

THE VICTORIA CROSS.

Bedfordshire D.S.O. Gains Further Distinction.

Eight Capture Position and Fifty-Two Prisoners.

A supplement to the "London Gazette," issued on Monday evening, announced that the King has been graciously pleased to award the Victoria Cross to four officers and two non-commissioned officers in recognition of their most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in the field.

One of the officers was Capt. Charles Calveley Foss, D.S.O., 2nd Batt. Bedfordshire Regiment, who received the V.C., for most conspicuous bravery at Neuve Chapelle on March 12th, 1915. The official record of the deed which has brought him this further distinction fully corroborates the stories we have heard from time to time of the stiff work the Bedfords have taken in hand and successfully carried through. In the present instance, Capt. Foss and eight men faced odds of more than five to one, and under a heavy fire captured a position and took prisoners over 50 Germans. Here is the official description of the deed:—

"After the enemy had captured a part of one of our trenches, and our counter-attack made with one officer and 20 men having failed (all but two of the party being killed or wounded in the attempt), Captain Foss, on his own initiative, dashed forward with eight men, under heavy fire, attacked the enemy with bombs, and captured the position, including the 52 Germans occupying it.

"The capture of this position from the enemy was of the greatest importance, and the utmost bravery was displayed in essaying the task with so very few men."