

Lt Col. Jas Forbes Robertson C.R. 0-2

11/10

1106/8

Officer in Charge *Records*
Regular Inf. Section No. 1,
General Headquarters,
3rd Echelon, B.E.F.

HA/JC.

7th February, 7

LT.-COL. FORBES-ROBERTSON,
Att. 1st NEWFOUNDLAND REGIMENT.

Reference Daily Orders, Part II
No. 5C, 31/1/17, para. 3: Kindly
confirm the honour awarded to
Lt.-Col. Forbes Robertson, which
is stated to be the D.S.O. The
London Gazette of 1/1/17 on file
at this Office states that this
Officer was awarded the M.C.,
please.

Major,
Paymaster & Officer i/c Records.

DUPLICATE
MAIL COPY
Posted 6 - JUN 1918

8211/347/R.&G.



Hon. Minister of Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

24th May

June 20th 1918.

LT.-COL. JAMES FORBES-ROBERTSON,
V.C., D.S.O., M.C.

Having regard to this Officer's late command of the 1st Bn., the fact of his recent additional award was considered of sufficient interest to you to call for the following telegram:

"Lt.-Col.- Forbes-Robertson-
"D.S.O.- Bar- and- M.C.-
"formerly- O.C.- 1st Bn.- has
"been- awarded- Victoria
"Cross-"

Copies of the details of the deed for which Lt.-Col. Forbes-Robertson, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., won the Victoria Cross, have been sent to the public press, as I felt sure that the general interested in this gallant officer's great distinction, knowing that he had for sometime been connected with the Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

Relative particulars appear in the Supplement of the London Gazette No. 30697/8057 of 21/5/18, of which you will doubtless receive a copy in due course. Meanwhile extract is appended, please.

"Capt. (A./Lt.-Col.) James Forbes-Robertson, D.S.O., M.C., Bord.R.

(Awarded V.C.)

For most conspicuous bravery whilst commanding his battalion during the heavy fighting.

Through his quick judgment, resource, untiring energy and magnificent example, Lt.-Col. Forbes-Robertson on four separate occasions saved the line from breaking and averted a situation which might have had the most serious and far reaching results.

On the first occasion, when troops in front were falling back, in full view of the enemy, under heavy machine-gun and close he made a rapid reconnaissance on horse-back, in full view of the enemy, under heavy machine-gun fire and close range shell fire. He then organised and, still

W. J. Readell
Lieut. Colonel,
Chief Staff Officer,
for Minister of Militia.

P.T.O.

ALL COPY
8 - JUN 1918

Minute I, continued.

mounted, led a counter-attack which was completely successful in re-establishing our line. When his horse was shot under him he continued on foot.

Later on the same day, when troops to the left of his line were giving way, he went to that flank and checked and steadied the line, inspiring confidence by his splendid coolness and disregard of personal danger. His horse was wounded three times and he was thrown five times. The following day, when the troops on both his flanks were forced to retire, he formed a post at battalion headquarters and with his battalion still held his ground, thereby covering the retreat of troops on his flanks. Under the heaviest fire this gallant officer exposed himself when collecting parties, organising and encouraging.

On a subsequent occasion, when troops were retiring on his left and the condition of things on his right were obscure, he again saved the situation by his magnificent example and cool judgment. Losing a second horse, he continued alone on foot until he had established a line to which his own troops could withdraw and so conform to the general situation."

Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

HA/JC

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

MEMORANDUM.

No. 8211/347/R.&G.

From
PAY AND RECORD OFFICE,
58, VICTORIA STREET,
LONDON, S.W.
24th May, 1918

To
Hon. Minister of Militia,
St. John's,
Newfoundland.

SUBJECT:

LT.-COL. JAMES FORBES-ROBERTSON.
V.C., D.S.O., M.C.

Reference Nos.

REPLY

Dated June 20th, 1918.

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Lieut. Colonel,
Chief Staff Officer,
for Minister of Militia.

P.T.D.

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Major,
Chief Paymaster & O. i/c Records.

C.R. 0-2

Extract of Telegram to Military St. John's Hfld. dated May 23rd. 1918

"Lieut. Col., Forbes Robertson, D.S.O., Bar to M.G.,
formerly O.C. 1st Battalion has been awarded Victoria Cross".

C.R. 0-2

Extract from Telegram received from London, dated
May 23, 1918.

Lieut. Col. Forbes Robertson D.S.O. Bar & M.C. formerly
O.C. 1st Battalion has been awarded Victoria Cross.

C O P Y.

C.R. - 0 - 2

Prime Minister's Office,
St. John's, Newfoundland.
4th. March 1918.

Sir,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of February 23rd. with reference to the removal from command of the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment of Lieut. Col., A.L.Hadow, C.M.G., and Lieut. Col., C.W. Whitaker and the transfer of Lieut. Col. Forbes Robertson from the 1st Battalion, Royal Newfoundland Regiment, to the 16th Battalion Middlesex Regiment.

I am quite in accordance with your suggestion that a letter of appreciation of the excellent work of these officers while connected with our Regiment should be sent them, and it might perhaps be well if you would undertake this duty as Acting Minister of Militia.

I should be very glad to receive a copy of the letters when they are ready.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) W.F.Lloyd.

Prime Minister.

J.R.Bennett, Esq.,

Acting Minister
of Militia.

Original in M-43-17.Copy

February 25, 1918.

Hon. W.F. Lloyd,
Prime Minister,
St. John's.

Sir:-

With reference to the removal from command of the 1st and 2nd Battalion of Lt. Col. A.L. Hadow, C.M.C., and Lt. Col. C.W. Whitaker and the transfer of Lt. Col. Forbes-Robertson from the 1st Battalion Royal Newfoundland Regiment to the 16th Battalion Middlesex Regiment, I have the honour to ask whether it has been considered by the Government to send these Officers letters of appreciation for the excellent work they performed while commanding the different Battalions of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. The work of these Officers is well known to you and to all members of the Government, and I think a letter either direct from the Government or from this department on behalf of, and as the Military Representative of the Government would be a graceful act and would be appreciated by the Officers to whom they would be addressed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

(sd) J.R. BARNETT.

a/Minister of Militia.

Extract of Daily Orders Part 11.

By Lieut.Col.A.L.Hadow,C.M.G.,Comdg.Nfld.Regt. 26/8/17.

Strength. Major J.Forbes-Robertson,D.S.O., M.C.,late 2nd i/c, having taken over command of 16th Middlesex Regt.is struck off the strength of this Regt.from Aug.17th, (Auth.29th Division,C.D. 93 of 23/8/17.)

R

Extract of telegram from Major Timewell,
received May 30, 1917.

Public investiture takes place June 2nd, Hyde Park
by H.M. The King, will include.

Major Forbes Robertson.

Distinguished Service Order, Military Cross,
Original in M-37.

MENTIONS IN DESPATCHES.

LT. Col. J. Forbes-Robertson.

Authority.

London Gazette. 22/5/17

A ^Z W A R D.

June 5, 1917.

By Lieut.Col.Sir. W.E.Davidson, K.C.M.G., Officer Comdg.

Major (Temp.Lt.Col) Forbes Robertson

Has been awarded Distinguished Service Order
and Military Cross.

C.R. 0-2

A W A R D.

Extract of Regimental Order dated ~~May~~ 12, 1917.

By Lieut.Col.Sir. W. E. Davidson, K.C.M.G., Officer Comdg.

Lieut. Col. Comdg. has presente to:

Lt.Col.Forbes Robertson,

Distinguished Service Order

6
5

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER

CAPT. FORBES-ROBERTSON.

Date of Award. /4/17

Authority Daily Orders 1st Bn. 5/5/17

Reference. London Gazette 18/6/17

"For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in command of his battalion during an enemy attack He collected all the men he could find and taking up a position on the out-skirts of the village brought the hostile advance to an end by his fire. He undoubtedly saved a very critical ~~situation~~ by his promptness, bravery and example."

88th Brigade Lists.

"On April 14th after defeating a attack the enemy were advancing on Monchy. Lt. Col. Forbes-Robertson as soon as he realised the danger to the village at once collected all the men he could find and taking up a position on the outskirts of the village brought the hostile advance to and end by his fire, He undoubtedly saved a very critical situation by his promptness, bravery and example."

For information.

Governor.

4 January 1917.

No. 774.

Code Telegram from Major Timewell.

(recd. 4 January 1917)

Military Cross awarded Major Forbes Robertson in
London Gazette January 1st, for distinguished service
in the field.



C.R. ⁰⁻² *[Handwritten initials]*

(24)

PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE,
ST JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND.

November 23rd, 1916.

Dear Sir Walter Davidson,

I have to thank you for your
confidential communication of this morning, in relation to
Major Forbes Robertson.

Yours faithfully,

[Handwritten signature: J. A. ...]

His Excellency
Sir W. E. Davidson, K. C. M. G.,
Governor.

Ben Right Start. The Prime. CR 0-2

Confidential



At Col. Hadow defects Major Forbes Robertson (with T 608 31/10) & the matter had better rest. - Hadow will caution F. R. & watch him; & F. R. knowing what is thought of his manner in the messes. - We have to deal with

NEWFOUNDLAND

CONTINGENT

CABLES AND TELEGRAMS:
"SYNOPTICAL,"
LONDON.
TELEPHONE:
VICTORIA 147.

PAY & RECORD OFFICE,

58, VICTORIA STREET
LONDON, S.W.

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE ADDRESSED TO THE
PAYMASTER & OFFICER I/c RECORDS,
AND THE FOLLOWING NO. QUOTED:

Regimental consists of 1200 men, all 31st October, 1916. of the same class & all good in defence of their dignities. -

His Excellency the Governor,
St. John's, Newfoundland.

It is much to be regretted that at St. John's we have seen many making of the results of the test of Oct 12 & quite unnecessary? caused us all - especially me -

Sir,

Major Forbes Robertson.

The deeper anxiety with C

I have the honor to confirm exchange of telegrams?

Received 21/10/16.
"Synoptical, London."
"Following for Hadow begins confidential serious report spreading tactlessness Forbes Robertson & that there please advise me if suitable for present post ends."

to be from the Newfoundland (Cayley) that the Regiment had some spreading of that there was Governor."

Despatched 30/10/16 (793)
"Governor, St. John's."

"With reference to your telegram 20 October following telegram is sent at request of Hadow consider Forbes Robertson most suitable for present post and state of Regiment quite satisfactory full stop small differences would be easily adjusted if complaints were invariably made to me instead of spreading reports at home. Synoptical."

and to enclose copy of my No. 4363/160 exchanged with
O.C. 1st Bn.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

[Signature]
Capt.,

Paymaster & O.i/c Records.

HT/NW

For information.

31 Oct. 1916.

Governor.

No. 608.

Code Telegram from Capt. Timewell.
(recd. 31 October 1916)

Your Telegram 20th October (No. 229)

Following Telegram sent at request of Hadow:

Consider Forbes Robertson most suitable for present
post and services to Regiment quite satisfactory.
Small differences should be easily adjusted if complaints
were invariably made to me instead of spreading reports
at home.

No. 229.

Code Telegram to Capt. Timewell.
(sent 20 October 1916)

Following for Hadow begins-

Serious reports spreading tactlessness Forbes
Robertson.

Please advise if suitable for present position
ends.

Governor.

Newfoundland Contingent,
Pay & Record Office,
58, Victoria St., S.W.
5th January, 1917.

Dear Forbes-Robertson,

I enclose Railway Warrants
(A.B.422), Cheltenham to Ayr and
Ayr to London as requested.

There are one or two matters
which I would like to ask you
about and would be glad to see you
when convenient.

So far as I am aware Colonel
Whitaker is at Ayr, and I note
that you are telegraphing to
ascertain.

Glad to hear that the
Battalion is going strong, and
judging from those who come over
from time to time they are well and
fit.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Awaits reply

Wes

(26/10)

C.R. 0-2

NO. 229.

Code Telegram to Capt. Timewell.

(sent 20 October 1916)

Following for Hadow begins

Serious reports spreading tactlessness Forbes
Robertson.

Please advise if suitable for present position.

Ends.

Governor.

RAYNOR & CO.

GREEN BOND

A P P O I N T M E N T S .

Extract of Regimental Order dated July 18, 1916.

By Lieut.Col.Sir.W.E.Davidson,K.C.M.G.,Officer Comdg.

IST. BATTALION NOTE FROM ARTHUR STEEL MAITLAND, ESQ.,

"Dear Sir. Walter:- You will be glad to know that I have just heard from Colonel Hadow that Captain Forbes Robertson of the Border Regiment joined the Newfoundland Contingent on the 15th instant, as Second in Command.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

MEMORANDUM.

0-2

No. 8211/347/R.&.C. 0-2

From
PAY AND RECORD OFFICE,
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LONDON, S.W.
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V.C., D.S.O., M.C.

Reference Nos.

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W. H. Rendell

Lieut. Colonel,
Chief Staff Officer,
for Minister of Militia.

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT,
PAY & RECORD OFFICE.
Ref. Nos. 6369
Recd 15 JUL 1918
Ack'd
Ref. Nos. 6369
L. H.
Comd.
P. C.
R. & C. ✓
B. & E.
P. S.

P.T.O.

