

Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, Our Secretary of State for War and the Royal Air Force as the case may be, who shall submit to Us the names of every one so recommended whom they shall consider worthy: in the case of there being no British or Indian Officer, then the Political Officer attached to the Force shall, after obtaining conclusive proof of the act of bravery as far as is possible, if he approve, submit the recommendation to Us through the proper channels.

*Ninthly*, it is ordained that in the event of any unit of our Naval, Military or Air Forces, consisting in the case of our Navy of a squadron, flotilla or ship's company, or of a detached body of seamen or marines; or in the case of our Army of a regiment, squadron, battery or company, or of a detached body of soldiers; or in the case of our Air Force of a Squadron or other body of airmen, having distinguished itself collectively by the performance of an act of heroic gallantry or daring in the presence of the enemy in such a way that the Admiral, General or other Officer in Command of the Force to which such an unit belongs, is unable to single out any individual as specially pre-eminent in gallantry or daring, then one or more of the officers, warrant officers, petty officers, non-commissioned officers, seamen, marines, private soldiers or airmen in the ranks comprising the unit shall be selected to be recommended to Us for the award of the Victoria Cross in the following manner:—

(a) When the total personnel of the unit does not exceed 100, then one officer shall be selected for the decoration by the officers engaged; and in like manner one warrant officer or petty officer or non-commissioned officer of the unit shall be selected by the warrant officers, petty officers or non-commissioned officers engaged, and one seaman, marine, private soldier or airman in the ranks shall be selected by the seamen, marines, private soldiers or airmen in the ranks engaged.

(b) When the total personnel of the unit exceeds 100 but does not exceed 200, then the number of seamen, marines, private soldiers or airmen in the ranks to be selected in the manner described in (a) shall be increased to two.

(c) When the total personnel of the unit exceeds 200 in number, the number of Crosses to be awarded in accordance with these provisions shall be the subject of special consideration by Our Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty or by one of Our Secretaries of State for submission to Us.

(d) The selection to be by a secret ballot in such manner as shall be determined in accordance with the foregoing provisions by the Officer directing the selection to be made.

(e) The death of any person engaged shall not be a bar to his selection.

(f) The names of the persons recommended in accordance with these provisions shall be submitted to Us in the manner laid down in Rule 8.

*Tenthly*, it is ordained that every recipient of the Cross, not being nor ranking as a Commissioned Officer nor in the case of Our Navy, being or ranking with a warrant officer, nor coming within Rule 11, shall from the date of the act by which the decoration has been

gained, be entitled to a special pension of Ten Pounds a year, and each additional Bar conferred under Rule 7 on such recipient shall carry with it an additional pension of Five Pounds per annum.

*Eleventhly*, every Indian Officer of Our Indian Army of rank junior to that of Second Lieutenant who shall have received the Cross shall, from the date of the act by which such decoration has been gained, be entitled to a special pension of Five hundred and twenty-five rupees a year, and each additional Bar conferred on such Indian Officer shall carry with it an additional pension of One hundred and fifty rupees a year. In the case of a Warrant or Non-Commissioned Officer or soldier of Our Indian Army aforesaid We ordain and award a special pension of One hundred and fifty rupees, with Seventy-five rupees additional for each additional Bar. On the death of these recipients of the Cross these pensions shall be continued to his widow until her death or remarriage.

*Twelfthly*, in order to make such additional provision as shall effectually maintain pure this most honourable distinction, it is ordained that if any person on whom such distinction shall be conferred be convicted of treason, cowardice, felony, or of any infamous crime, or if he or she be accused of any such offence and doth not after a reasonable time surrender himself or herself to be tried for the same, his or her name shall, by an especial Warrant under Our Royal Sign Manual, forthwith be erased from the registry of individuals upon whom the said decoration shall have been conferred and the pension conferred under Rules 10 and 11 shall cease and determine from the date of such Warrant. It is hereby further declared that We, Our Heirs and Successors, shall be the sole judges of the circumstance demanding such expulsion; moreover, We shall at all times have power to restore such persons as may at any time have been expelled, both to the enjoyment of the decoration and pension, and notice thereof of expulsion or restoration in every case shall be published in the London Gazette.

Given at Our Court at St. James's this 22nd day of May, in the eleventh year of Our reign, and in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty.

By His Majesty's Command.

*Winston S. Churchill.*

*Air Ministry,*

18th June, 1920.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

SHORT SERVICE COMMISSIONS.

Flying Officer Eric Randall Longhurst (A.) relinquishes his short-service commn. on account of ill-health contracted in the service, and is permitted to retain his rank. 19th June 1920.

FLYING BRANCH.

The undermentioned Army Officers are granted temporary commissions, on resecond-