

Originated 17 December 1944

C.F.A. 1
40/P & S/1420 (9/42)

Date recommendation
passed forward

5 Cdn Inf Brigade ... 2 Cdn Inf ... Division ... 2 Cdn Corps

Received DEC 18 1944	Passed DEC 20 1944
Brigade DEC 21 1944	DEC 22 1944
Division DEC 22	DEC 27
Corps	
Army	8 JAN 1945

Schedule No. Unit G.I.C. (Calgary Highlanders)
(to be left blank)

Army No. and Rank Lieutenant

Name ROSS, Robert Whitla

(Christian names must be stated)

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

Recommended
by

Honour
or
Reward

(To be
left blank)

On 12 August 1944 the Calgary Highlanders were *assd. Lt. Col.* given the task of establishing a bridgehead across *Ellis*, Lt.-col., the river LAIZE near the town of CLAIR TIZON. The Calgary Highlanders, CA(O) operation involved the seizing of three intermediate *Whitla* objectives before the crossing could be made and the *Brig* bridgehead secured. Communications were of paramount *CM. INF. BDE* importance and when at the end of the second phase *de guerre* wireless failed liaison had to be established by an *with* officer on foot. *silver star*

Lieutenant Ross was chosen for this important role and although very tired from previous operations he set out immediately and under heavy enemy shell and mortar fire made his way to the forward companies, and brought back the complete picture of the situation to his commanding officer.

PTO

Whitla
Maj-Gen
Cond-2 Cdn Inf Div

P.T.O.

As the battalion's position was such that immediate bold action seemed vital to the success of the operation Lieutenant Ross volunteered to return to the forward companies, brief them and start them off. Reading the battle as he went he decided when he reached the fourth company that the opportune moment for a company to rush the bridge and seize the high ground on the far side of the river had arrived. He issued the necessary instructions accordingly and so accurate had been his analysis that the bridge was secured intact and the bridgehead established.

During all this time intense enemy fire was directed on the area in which he had to move about but regardless of the risks he was taking Lieutenant Ross remained cool, and not only performed the task detailed for which he had volunteered but studied the progress of the battle and by using initiative and excellent judgment enabled his battalion to strike at the exact moment when the chances of success were greatest.

This officer's total disregard for his personal safety, his calmness and quick thinking more than compensated for the lack of normal communications and were in no small measure responsible for the successful establishment of this important bridgehead essential to the success of the brigade plan.

If a casualty as under, fill in date.

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