



SECOND SUPPLEMENT

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War Office,
28th November, 1941.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the award of the VICTORIA CROSS to the under-mentioned:—

Lieutenant Arthur Roden Cutler (NX.12378),
Australian Military Forces.

For most conspicuous and sustained gallantry during the Syrian Campaign and for outstanding bravery during the bitter fighting at Merdjayoun when this artillery officer became a byword amongst the forward troops with whom he worked.

At Merdjayoun on the 19th June, 1941 our infantry attack was checked after suffering heavy casualties from an enemy counter attack with tanks. Enemy machine gun fire swept the ground but Lieutenant Cutler with another artillery officer and a small party pushed on ahead of the infantry and established an outpost in a house. The telephone line was cut and he went out and mended this line under machine gun fire and returned to the house, from which enemy posts and a battery were successfully engaged.

The enemy then attacked this outpost with infantry and tanks, killing the Bren gunner and mortally wounding the other officer. Lieutenant Cutler and another manned the anti-tank rifle and Bren gun and fought back driving the enemy infantry away. The tanks continued the attack, but under constant fire from the anti-tank rifle and Bren gun eventually withdrew. Lieutenant Cutler then personally supervised the evacuation of the wounded members of his party. Undaunted he pressed for a further advance. He had been ordered to establish an outpost from which he could register the only road by which the enemy transport could enter the town. With a small party of volunteers he pressed on until finally with one other he succeeded in establishing an outpost right in the town, which was occupied by the Foreign Legion, despite enemy machine gun fire which prevented our infantry from advancing.

At this time Lieutenant Cutler knew the enemy were massing on his left for a counter attack and that he was in danger of being cut off. Nevertheless he carried out his task of registering the battery on the road and engaging enemy posts. The enemy counter attacked with infantry and

tanks and he was cut off. He was forced to go to ground, but after dark succeeded in making his way through the enemy lines. His work in registering the only road by which enemy transport could enter the town was of vital importance and a big factor in the enemy's subsequent retreat.

On the night of the 23rd-24th June he was in charge of a 25-pounder sent forward into our forward defended localities to silence an enemy anti-tank gun and post which had held up our attack. This he did and next morning the recapture of Merdjayoun was completed.

Later at Damour on the 6th July when our forward infantry were pinned to the ground by heavy hostile machine gun fire Lieutenant Cutler, regardless of all danger, went to bring a line to his outpost when he was seriously wounded. Twenty-six hours elapsed before it was possible to rescue this officer, whose wound by this time had become septic necessitating the amputation of his leg.

Throughout the Campaign this officer's courage was unparalleled and his work was a big factor in the recapture of Merdjayoun.

War Office,
28th November, 1941.

REGULAR ARMY.

Maj.-Gen. W. B. Purdon, D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., M.B., K.H.S. (8159), (late R.A.M.C.), having attained the age for retirement, retires on ret. pay. 28th Nov. 1941.

The undermentioned Maj.-Gens. are granted the actg. rank of Lt.-Gen.:—

H. E. de R. Wetherall, C.B., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C. (4407). 10th Sept. 1941.

E. L. Morris, C.B., O.B.E., M.C. (6541). 18th Nov. 1941.

Lt.-Col. (temp. Brig.) W. E. Clutterbuck, M.C. (8261), R.S. Fus., is granted the actg. rank of Maj.-Gen. 18th Nov. 1941.

The undermentioned Cols., ret. pay (Res. of Off.) revert to ret. pay. 29th Nov. 1941:—

L. D. Inglefield, D.S.O. (3742), and is granted the hon. rank of Brig.

C. R. Gover, D.S.O. (21239), and is re-granted the hon. rank of Brig.

C. A. L. Graham, D.S.O. (21280), and is re-granted the hon. rank of Brig.-Gen.