



SECOND SUPPLEMENT

TO

The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 7th of MAY, 1918.

Published by Authority.

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WEDNESDAY, 8 MAY, 1918.

War Office,

8th May, 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 Men —

Major (A/Lt-Col) Oliver Cyril Spencer Watson, D S O (R of O), late K O Yorks L I

For most conspicuous bravery, self-sacrificing devotion to duty, and exceptionally gallant leading during a critical period of operations

His command was at a point where continual attacks were made by the enemy in order to pierce the line, and an intricate system of old trenches in front, coupled with the fact that his position was under constant rifle and machine-gun fire, rendered the situation still more dangerous

A counter-attack had been made against the enemy position, which at first achieved its object, but as they were holding out in two improvised strong points, Lt-Col Watson saw that immediate action was necessary,

and he led his remaining small reserve to the attack, organising bombing parties and leading attacks under intense rifle and machine-gun fire

Outnumbered, he finally ordered his men to retire, remaining himself in a communication trench to cover the retirement, though he faced almost certain death by so doing

The assault he led was at a critical moment, and without doubt saved the line. Both in the assault and in covering his men's retirement, he held his life as nothing, and his splendid bravery inspired all troops in the vicinity to rise to the occasion and save a breach being made in a hardly tried and attenuated line

Lt-Col Watson was killed while covering the withdrawal

Capt (A/Lt-Col) Frank Crowther Roberts, D S O, M C, Wore R

During continuous operations which covered over twelve days Lt-Col Roberts showed most conspicuous bravery, exceptional military skill in dealing with the many very difficult situations of the retirement,