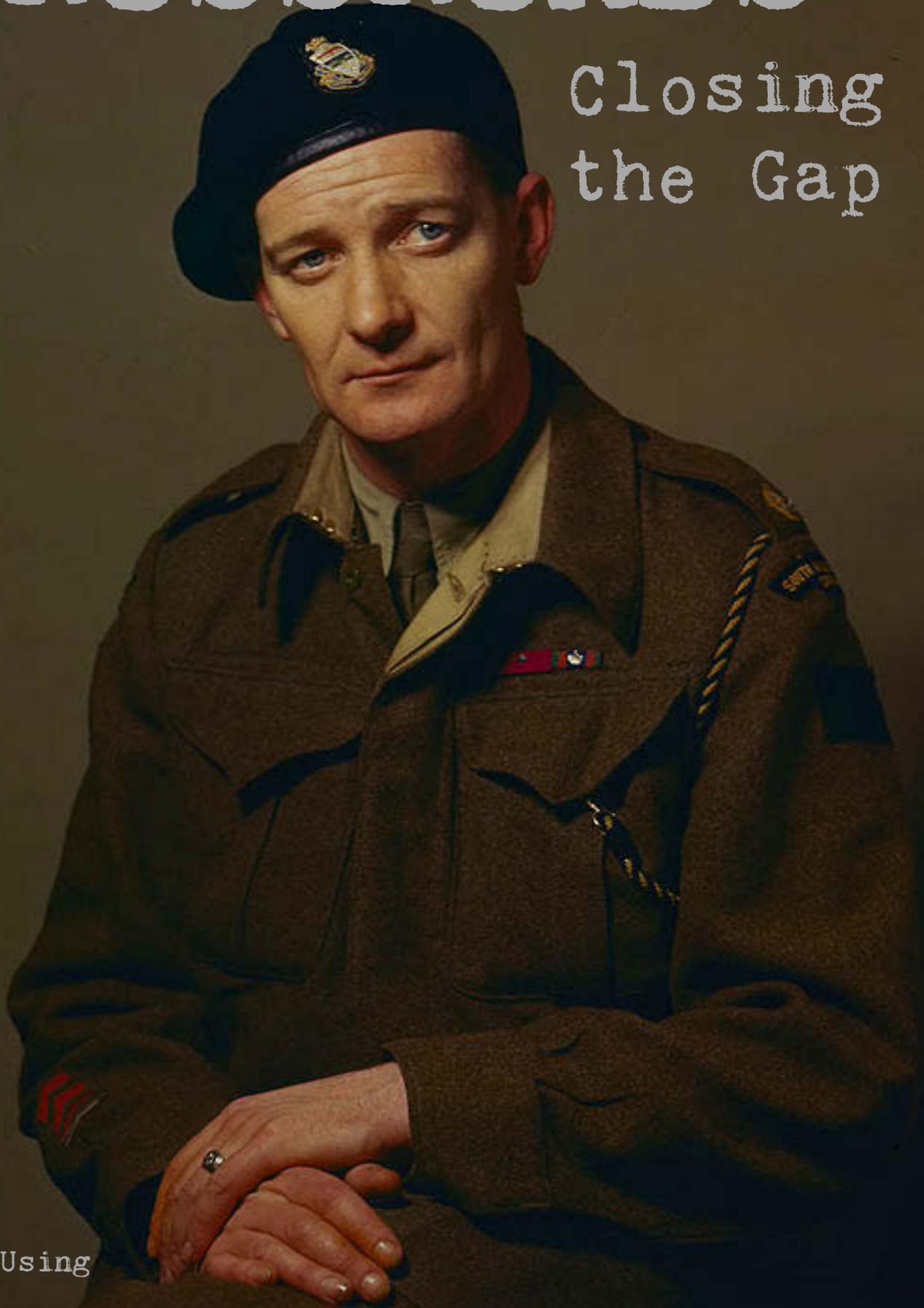


CROSSROADS

Closing
the Gap



Rules for Using

Major David Vivian Currie
VC

Crossroads, Closing the Gap

Rules for Using Major David Vivian Currie VC - Supplement



Written by Matthew Bona 2015

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MAJOR DAVID VIVIAN CURRIE V.C.

Background

Major David Currie of the *29th Canadian Armoured Reconnaissance (South Alberta) Regiment* was in command of the composite group, consisting of 'B' and later 'C' companies from the *Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders* and 'C' Squadron of the *South Alberta Regiment*, which was tasked to capture Saint-Lambert-sur-Dives. This force consisted of 175 men, of all ranks, along with the 15 tanks of the South Alberta's and self-propelled anti-tank guns of the Divisional Anti-Tank regiment.

On 18th August 1944 the order was given to advance on Saint-Lambert-sur-Dives. The two leading Tanks entered St. Lambert but had quickly been knocked out. At last light Maj. Currie entered the town under heavy mortar fire and personally directed the evacuation of the tank crews, remaining until they were clear, before returning to H.Q. On his return he discovered his supporting Infantry and self-propelled anti-tank guns had arrived, and co-ordinated their defenses to provide all round support. He then reported to his C.O. and was ordered to attack at first light.

At 05:30hrs, 19th Aug, just ten minutes before the attack was to start Maj. Currie was advised that Artillery Support would not be available. Regardless, he personally led the attack in the face of intense opposition from enemy armour and infantry. By noon he was half way into the village and decided to consolidate his position. He organised his defences accordingly and again made a tour of all positions encouraging the men with his calmness.

So skilfully had Maj Currie's defences been organised, that when the enemy attacked they were repulsed with severe casualties. During the next 36 hours, a series of counter-attacks were mounted on his positions and although these attacks increased in strength and ferocity throughout the period they were all beaten off.

On 20th August, at dusk, enemy infantry could be seen massing for an attack. Maj. Currie personally sited one Troop of tanks to engage this force and directed their fire so effectively that the attack was never mounted. During the morning of 21st August, 800 enemy soldiers from this force surrendered. By noon German morale was broken and Maj. Currie's force had completed the capture of the Village. This denied the Trun-Chambois escape route to the remnants of two German armies.

During this action Maj. Currie's force accounted for seven Tanks Destroyed, two probable, at least twelve guns (88mm and other), forty armoured and other vehicles destroyed as well as three hundred enemy killed, five hundred wounded and over twenty one hundred Prisoners of War.

Throughout these three days of action, Maj. Currie's conduct and self-sacrifice was a magnificent example to all ranks under his command. On one occasion he personally directed fire of his command tank on to a Tiger tank which had been harassing his position, and knocked it out. When reinforcements arrived, he led the men to their positions. During the next attack they withdrew under intense fire, at which he personally collected them and led them back to their position. The troops were so inspired by his leadership, they then held for the remainder of the battle.

During this operation all the officers under his command were either killed or wounded during the action. There can be no doubt that the success of the attack on and the stand against the enemy at Saint-Lambert-sur-Dives can largely be attributed to Maj. Currie's coolness, inspired leadership and skilful use of the limited weapons at his disposal. In the end the determination of Maj. Currie and his men, throughout three days and nights of fierce fighting, denied the enemy a route by which they might escape and helped affect the closing of the Falaise Gap. For his efforts Maj. Currie was awarded the Victoria Cross, the only one awarded to a Canadian during the Normandy Campaign and the only one ever awarded to a member of the Royal Canadian Armoured Corps.

His citation tells that there can be no doubt that the success of this force's task, and stand against the enemy at Saint-Lambert-sur-Dives, can only be attributed to this officer's coolness, inspired leadership and skilful use of the limited weapons at his disposal.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wotherspoon once said of Maj. Currie that he wasn't a brilliant tactician, but he was very stubborn. If he was given an order to do something that was within his capabilities, he would do it – period. This stubbornness saw Currie capture St. Lambert, defend it and see his mission out successfully to the end.

MAJOR DAVID VIVIAN CURRIE V.C.

Game Rules

PLATOON HEADQUARTERS

Maj. Currie, *Ranking Senior Leader* armed with Pistol and Sten

- Maj. Currie can replace the Platoon Commander (Lieutenant) of the Canadian force at the start of any game in the Campaign.
Maj. Currie may also automatically replace the original Platoon Commander if he is killed or captured. Once Maj. Currie is on the table, he must stay until the game ends.
- Maj. Currie counts as a 'diehard'. He does not route off the table unless a retreat is called (either voluntarily or via low force morale).
- Counts as a **Ranking Senior Leader**

NAME	INITIATIVE	RANGE
Maj. Currie	4	12"

- To reflect eye witness accounts of Maj. Currie 'being everywhere', he can deploy from a Jump Off Point on a Command Dice Roll of a 1,2,3 or 4.
- If Maj. Currie is *Wounded* roll on 'Table 16, Bad Things Happen' as for a *Senior Leader*
- If Maj. Currie is *Killed* roll on 'Table 16, Bad Things Happen' as for a *Senior Leader* and double the results.
- Should Maj Currie ever be *killed* or *captured*, the Canadian Force Morale will be reduced by 1 point in each game that is played in the campaign from that point (if Maj Currie is captured and subsequently escapes, this penalty can be removed).



Currie (left of centre, holding a revolver) accepting the surrender of German troops at St. Lambert-sur-Dives, France, 19 August 1944.