

Date recommendation
passed forward

5 Cdn Inf Brigade 2 Cdn Inf Division 2 Cdn Corps

Received	Passed
AUG 28 1945	AUG 31 1945
Brigade	Division
1 SEP	4 SEP 1945
Corps	Army
6 Sep 45	26 SEP 1945

Schedule No. (to be left blank) Unit **RCCS The Calgary Highlanders**

Army No. and Rank **Lieutenant**

Name **William Syms WILLS**
(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)
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During the battle for HOOGERHIEDE, HOLLAND, on the 9th of October 1944, "A" Company was attacked very strongly and cut off from the rest of the battalion. With no communications, and completely surrounded by the enemy, it was impossible to relay vital information back to the battalion commander. The situation was serious.

W.D. Heyland Lt-Col
(WD Heyland)
Lt-Col The Calg Highrs
W.D. Heyland
COMD. 5 CDN. INF BDE.

Netherlands

Bronze Cross

Lieutenant Wills, battalion signals officer, volunteered to push forward to establish communications with the isolated company. Taking a wireless set, and accompanied by two signallers, he set off in daylight.

Maj Gen
Comd 2 Cdn Inf Div

The enemy continued his aggressive attack and his fire thickened up along the whole disorganized battalion front. Eventually the remaining companies of the battalion were busily engaging the enemy.

(G G SIMONDS) Lt Gen
GOC Cdn Forces in the Netherlands

Lieutenant Wills and his small party soon was forced to engage the enemy. One signaller was wounded. But this did not deter Lieutenant Wills from his purpose. He pushed tirelessly forward through enemy shell and mortar fire with the remaining signaller and his heavy equipment, making use of all the cover he could find.

Eventually he reached "A" Company and immediately set up his wireless set. Unfortunately some lengths of aerial had been lost on the way and he was unable to get into communication with headquarters. Appreciating this technical difficulty he quickly remedied the situation by connecting the wireless set to an aerial which was still intact on a partially demolished house. The set functioned properly and all the necessary information was passed back to battalion headquarters. With this information the battalion commander was able to plan a successful counter attack and relieve the stranded company.

The very difficult task which Lieutenant Wills set for himself was carried out successfully and in doing so he displayed courage of the highest order.

If a casualty as under, fill in date.

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