

NOT FOR PUBLICATION, BROADCAST, OR USE ON CLUB TAPES BEFORE  
00.30. B.S.T. (i.e. FOR MORNING PAPERS) ON MONDAY 9/3/42.  
THIS EMBARGO SHOULD BE RESPECTED OVERSEAS BY PREFIXING ANY  
MESSAGES FILED WITH THE EMBARGO.

BRIGADIER JOHN CHARLES CAMPBELL, V.C., D.S.O., M.C.

Brigadier John Charles Campbell, V.C., D.S.O., M.C., Royal Horse Artillery, was born on the 10th January, 1894. Educated at San Salvator's Preparatory School, St. Andrew's, Fife, and Sedburgh, he was serving in the ranks of a Territorial Regiment at the outbreak of the Four-Years War. Six months later he went to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and received a regular commission in the Royal Artillery.

He fought in France and Belgium until a month before the Armistice, was wounded twice, mentioned in despatches and won the Military Cross. He became brevet-major in 1932 and acting lieutenant-colonel in the summer of 1940.

Brigadier Campbell was a famous horseman. For four years he was an instructor at the Wotton Equitation School. He played polo, rode at point to point meetings and hunted with the Pytchley. He was a man of splendid physique and tireless energy. Devoted to his profession, he was beloved by his men who would follow him anywhere.

For his leadership in Lybia in August and September 1940, Brigadier Campbell was awarded the D.S.O. "Whenever in action," said the official citation; "he has set a splendid example of disregard for his own safety."

On five occasions he commanded harassing parties of tanks and guns and inflicted considerable loss on the enemy, showing great energy and endurance.

In December of the same year, in the first stage of General Wavell's advance, he gained a bar to the D.S.O. by the cool and steady manner in which he encouraged his command to beat off air attacks.

One day, while performing his duties in an open truck, he encountered 17 bomber and 24 fighter attacks, giving throughout an example of the highest order by his gallant conduct.

Brigadier Campbell won his V.C. in the present Libyan campaign on November 21 and 22 at Sidi Rezegh. He commanded the troops, including one regiment of tanks, which held the Sidi Rezegh ridge and the aerodrome. There he was repeatedly attacked by a large number of enemy tanks and infantry. For two days he was the spirit of a heroic defence, always in the forefront of the heaviest fighting, encouraging his troops, staging counter-attacks with his remaining tanks and personally controlling the fire of his guns.

On two occasions he himself manned a gun to replace casualties. During the final enemy attack he was wounded but continued to control the fire of batteries which inflicted heavy losses on enemy tanks at point blank range, and finally acted as loader to one of the guns himself. In spite of his wound, he refused to leave his command.

Brigadier Campbell was married and had two daughters, now aged 17 and 9. Mrs. Campbell is a daughter of Mr. W. Rhodes.

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