he went on again to a forward position and brought back some of his men who had become isolated. He continued to dominate the situation until his men had been driven off a violent enemy counter-attack, and consolidated the vital position which they had won under his inspiring leadership.

Exhausted by pain from his wound and weak from loss of blood Captain Upham was then removed to the regimental aid-post, but immediately his wound had been dressed he returned to his men, remaining with them all day long under heavy enemy artillery and mortar fire until he was again severely wounded, and being now unable to move fell into the hands of the enemy, when, his gallant company having been reduced to only five survivors, he continued to lead them finally overrun by superior enemy forces, in spite of the outstanding gallantry and magnificent leadership shown by Captain Upham.

The Victoria Cross was conferred on Captain Upham for conspicuous bravery during the operations in Crete, in May, 1941, and the award was announced in the London Gazette dated 14th October, 1941.

To be Additional Members of the Third Class or Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath (Military Division)


To be Additional Commanders of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

Brigadier Stanley Herbert Crump, D.S.O. (6193).

Brigadier Lindsay Merritt Inglis, D.S.O. and bar, M.C. (9490).

Brigadier Thomas Joseph King, O.B.E. (15346).

Brigadier Graham Beresford Parkinson, D.S.O. and bar (15346).

Brigadier Keith Lindsay Stewart, D.S.O., O.B.E. (1914).


Brigadier (temp.) Cyril Ettrick Weir, D.S.O. (15346).

Brigadier (temp.) Russell David King, D.S.O. (31346).


Colonel Harry Kenrick Christie (13831).

The Reverend James William McKenzie, M.M., Chaplain to the Forces, 1st Class (26128).

Colonel Francis Pridoux, O.B.E. (6196).

To be Additional Officers of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

Colonel Robert Allan Elliott (7005).


Colonel Herbert Ellis Gilbert, D.S.O. (26245).

Colonel James Seaton Martin (31489).

Colonel Douglas Gordon Baddeley (14243).

Colonel Lawrence Frederick Rudd, D.S.O. (2116).

Colonel (temp.) William Hawthornden (972).

Lieut.-Colonel Charles Byres Barrowclough (15438).

Lieut.-Colonel Keith Buchanan Bridge (52239).

Lieut.-Colonel Algernon Edward Barry Burns (5598).

Lieut.-Colonel Arthur Goughy Clark, C.M.G. (449).

Lieut.-Colonel Robert Vincent Closey (29072).

Lieut.-Colonel Jack Dinham Cotrell (38181).

Cancellations

The notice appearing in the New Zealand Gazette No. 7, dated 7th February, 1946, page 129, under the heading “Reserve of Air Force Officers—Transfers,” relating to “Pilot Officer Norman McDonald Reid,” is cancelled.


The notice appearing in the New Zealand Gazette No. 15, dated 14th March, 1946, page 334, under the heading “Reserve of Air Force Officers—Transfers,” so far as it relates to “Flight Lieutenant Eric Nolan Morgan,” is cancelled.

F. JONES, Minister of Defence.