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Originated 27 October 1944

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Date recommendation passed forward

Received Passed

5 Cdn Inf Brigade 2 Cdn Inf Division 2 Cdn Corps

Brigade 29 Oct 44 4 Nov 44
NOV 3 1944 NOV 11 1944
Division NOV 12 NOV 14
Corps 16 NOV 1944 29 NOV 1944
Army

Schedule No. Unit CIC (The Calgary Highlanders)

Army No. and Rank Lieutenant

Name Alexander KELLER M.M.
(Christian names must be stated)

Action for which commended
(Date and place of action must be stated)

Recommended by

Honour or Reward

(To be left blank)

On 7 October 1944 the Calgary Highlanders launched an attack to secure the village of HOOGERHEIDE and the two crossroads NORTH of it. They crossed the start line a crossroads on the NORTHERN outskirts of HONDSEIND at 0730 hours and advanced NORTH through densely wooded country.

D.G. MacLauchlan
(D.G. MacLauchlan)
Lt-Col.
CO - Calg Highrs

M.C.
IMMEDIATE
[Signature]

Number 12 Platoon of B Company commanded by Lieutenant Keller was detailed as leading platoon. Several pockets of resistance were encountered but by his aggressive leadership, good judgement and perfect control of his platoon Lieutenant Keller quickly overcame them. During these short but difficult encounters the platoon sent back some 29 prisoners.

[Signature] Brig
A/Comd 2 Cdn Inf Div
[Signature] Lt-Gen
(G.F. Simonds) Lt-Gen
Comd 2 Cdn Corps
Nov 44

As they emerged in deployed formation from the north edge of the wood at a point a few hundred meters SOUTH of the village of HOOGERHEIDE they were met by intense machine gun and rifle fire from a slight rise immediately ahead. This rise is a shrub covered and

[Signature] Lt Gen
Sgd (HD) Crerar Lt Gen
GOC-in-C
First Cdn Army P.T.O.

P.T.O. COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF 21 ARMY GROUP

and completely dominates a flat field, completely bare and offering no cover from fire or view, between it and the position where Lieutenant Keller's platoon had gone to ground. There were no covered approaches.

Lieutenant Keller estimated there were at least six machine guns firing from the high ground. He called for tank support and made a quick liaison trip to the tank troop commander, pinpointed the enemy positions and arranged a fire plan which involved the tanks providing supporting fire from his right flank while he made his attack.

The tanks deployed and opened fire. Lieutenant Keller having given brief concise orders to his platoon, with a terse "follow me" immediately proceeded at a fast walk straight across the open ground. His platoon after a short startled pause, followed his daring example and quickly closed the gap between themselves and their commander. Though fully aware of the probable strength of the enemy and the great risk he was taking, he led his platoon right into the enemy positions. As he reached the brush and ditch which concealed the enemy the tanks lifted their fire and the leading elements found themselves so completely on top of the position that they were able to reach down and remove the weapons of the surprised enemy before he could fire. Sixteen prisoners were taken with eight machine guns (MG42) and an assortment of machine carbines and rifles.

His platoon was so inspired by Lieutenant Keller's dauntless and magnificent leadership that nothing could have restrained

If a casualty as under, fill in date.

Nature of Casualty	Date
Killed in action	
Died of Wounds	
Died	
Missing	
Prisoner of War	

these men who had been forced by his example to walk into such a nest of machine guns and who had survived unscathed. The area was cleared and the company pushed on still led by 12 platoon and forty minutes later was on its objective.

Throughout the day this platoon was engaged in close fighting on five separate occasions, yet it had only three casualties. Its success and minimum casualties as well as the momentum of the company's operation were due to the outstanding bravery and leadership of Lieutenant Keller.