

War Office,  
20th March, 1931.

The KING has been pleased to issue revised and amending Warrants under His Majesty's Royal Sign Manual to the following effect:—

ROYAL WARRANT.

THE VICTORIA CROSS.

GEORGE R.I.

GEORGE THE FIFTH, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India, to all to whom these Presents shall come,

GREETING!

Whereas Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, by a Warrant under Her Sign Manual dated the 29th day of January, 1856, did create a Naval and Military Decoration to be styled and designated "The Victoria Cross," and did express Her desire that this Decoration should be highly prized and eagerly sought after by the Officers and Men of Her Naval and Military Services:

And whereas by divers subsequent Warrants other Officers and Men were admitted to and made eligible for the Decoration, and certain amendments were made to the rules and ordinances attaching thereto:

And whereas the said Warrant and subsequent Warrants before referred to, as also the rules and ordinances affecting the same, were consolidated, varied and extended by a Warrant under Our Sign Manual dated the 22nd day of May, 1920:

Now, therefore, We do hereby declare that the rules and ordinances contained in Our said Warrant heretofore in force for the governance of the said Decoration, shall be abrogated, cancelled and annulled; and in substitution thereof We by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, are graciously pleased to make, ordain and establish the following rules and ordinances for the governance of the same which shall from henceforth be inviolably observed and kept:—

*Firstly:* It is ordained that the distinction shall as heretofore be styled and designated "The Victoria Cross," and shall consist of a Maltese Cross of bronze with Our Royal Crest in the centre and underneath it an escroll bearing this inscription: "For Valour."

*Secondly:* It is ordained that the Cross shall be suspended from the left breast by a red riband of one inch and a half in width, and on those occasions when only the riband is worn a replica of the Cross in miniature shall be affixed to the centre of the riband.

*Thirdly:* It is ordained that the Cross shall only be awarded for most conspicuous bravery or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy.

*Fourthly:* It is ordained that the Cross may be awarded posthumously.

*Fifthly:* It is ordained that the names of all those persons upon or on account of whom We may be pleased to confer or present the Decoration shall be published in the London Gazette, and a Register thereof kept in the

Office of Our Principal Secretary of State for War.

*Sixthly:* It is ordained that:—

(1) Officers, Warrant Officers and subordinate Officers hereinafter referred to as Officers, Chief Petty Officers and Petty Officers hereinafter referred to as Petty Officers, men and boys hereinafter referred to as Seamen, serving in—(a) Our Navy or in ships of any description for the time being under Naval Command; (b) Our Indian Marine Service; (c) Navies or Marine Services of Our Dominions, Colonies, Dependencies or Protectorates; and (d) Our Mercantile Marine whilst serving under Naval, Military or Air Force Authority, or who in the course of their duties may become subject to enemy action;

(2) Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, men and boys hereinafter referred to as Marines, serving in Our Marines;

(3) Officers, Warrant Officers, Classes I and II, Non-Commissioned Officers, men and boys hereinafter referred to as Privates, of all ranks serving in Our Army, Our Army Reserve, Our Territorial or other Forces, and the Forces of Our Dominions, Colonies, Dependencies or Protectorates;

(4) Officers, Warrant Officers, Classes I and II, Non-Commissioned Officers, and other Airmen serving in Our Air Force, Our Air Force Reserve, Our Auxiliary Air Force, or the Air Forces of Our Dominions, Colonies, Dependencies or Protectorates;

(5) British and Indian Officers and men of all ranks of Our Indian Army, the Imperial Service Troops of Native States of India, or any other Forces there serving under the command, guidance, or direction of any British or Indian Officer, or of a Political Officer attached to such Forces on Our behalf, and

(6) Matrons, Sisters, Nurses and the Staff of the Nursing Services and other Services pertaining to Hospitals and Nursing, and Civilians of either sex serving regularly or temporarily under the orders, direction or supervision of any of the above mentioned Forces

shall be eligible for the Decoration of the Cross.

*Seventhly:* It is ordained that if any recipient of the Cross shall again perform such an act of bravery, as would have made him or her eligible to receive the Cross, such further act of bravery shall be recorded by a Bar to be attached to the riband by which the Cross is suspended, and for every such additional act of bravery, an additional Bar shall be added, and any such Bar or Bars may be awarded posthumously. For every Bar awarded a replica of the Cross in miniature shall be added to the riband when worn alone.

*Eighthly:* It is ordained that every recommendation for the award of the Decoration