

Cables and Telegrams:
"SYNOPTICAL," London.

Telephone:
VICTORIA 147.

Communications to be addressed to the
CHIEF PAYMASTER & OFFICER I/O RECORDS,
and the following No. quoted:

NEWFOUNDLAND CONTINGENT.

MEMORANDUM.

No. 8211/347/R.&C.

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.

Please return **ORIGINAL** and retain **DUPLICATE.**

Having regard to this Officer's late command of the 1st Battn, 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-"

Relative particulars appear in the Supplement of the London Gazette No. 30697/6057 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

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 public would be greatly interested in this gallant officer's great distinction, knowing that he had for some time been connected with the Royal Newfoundland Regiment.

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

P.T.O.

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.

COPY.

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., O.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.

C.R. 0-2

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.

C.R. 0-2

A ^Z W A R D. June 5, 1917.

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

Major (Tempt.Lt.Col) Forbes Robertson

Has been awarded Distinguished Service Order
and Military Cross.

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."

Awaits reply

Wes

(26)

C.R. 0-2

NO. 229.

Code Telegram to Capt. Timewell.

(sent 20 October 1916)

Following for Radow begins

Serious reports spreading tactlessness Forbes

Robertson.

Please advise if suitable for present position.

Ends.

Governor.

C.R. 0-2

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. 222.

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.

C.R. 0-2

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 MATTLAND, 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.