

VICTORIA CROSS AWARDS

INTRODUCTION

In the military history of both the British Empire and of the Western World, the highest British military decoration, namely the Victoria Cross, has attained considerable renown.

The Victoria Cross was introduced in terms of the Royal Warrant of 29 January, 1856 and by 1957 a total of 1 346 had been awarded, among which were 3 bars as second awards. As far as the award of the V.C. under changing conditions in warfare is concerned, the following has been extracted from an authoritative article:

The conditions of warfare changed so considerably in the succeeding hundred years that, whereas in 1856, the saving of a comrade's life under fire or the capture of a standard, was sufficient to earn a Victoria Cross, during World War II, a much higher degree of self-sacrifice was required, as was shown by the number of Victoria Crosses posthumously awarded.

This article largely stems from an inquiry recently addressed to the Military Historical and Archival Services. It was compiled and edited by Cmdt. Jan Ploeger, M.A., M.Ed., D.Phil., Acad. and Capt. F. J. Jacobs, B.A.(Hons.), U.E.D. of the Military Historical and Archival Services, S.A.D.F.

Encyclopedia Britannica, (1968), Vol. 15, p. 63. Under the heading *The V.C. and D.S.O.* (Ed. Sir O'Moore Creagh, V.C., G.C.B., G.C.S.I. and E. M. Humphris), (London), Part I, p. vii, it is estimated that the total number of V.C. awards by 1916 amounted to approximately 600 and up to 1920 to approximately 1 200.

1

WARRANTS CONCERNING THE VICTORIA CROSS (1920)

In order to get a picture of the Royal Warrants promulgated from 1856 to 1920 in respect of the Victoria Cross, the contents of the following are given in chronological sequence:

- a. Royal Warrant of 29 January, 1856.
- b. Royal Warrant of 10 August, 1858.
- c. Part of the Royal Warrant of 13 December, 1858, in conjunction with an announcement of 8 July, 1859, as published in the "London Gazette."
- d. The Royal Warrant of 1 January, 1867.
- e. The Royal Warrant of 23 April, 1881.
- f. The Royal Warrant of 6 August, 1881.
- g. The announcement of 8 August, 1902 as published in the "London Gazette" of that date.
- h. The Royal Warrant of 21 October, 1911.
- j. The Royal Warrant of 22 May, 1920.

VICTORIA R.

WHEREAS WE, taking into Our Royal consideration that there exists no means of adequately rewarding the individual gallant services either of officers of the lower grades in Our naval and military service, or of warrant and petty officers, seamen and marines in Our navy, and non-commissioned officers and soldiers in Our army, And whereas the third class of Our most Honourable Order of the Bath is limited, except in very rare cases, to the higher ranks of both services, and the granting of medals, both in Our navy and army, is only awarded for long service or meritorious conduct, rather than for bravery in action or distinction before an enemy, such cases alone excepted where a general medal is granted for a particular action or a clasp added to the medal for some special engagement, in both of which cases all share equally in the boon, and those who by their valour have particularly signalled themselves remain undistinguished from their comrades. Now, for the purpose of attaining an end so desirable as that of rewarding individual instances of merit and valour, We have instituted and created, and by these presents, for Us, Our heirs and successors, institute and create a new naval and military decoration, which We are desirous should be highly prized and eagerly sought after by the officers and men of Our naval and military services, and are graciously pleased to make, ordain and establish the following rules and ordinances for the government of the same, which shall from henceforth be inviolably observed and kept.

Firstly. — It is ordained that the distinction shall be styled and designated the "Victoria Cross," and shall consist of a Maltese Cross of Bronze with Our Royal Crest in the centre and underneath which an escroll bearing this inscription, "For Valour."

Secondly. — It is ordained that the Cross shall be suspended from the left breast by a blue riband for the navy, and by a red riband for the army.

Thirdly. — It is ordained that the names of those upon whom We may be pleased to confer the decoration shall be published in the London Gazette, and a registry thereof kept in the office of Our Secretary of State for War.

Fourthly. — It is ordained that everyone who, after having received the Cross, shall again perform an act of bravery, which, if he had not received such Cross, would have entitled him to it, such further act shall be recorded by a Bar attached to the riband by which the Cross is suspended, and for every additional act of bravery an additional Bar may be added.

Fifthly. — It is ordained that the Cross shall only be awarded to those officers or men who have served Us in the presence of the enemy, and shall have then performed some signal act of valour or devotion to their country.

Sixthly. — It is ordained, with a view to place all persons on a perfectly equal footing in relation to eligibility for the decoration, that neither rank, nor long service, nor wounds, nor any other circumstances or condition whatsoever, save the merit of conspicuous bravery, shall be held to establish a sufficient claim to the honour.

Seventhly. — It is ordained that the decoration may be conferred on the spot where the act to be rewarded by the grant of such decoration has been performed under the following circumstances:

- I. Where the naval or military force is under the eye and command of an admiral or general officer commanding the forces.

II. Where the naval or military force is under the eye and command of an admiral or commodore commanding a squadron or detached naval force, or of a general commanding a corps, or division or brigade on a distinct and detached service, when such admiral, commodore, or general officer shall have the power of conferring the decoration on the spot, subject to confirmation by us.

Eighthly. — It is ordained, where such an act shall not have been performed in the sight of a commanding officer as aforesaid, then the claimant for the honour shall prove the act to the satisfaction of the captain or officer commanding his ship, or to the officer commanding the regiment to which the claimant belongs, and such captain or such commanding officer shall report the same through the usual channel to the admiral or commodore commanding the force employed on the service, or to the officer commanding forces in the field, who shall call for such description and attestation of the act as he may think requisite, and on approval shall recommend the grant of the decoration.

Ninthly. — It is ordained that every person selected for the Cross, under Rule Seven, shall be publicly decorated before the naval or military force or body to which he belongs, and with which the act of bravery for which he is to be rewarded shall have been performed, and his name shall be recorded in a General Order, together with the cause of his especial distinction.

Tenthly. — It is ordained that every person selected under Rule Eight shall receive his decoration as soon as possible, and his name shall likewise appear in a General Order as above required, such General Order to be issued by the naval or military commander of the forces employed on the service.

Eleventhly. — It is ordained that the General Orders referred to shall from time to time be transmitted to Our Secretary of State for War, to be laid before Us, and shall be by him registered.

Twelfthly — It is ordained that as cases may arise not falling within the rules above specified, or in which a claim, though well founded, may not have been established on the spot, We will, on the joint submission of Our Secretary of State for War, and of Our Commander-in-Chief of Our army, or that of Our Lord High Admiral or Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty in the case of the navy, confer the decoration, but never without conclusive proof of the performance of the act of bravery for which the claim is made.

Thirteenthly. — It is ordained that, in the event of a gallant and daring act having been performed by a squadron, ship's company, a detached body of seamen and marines, not under fifty in number, or by a brigade, regiment, troop, or company, in which the admiral, general or other officer commanding such forces, may deem that all are equally brave and distinguished, and that no special selection can be made by them, then in such case the admiral, general, or other officer commanding may direct that for any such body of seamen and marines, or for every troop or company of soldiers, one officer shall be selected by the officers engaged for the decorations; and in like manner one petty officer or non-commissioned officer shall be selected by the petty officers and non-commissioned officers engaged; and two seamen or private soldiers or marines shall be selected by the seamen, or private soldiers, or marines engaged respectively for the decoration; and the names of those selected shall be transmitted by the senior officer in command of the naval force, brigade, regiment, troop, or company, to the admiral or general officer commanding, who shall in due manner confer the decoration as if the acts were done under his own eye.

Fourteenthly. — It is ordained that every warrant officer, petty officer, seaman, or marine, or non-commissioned officer or soldier, who shall have received the Cross, shall, from the date of the act by which the decoration had been gained, be entitled to a special pension of Ten Pounds a year, and each additional Bar conferred under Rule Four on such warrant or petty officers or non-commissioned officers or men shall carry with it an additional pension of Five Pounds per annum.

Fifteenthly. — In order to make such additional provision as shall effectually preserve pure the 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 be accused of any such offence and doth not after a reasonable time surrender himself to be tried for the same, his name shall forthwith be erased from the registry of individuals upon whom the said decoration shall have been conferred by an especial warrant under Our Royal Sign Manual, and the pension conferred under Rule Fourteen shall cease and determine from the date of such warrant. It is hereby declared that We, Our heirs and successors, shall be the sole judges of the circumstances 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.

Given at Our Court at Buckingham Palace, this twenty-ninth day of January, in the nineteenth year of Our reign, and in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six.

By Her Majesty's Command,

PANMURE.

From the London Gazette, August 10th, 1858.

By a Warrant under Her Royal Sign Manual August 10, 1858, Her Majesty was pleased to direct that the Victoria Cross should be conferred subject to the rules and ordinances already made on officers and men of Her Majesty's Naval and Military Services who may perform acts of conspicuous courage and bravery under circumstances of extreme danger, such as the occurrence of a fire on board ship, or the foundering of a vessel at sea, or under any other circumstances in which, through the courage and devotion displayed, life or public property might be saved.

From the London Gazette, July 8th, 1859.

War Office, July 6th, 1859.

THE Queen, having been graciously pleased by a warrant officer under Her Royal Sign Manual, bearing date December 13, 1858, to declare that Non-Military Persons who, as Volunteers, have borne arms against the Mutineers, both at Lucknow and elsewhere, during the late operations in India, shall be considered as eligible to receive the Decoration of the Victoria Cross, subject to the rules and ordinances already made and ordained for the government thereof, provided that it be established in any case that the person was serving under the orders of a General or other Officer in Command of Troops in the Field when he performed the Act of Bravery for which it is proposed to confer the decoration; Her Majesty has accordingly been pleased to signify Her intention to confer this high distinction on, etc., etc.

VICTORIA R.

WHEREAS, by a Warrant under Our Royal Sign Manual, countersigned by one of Our Principal Secretaries of State, and bearing date at Our Court of Buckingham Palace, the twenty-ninth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, in the nineteenth year of Our reign, We did constitute and create a new naval and military decoration, to be styled and designated the Victoria Cross, which decoration We expressed Our desire should be highly prized and eagerly sought after by the officers and men of Our naval and military services, and did also make, ordain and establish the rules and ordinances therein set forth for the government of the same to be thenceforth inviolably observed and kept.

And whereas, during the progress of the operations which We have undertaken against the Insurgent native tribes in Our Colony of New Zealand, it has happened that persons serving in the Local Forces of Our said Colony have performed deeds of gallantry, in consideration of which they are not, according to the strict provisions of Our said recited Warrant, eligible for this high distinction. Now know ye, that We, of Our especial grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, have thought fit hereby to signify Our Royal Will and Pleasure, that the said decoration may be conferred on such persons aforesaid, who may be qualified to receive the same in accordance with the rules and ordinances made, ordained and established by Us for the government thereof, by Our said recited Warrant, and we do by these presents for Us, Our heirs and successors, ordain and appoint that it shall be competent for such persons aforesaid to obtain the said decoration, in the manner set forth in the rules and ordinances referred to, or in accordance with such further rules and ordinances as may hereafter be made and promulgated by Us, Our heirs and successors, for the government of the said decoration, provided that it be established in any case that the person was serving with Our Troops, under the orders of a general or other officer, under circumstances which would entitle an officer or soldier of Our army to be recommended for the said decoration, in accordance with the rules and ordinances prescribed in Our said recited Warrant, and provided also that such person shall be recommended for it by such General or other Officer.

And We do further, for Us, Our heirs and successors, ordain and appoint that the said decoration may also be conferred, in accordance with the rules and ordinances prescribed in Our said recited Warrant, and subject to the provisos aforesaid, on such persons as may be qualified to receive the same in accordance with the said rules and ordinances who may hereafter be employed in the Local Forces, raised, or which may be raised, in Our Colonies and their dependancies, and who may be called upon to serve in co-operation with Our Troops, in military operations which it may be necessary to undertake for the suppression of rebellion against Our authority, or for repelling invasion by a Foreign enemy.

Given at Our Court at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, this first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven, in the thirteenth year of Our reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,

J. PEEL.

VICTORIA R.

WHEREAS doubts have arisen as to the qualification required for the decoration of a Victoria Cross, and whereas the description of such qualification in Our Royal Warrant of the twenty-ninth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, is not uniform, Our Will and Pleasure is that the qualification shall

be "conspicuous bravery or devotion to the country in the presence of the enemy;" and that Our Royal Warrant of the twenty-ninth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, shall be read and interpreted accordingly.

It is Our further Will and Pleasure that officers and men of Our Auxiliary and Reserve Forces (naval and military), shall be eligible for the decoration of the Victoria Cross, under the conditions of Our said Warrant, as amended by this, Our Warrant.

Given at Our Court at Osborne, this twenty-third day of April, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one, in the forty-fourth year of Our reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,

HUGH C. E. CHILDERS.

VICTORIA R.

VICTORIA, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Queen, Defender of the Faith, Empress of India, to all to whom these presents shall come, greeting.

WHEREAS, by a Warrant under Our Royal Sign Manual, countersigned by one of our Principal Secretaries of State, and bearing date at Our Court at Buckingham Palace, the twenty-ninth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, in the nine-teenth year of Our reign, We did constitute and create a new naval and military decoration, to be styled and designated the "Victoria Cross," which decoration We expressed Our desire should be highly prized and eagerly sought after by the officers and men of Our naval and military services, and did also make, ordain and establish the rules and ordinances therein set forth for the government of the same to be thenceforth inviolably observed and kept.

And whereas, by another Warrant under Our Royal Sign Manual, countersigned by one of Our Principal Secretaries of State, and bearing date at Our Court at Windsor, the twenty-ninth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-seven, in the twenty-first year of Our reign, We thought fit to signify Our Royal Will and Pleasure, that the said decoration shall be conferred on the officers and men of the naval and military services of the East India Company, who may be qualified to receive the same in accordance with the rules and ordinances made, ordained and established by Us; for the government thereof, by Our first recited Warrant, aforesaid.

And whereas it has been represented to Us that the Members of the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishments, although not receiving military commissions, are liable to be attached to an army in the field, and are then required to perform the same duties as the commissioned chaplains of Our army, who are eligible for this decoration.

Now know ye that We of Our especial grace, certain knowledge and mere motion have thought fit hereby to signify Our Royal Will and Pleasure that the said decoration shall be conferred on such persons as aforesaid, who may be qualified, to receive the same in accordance with the rules and ordinances made, ordained and established by Us, for the government thereof, by Our said first recited Warrant, and We do by these presents for Us, Our heirs and successors, ordain and appoint that it shall be competent for such persons as aforesaid to obtain the said decoration in the manner set forth in the rules and ordinances referred to, or in accordance with such further rules and ordinances as may here-

after be made and promulgated by Us, Our heirs and successors, for the government of the said decoration, provided that it be established in any case that the person was serving, for the time being, under the orders of a general or other officer in command of the troops in the field.

Given at Our Court at Osborne House, Isle of Wight, this sixth day of August, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one, in the forty-fifth year of Our reign.

By Her Majesty's Command,

HUGH C. E. CHILDERS.

From the London Gazette, August 8th, 1902.

THE King has been graciously pleased to approve of the Decoration of the Victoria Cross being given to the representatives of the undermentioned officers, non-commissioned officers and men who fell during the recent operations in South Africa in the performance of acts of valour, which would, in the opinion of the Commander-in-Chief of the Forces in the Field, have entitled them to be recommended for that distinction had they survived.

GEORGE R. & I.

GEORGE, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India, to all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting.

WHEREAS Her Majesty, Queen Victoria, by a Warrant under Her Royal Sign Manual, countersigned by one of Her Principal Secretaries of State, and bearing date at Her Court at Buckingham Palace, the twenty-ninth day of January, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-six, in the nineteenth year of Her reign, did institute and create a new naval and military decoration, to be styled and designated the "Victoria Cross," which decoration She expressed Her desire should be highly prized and eagerly sought after by the officers and men of Her Naval and Military Services, and did also make, ordain, and establish the rules and ordinances therein set forth for the government of same, to be thenceforward inviolably observed and kept.

And whereas for divers reasons Us thereunto moving, We are desirous of rewarding the individual gallant service of native officers, non-commissioned officers and men of Our Indian Army by the bestowal of the said decoration, which We are desirous shall be highly prized and eagerly sought after by the said native officers, non-commissioned officers and men.

Now know ye that We, of Our especial grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion, have thought fit hereby to signify Our Royal Will and Pleasure that the said decoration shall be conferred on the native officers, non-commissioned officers and men of Our Indian Army who may be required to receive the same, in accordance with the rules and ordinances made, ordained and established for the government thereof by the said recited Warrant, and We do by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, ordain and appoint that it shall be competent for the native officers, non-commissioned officers and men of Our Indian Army to obtain the said decoration in the manner set forth in the rules and ordinances referred to, or in accordance with any further rules and ordinances which may hereafter be made and promulgated by Us, Our Heirs and Successors, for the government of the said decoration.

And We do further, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, ordain and appoint that in place of the special pension conferred by the fourteenth rule of the said recited Warrant, every native officer who shall have received the Cross shall from the date of the act by which such decoration has been gained and entitled to a special pension of five hundred and twenty-five rupees a year, and each additional bar conferred under the fourth rule on such native officer shall carry with it an additional pension of one hundred and fifty rupees, with seventy-five rupees additional for each additional bar. On the death of the recipient of the Cross these pensions shall be continued to his widow until her death or remarriage.

Given at Our Court at St. James's this 21st day of October, in the second year of Our Reign, and in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eleven.

By His Majesty's Command,

HALDANE OF CLOAN.

GEORGE R. & I.

WHEREAS Her late Majesty Queen Victoria, by a Warrant under Her Royal Sign Manual dated 20th January, 1856, did create a Naval and Military Decoration to be styled and designated "The Victoria Cross," and did express Her desire that this decoration should be highly prized and eagerly sought after by the Officers and Men of Her Naval and Military Services.

AND WHEREAS by divers subsequent Warrants other Officers and Men were admitted to be made eligible for the decoration, and certain amendments were made to the Rules and Ordinances attaching thereto.

AND WHEREAS We deem it expedient that the said Warrant and subsequent Warrants before referred to, as also the Rules and Ordinances affecting the same, shall be consolidated, varied and extended.

NOW, THEREFORE, We do hereby declare that the said Warrants, and the Rules and Ordinances heretofore in force for the Government of the said Decoration, shall for that purpose be amended, varied, modified and extended; and in substitution thereof We by these presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, are graciously pleased to make, ordain and establish the following Rules and Ordinances for the Government of the same which shall from henceforth be inviolably observed and kept:—

Firstly: It is ordained that the distinction shall as heretofore be styled and designated "The Victoria Cross," and shall consist of a Maltese Cross of bronze with our Royal Crest in the centre and underneath it an escroll bearing this inscription: "For Valour."

Secondly: It is ordained that the Cross shall be suspended from the left breast by a red riband, and on those occasions when only the riband is worn a replica of the Cross in miniature shall be affixed to the centre of the riband.

Thirdly: It is ordained that the Cross shall only be awarded for most conspicuous bravery or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy.

Fourthly: It is ordained that the Cross may be awarded posthumously,

Fifthly: It is ordained that the names of all those persons upon or on account of whom We may be pleased to confer or present the decoration shall be published in the London Gazette, and a Registry thereof kept in the Office of Our Secretary of State for War.

Sixthly: It is ordained that:—

- (1) Officers, Warrant Officers and subordinate Officers hereinafter referred to as Officers, Chief Petty Officers and Petty Officers hereinafter referred to as Petty Officers, men and boys hereinafter referred to as Seamen, serving in — (a) our Navy or in ships of any description for the time being under Naval Command; (b) our Indian Marine Service; (c) Natives of Marine Services of our Dominions, Colonies, Dependencies or Protectorates; and (d) our Mercantile Marine whilst serving under Naval or Military Authority, or who in the course of their duties may become subject to enemy action;
- (2) Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, men and boys hereinafter referred to as Marines, serving in our Marines;
- (3) Officers, Warrant Officers (Classes I, and II), Non-Commissioned Officers, men and boys hereinafter referred to as Privates, of all ranks serving in our Army Reserve, our Territorial or other forces, and the Forces of the Dominions, Colonies, Dependencies or Protectorates;
- (4) Officers, Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Airmen in the ranks of Our Air Force, or the Air Forces of our Dominions, Colonies, Dependencies or Protectorates;
- (5) British and Indian Officers and men of all ranks of Our Indian Army, the Imperial Service Troops of Native States of India, or any other Forces there serving under the Command, guidance, or direction of any British or Indian Officer, or of a Political Officer attached to such Forces on Our behalf, and
- (6) Matrons, sisters, nurses and the staff of the Nursing Services and other Services pertaining to Hospitals and Nursing, and Civilians of either sex serving regularly or temporarily under the Orders, direction or supervision of any of the above mentioned Forces

shall be eligible for the decoration of the Cross.

Seventhly: It is ordained that if the recipient of the Cross shall again perform such an act of bravery, as would have made him or her eligible to receive the Cross, such further act of bravery shall be recorded by a Bar to be attached to the Riband from which the Cross is suspended, and for every such additional act of bravery, an additional Bar shall be added, and any such Bar or Bars may be awarded posthumously. For every Bar awarded a replica of the Cross in miniature shall be added to the riband when worn alone.

Eighthly: It is ordained that every recommendation for the Award of the decoration of the Cross shall be made and reported through the usual channel to the Senior Naval, Military or Air Force Officer Commanding the Force, who shall call for such description, conclusive proof as far as the circumstances of the case will allow, and attestation of the act as he may think requisite, and if he approve he shall recommend the grant of the decoration to Our 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 or 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 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 1d, 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 or 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 under the 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.

2

**CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF ALL MILITARY
PERSONNEL TO WHOM VICTORIA
CROSSES WERE AWARDED ON
SOUTHERN AFRICAN SOIL, ON ACTIVE
SERVICE WITH IMPERIAL, COLONIAL AND
SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES, AND SOUTH
AFRICANS ON ACTIVE SERVICE WITH
THE IMPERIAL FORCES**

Serial No.	Surname	Christian Names	Rank
1	Crowe	Joseph Petrus Hendrik	Lt.
2	Chard	John Rouse Merriott	Lt.
3	Bromhead	Gonville	Lt.
4	Williams	John	Pte.
5	Hook	Henry	Pte.
6	Jones	William	Pte.
7	Jones	Robert	Pte.
8	Allen	William	Cpl.
9	Hitch	Frederick	Pte.
10	Melvill	Teignmouth	Lt.
11	Coghill	Nevill Josiah Aylmer	Lt.
12	Buller	Redvers Henry	Capt. (Brevet Lt.-Col.)
13	Leet	William Knox	Maj.
14	Reynolds	James Henry	Surgeon-Maj.
15	Brown	Edward Stevenson	Lt.
16	Wassall	Samuel	Pte.
17	Moore	Hans Garrett	Maj.
18	Beresford	Lord William Leslie de la Poer	Capt.
19	*D'Arcy	Cecil	Capt.
20	*O'Toole	Edmund	Sgt.
21	Dalton	James Langley	Acting Assistent Commissary Cpl.
22	*Schiess	Ferdinand Christian	Cpl.
23	Booth	Anthony	Colour Sgt.
24	Flawn	Thomas	Pte.
25	Fitzpatrick	Francis	Pte.
26	*Brown	Peter	Trooper
27	*Scott	Robert George	Sgt. (Provisional)
28	Farmer	Joseph John	L./Cpl.
29	*McCrae	John Frederick	Surgeon-Maj.
30	*Hartley	Edmund Baron	Surgeon-Maj.
31	Hill-Walker	Alan Richard	Lt.
32	Doogan	John	Pte.
33	Murray	James	L./Cpl.
34	*Danaher	John	Trooper
35	Osborne	James	Pte.
36	Lysons	Henry	Lt.
37	Fowler	Edmond	Pte.
38	*Nesbitt	Randolph Cosby	Capt.
39	*Henderson	Herbert Stephen	Trooper
40	*Baxter	Frank William	Trooper
41	Congreve	Walter Norris	Capt.
42	Roberts	Frederick Hugh Sherston	Lt.
43	Nurse	George Edward	Cpl.
44	Reed	Hamilton Lyster	Capt.
45	Babtie	William	Maj.
46	Phipps-Hornby	Edmund John	Maj.
47	Parker	Charles	Sgt.

* S.A. Forces.

Regiment	Campaign	Date Awarded
<i>78th Highlanders</i>	India	15 January, 1858
<i>Royal Engineers</i>	Zululand	2 May, 1879
<i>2nd Battalion 24th Regiment</i>	Zululand	2 May, 1879
<i>2nd Battalion 24th Regiment</i>	Zululand	2 May, 1879
<i>2nd Battalion 24th Regiment</i>	Zululand	2 May, 1879
<i>2nd Battalion 24th Regiment</i>	Zululand	2 May, 1879
<i>2nd Battalion 24th Regiment</i>	Zululand	2 May, 1879
<i>2nd Battalion 24th Regiment</i>	Zululand	2 May, 1879
<i>1st Battalion 24th Regiment</i>	Zululand	2 May, 1879
<i>1st Battalion 24th Regiment</i>	Zululand	2 May, 1879
<i>Kings Royal Rifles</i>	Zululand	17 June, 1879
<i>1st Battalion 13th Regiment</i>	Zululand	17 June, 1879
<i>Army Medical Department</i>	Zululand	17 June, 1879
<i>1st Battalion 24th Regiment</i>	Zululand	17 June, 1879
<i>80th (South Staffordshire) Regiment</i>	Zululand	17 June, 1879
<i>Connaught Rangers</i>	South Africa	27 June, 1879
<i>9th Queens Royal Lancers</i>	Zululand	23 August, 1879
<i>Frontier Light Horse</i>	Ulundi	9 October, 1879
<i>Frontier Light Horse</i>	Ulundi	9 October, 1879
<i>Commissariat and Transport Corps</i>	Zululand	17 November, 1897
<i>2nd Natal Native Contingent</i>	Rorkes Drift	29 November, 1879
<i>80th (South Staffordshire) Regiment</i>	Zululand	23 February, 1880
<i>94th Foot Regiment</i>	South Africa	23 February, 1880
<i>94th Foot Regiment</i>	South Africa	23 February, 1880
<i>Cape Mounted Rifles</i>	Basutoland	12 April, 1880
<i>Cape Mounted Rifles</i>	South Africa	1 October, 1880
<i>Army Hospital Corps</i>	Transvaal	16 May, 1881
<i>1st Cape Mounted Yeomanry</i>	Tweefontein	28 June, 1881
<i>Cape Mounted Rifles</i>	South Africa	4 October, 1881
<i>Northern Rifles</i>	South Africa	13 March, 1882
<i>Late 1st Dragoon Guards</i>	South Africa	14 March, 1882
<i>Late 2nd Battalion Connaught Rangers</i>	South Africa	14 March, 1882
<i>Nourse's Horse</i>	South Africa	14 March, 1882
<i>2nd Battalion Northhamshire Regiment</i>	South Africa	14 March, 1882
<i>2nd Battalion Scottish Rifles</i>	South Africa	5 April, 1882
<i>2nd Battalion Scottish Rifles</i>	South Africa	5 April, 1882
<i>Mashonaland Mounted Police</i>	Mashonaland	17 May, 1897
<i>Bulawayo Field Force</i>	Rhodesia	17 May, 1897
<i>Bulawayo Field Force</i>	Rhodesia	17 May, 1897
<i>Rifle Brigade</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	2 February, 1900
<i>Kings Royal Rifles</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	2 February, 1900
<i>Royal Field Artillery</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	2 February, 1900
<i>Royal Field Artillery</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	2 February, 1900
<i>Royal Army Medical Corps</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	20 April, 1900
<i>Q Battery Royal Horse Artillery</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	26 June, 1900
<i>Q Battery Royal Horse Artillery</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	26 June, 1900

Serial No.	Surname	Christian Names	Rank
48	Lodge	Isaac	Gunner
49	Glasscock	Horace Harry	Driver
50	Towse	Ernest Beachcroft Beckwith	Capt.
51	Fitzclarence	Charles	Capt.
52	Milbanke	Sir John Peniston	Lt.
53	*Martineau	Horace Robert	Sgt.
54	*Ramsden	Horace E.	Trooper
55	Meiklejohn	Matthew Fontaine Maury	Capt.
56	Norwood	John	2/Lt.
57	MacKay	John Frederick	Cpl.
58	Robertson	William	Sgt.-Maj.
59	Mansel-Jones	Conwyn	Capt.
60	Richardson	Arthur Herbert Lindsay	Sgt.
61	Gordon	William Eagleson	Capt.
62	Ward	Charles	Pte.
63	Shaul	John David Francis	Cpl.
64	Engelheart	H.	Sgt.
65	Kirby	Frank Howard	Cpl.
66	Bisdee	John Hulton	Pte.
67	Parsonsons	Francis Newton	Lt.
68	Wylly	Guy George Egerton	Lt.
69	Knight	H. J.	Cpl.
70	Brown-Synge-Hutchinson	Edward Douglas	Maj.
71	Inkson	Edgar Thomas	Lt.
72	Doxat	Alexis C.	Lt.
73	Lawrence	Tom	Sgt.
74	Curtis	A. E.	Pte.
75	Heaton	William	Pte.
76	Nickerson	William Henry Snyder	Lt.
77	Beet	Harry Churchill	Cpl.
78	*Mullins	Charles Herbert	Capt.
79	*Johnston	Robert	Capt.
80	Maxwell	Francis Aylmer	Lt.
81	Douglas	Henry Edward Manning	Lt.
82	Farmer	Donald	Sgt.
83	Cockburn	Hampden Zane Churchill	Lt.
84	Turner	Richard Ernest William	Lt.
85	Holland	E. J.	Sgt.
86	Howse	Neville Reginald	Capt.
87	Masterson	James Edward Ignatius	Lt.
88	*Clements	J. J.	Cpl.
89	Ravenhill	George	Pte.
90	Firth	James	Sgt.
91	Scott	Robert	Pte.
92	Pitts	J.	Pte.
93	Schofield	Harry Norton	Capt.
94	Dugdale	Frederic Brooks	Lt.
95	Traynor	William Bernard	Sgt.
96	Bell	Frederick William	Lt.
97	English	William John	Lt.
98	Hardham	William James	Farrier-Maj.

* S.A. Forces.

Regiment	Campaign	Date Awarded
<i>Q Battery Royal Horse Artillery</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	26 June, 1900
<i>Q Battery Royal Horse Artillery</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	26 June, 1900
<i>Gordon Highlanders</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	6 July, 1900
<i>Royal Fusiliers</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	6 July, 1900
<i>10th Hussars</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	6 July, 1900
<i>Protectorate Regiment</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	6 July, 1900
<i>Protectorate Regiment</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	6 July, 1900
<i>Gordon Highlanders</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	20 July, 1900
<i>5th Dragoon Guards</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	20 July, 1900
<i>Gordon Highlanders</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	10 August, 1900
<i>Gordon Highlanders</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	20 July, 1900
<i>West Yorkshire Regiment</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	20 July, 1900
<i>Lord Strathcona's Horse</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	14 September, 1900
<i>Gordon Highlanders</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	28 September, 1900
<i>King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	28 September, 1900
<i>Highland Light Infantry</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	28 September, 1900
<i>10th Royal Hussars</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	5 October, 1900
<i>Royal Engineers</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	5 October, 1900
<i>Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	13 November, 1900
<i>Essex Regiment</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	20 November, 1900
<i>Tasmanian Imperial Bushmen</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	23 November, 1900
<i>1st Battalion Liverpool Regiment</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	4 January, 1901
<i>14th Hussars</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	15 January, 1901
<i>Royal Army Medical Corps</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	15 January, 1901
<i>Imperial Yeomanry</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	15 January, 1901
<i>17th Lancers</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	15 January, 1901
<i>2nd Battalion East Surrey Regiment</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	15 January, 1901
<i>1st Battalion Liverpool Regiment</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	18 January, 1901
<i>Royal Army Medical Corps</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	12 February, 1901
<i>1st Battalion Mounted Infantry</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	12 February, 1901
<i>Imperial Light Horse</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	12 February, 1901
<i>Imperial Light Horse</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	12 February, 1901
<i>Indian Staff Corps</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	8 March, 1901
<i>Royal Army Medical Corps</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	12 April, 1901
<i>1st Battalion Cameron Highlanders</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	12 April, 1901
<i>Royal Canadian Dragoons</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	23 April, 1901
<i>Royal Canadian Dragoons</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	23 April, 1901
<i>Royal Canadian Dragoons</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	23 April, 1901
<i>New South Wales Medical Staff Corps</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	4 June, 1901
<i>1st Battalion Devonshire Regiment</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	4 June, 1901
<i>Remington's Guards</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	4 June, 1901
<i>2nd Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	4 June, 1901
<i>1st Battalion West Riding Regiment</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	11 June, 1901
<i>1st Battalion Manchester Regiment</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	26 July, 1901
<i>1st Battalion Manchester Regiment</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	26 July, 1901
<i>Royal Field Artillery</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	30 August, 1901
<i>5th Royal Irish Lancers</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	17 September, 1901
<i>2nd Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	17 September, 1901
<i>West Australian Mounted Infantry</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	4 October, 1901.
<i>2nd Scottish Horse</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	4 October, 1901.
<i>4th New Zealand Contingent</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	4 October, 1901.

Serial No.	Surname	Christian Names	Rank
99	Hampton	Harry	Sgt.
100	Crandon	Henry George	Pte.
101	Kennedy	Charles Thomas	Pte.
102	Durrant	Edward	Pte.
103	*Young	Alexander	Sgt.-Maj.
104	Price-Davies	Llewelyn Alberic Emilius	Lt.
105	Bees	William	Pte.
106	Bradley	Frank George	Driver
107	*Crean	Thomas Joseph	Surgeon-Capt.
108	Maygar	Leslie Cecil	Lt.
109	*Rogers	James	Sgt.
110	*Martin-Leake	Arthur	Surgeon-Capt.
111	Younger	David Reginald	Capt.
112	Digby-Jones	Robert James Thomas	Lt.
113	*Albrecht	Herman	Trooper
114	Coulsen	Gustavius Hamilton Blenkinsopp	Lt. and Adj.
115	Atkinson	Alfred	Sgt.
116	Barry	J.	Pte.
117	Ind	Alfred Ernest	Shoeing-Smith
118	House	William	Pte.
119	**Rendle	Thomas Edward	L./Cpl.
120	*Faulds	William Frederick	Pte.
121	*Bloomfield	William Anderson	Capt.
122	*Booth	Frederick Charles	Sgt.
123	***Reid	Oswald Austin	Capt.
124	*Hewitt	William Henry	L./Cpl.
125	***Sherwood-Kelly	John	Maj. Acting Lt.-Col.
126	†Lascelles	Arthur Moore	Lt. Acting Capt.
127	***Hayward	Reginald Frederick Johnson	Capt.
128	†West	Richard Annesley	Capt.
129	***Beauchamp-Proctor	Andrew Weatherby	Lt.
130	†Gorle	Robert Vaughan	Lt.
131	***Nettleton	John Dering	Acting Squadron Leader
132	*Smythe	Quentin George Murray	Sgt.
133	*Norton	Gerard Ross	Capt.
134	*Swales	Edwin	Capt.

* S.A. Forces.

** Joined S.A. Forces later.

*** Born in S.A.

† Lived in S.A. prior to enlistment in U.K. Forces.

Regiment	Campaign	Date Awarded
<i>2nd Battalion Liverpool Regiment</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	18 October, 1901
<i>18th Hussars</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	18 October, 1901
<i>2nd Battalion Highland Light Infantry</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	18 October, 1901
<i>2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	18 October, 1901
<i>Cape Police</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	8 November, 1901
<i>King's Royal Rifle Corps</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	29 November, 1901
<i>Derbyshire Regiment</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	17 December, 1901
<i>6th Battery Royal Field Artillery</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	27 December, 1901
<i>1st Imperial Light Horse</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	11 February, 1902
<i>5th Victorian Mounted Rifles</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	11 February, 1902
<i>S.A. Constabulary</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	18 April, 1902
<i>S.A. Constabulary</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	13 May, 1902
<i>Gordon Highlanders</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	8 August, 1902
<i>Royal Engineers</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	8 August, 1902
<i>Imperial Light Horse</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	8 August, 1902
<i>King's Own Scottish Borderers</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	8 August, 1902
<i>1st Battalion Yorkshire Regiment</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	8 August, 1902
<i>1st Battalion Royal Irish Regiment</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	8 August, 1902
<i>Royal Artillery</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	15 August, 1902
<i>2nd Battalion Royal Berkshire Regiment</i>	South Africa 1899-1902	7 October, 1902
<i>Duke of Cornwallis Light Infantry</i>	France	11 January, 1915
<i>S.A. Infantry</i>	Delville Wood	9 September, 1916
<i>Scouts Corps S.A. Mounted Brigade</i>	East Africa	30 December, 1916
<i>S.A. Forces attached Rhodesian Native Regt.</i>	East Africa	8 June, 1917
<i>1st Battalion King's Regiment</i>	1st World War 1914-'18	8 June, 1917
<i>S.A. Infantry</i>	France	26 November, 1917
<i>Norfolk Regiment</i>	France	11 January, 1918
<i>2nd Durban Light Infantry</i>	France	11 January, 1918
<i>6th Battalion Wiltshire Regiment</i>	France	24 April, 1918
<i>Northern Irish Corps attached Tank Corps</i>	France	30 October, 1918
<i>84th Squadron R.F.C.</i>	1st World War 1914-'18	30 November, 1918
<i>A Battery 50th Brigade Royal Field Artillery</i>	France	14 December, 1918
<i>44th (Rhodesian) Squadron</i>	Over Germany	28 April, 1942
<i>Natal Carbineers</i>	Western Desert, N. Africa	11 September, 1942 8 August, 1902
<i>U.D.F. Seconded Imperial Forces</i>	Italy	26 October, 1944
<i>S.A.A.F. Seconded R.A.F.</i>	Over Germany	24 April, 1945

3

VICTORIA CROSSES AWARDED TO MEMBERS OF IMPERIAL FORCES ON ACTIVE SERVICE IN SOUTH AFRICA

*Serial
Number*

- 2 Lieutenant J. M. R. Chard.
- 3 Lieutenant G. Bromhead.
- 4 Private J. Williams.
- 5 Private H. Hook.
- 6 Private W. Jones.
- 7 Private R. Jones.
- 8 Corporal W. Allen.
- 9 Private F. Hitch.
- 10 Lieutenant T. Melvill.
- 11 Lieutenant N. J. A. Coghill.
- 12 Captain (Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel), R. H. Buller, *Chinese Medal with two Clasps.*
- 13 Major W. K. Leet.
- 14 Surgeon Major J. H. Reynolds.
- 15 Lieutenant E. S. Browne.
- 16 Private S. Wassall.
- 17 Major H. G. Moore, *Central India Medal and Clasp, Ashanti War Medal and Clasp.*
- 18 Captain Lord W. L. de la P. Beresford, *Jowaki Expedition Medal and Clasp, Afghan Medal and Clasp.*
- 21 Acting Assistant Commissary J. L. Dalton.
- 23 Colour Sergeant A. Booth.
- 24 Private T. Flawn.
- 25 Private F. Fitzpatrick.
- 28 Provisional Lance Corporal J. J. Farmer.
- 31 Lieutenant A. R. Hill-Walker, *Zulu War Medal.*
- 32 Private J. Doogan.
- 33 Lance Corporal J. Murray.
- 35 Private J. Osborne.
- 36 Lieutenant H. Lysons, *Zulu War Medal and Clasp.*
- 37 Private E. Fowler.
- 47 Captain W. N. Congreve, *King's Medal and Two Clasps, Queen's Medal and Seven Clasps.*
- 42 Lieutenant F. H. S. Roberts, *North-West Frontier of India Medal and Clasp.*
- 43 Corporal G. E. Nurse.
- 44 Captain H. L. Reed.
- 45 Major W. Babbie, *Relief of Ladysmith Medal and Five Clasps.*
- 46 Major (Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel) E. J. Phipps-Hornby.
- 47 Sergeant C. Parker, *Queen's Medal and Clasp.*
- 48 Gunner I. Lodge.
- 49 Driver H. H. Glasscock.
- 50 Captain E. B. B. Towse, *Malakand Medal and Clasp, North-West Frontier of India Medal and Clasp, Queen's Medal and Three Clasps.*

*Serial
Number*

- 51 Captain C. Fitzclarance.
 52 Lieutenant Sir J. P. Milbanke, *South Africa Medal and Six Clasps.*
 55 Captain M. F. M. Meicklejohn, *India Medal and Three Clasps.*
 56 Second Lieutenant J. Norwood.
 57 Corporal J. F. Mackay, *Tirah Medal, Punjab Frontier Medal and Two Clasps.*
 58 Sergeant-Major W. Robertson.
 59 Captain C. Mansel-Jones.
 60 Sergeant A. H. L. Richardson.
 61 Captain W. E. Gordon, *(New) Frontier Medal and Clasp.*
 62 Private C. Ward, *South African Medal and Two Clasps.*
 63 Corporal J. D. F. Shaul, *Queen's Medal, King's Medal and Five Clasps.*
 64 Sergeant H. Engelheart.
 65 Corporal F. H. Kirby, *Distinguished Conduct Medal (D.C.M.),*
 66 Private J. H. Bisdee.
 67 Lieutenant F. N. Parsonsons.
 68 Lieutenant G. G. E. Wylly, *Queen's Medal and Three Clasps.*
 69 Corporal H. J. Knight.
 70 Major E. D. Browne-Synge-Hutchinson.
 71 Lieutenant E. T. Inkson, *Queen's Medal and Five Clasps, King's Medal and Two Clasps.*
 72 Lieutenant A. C. Doxat.
 73 Sergeant T. Lawrence.
 74 Private A. E. Curtis.
 75 Private W. Heaton.
 76 Lieutenant W. H. S. Nickerson.
 77 Corporal H. C. Beet, *Punjab Frontier Medal and Two Clasps.*
 80 Lieutenant F. A. Maxwell, *Waziristan Medal and Clasp, Chitral Medal and Clasp, D.S.O.*
 81 Lieutenant H. E. M. Douglas, *Queen's Medal and Two Clasps, D.S.O.*
 82 Sergeant D. Farmer, *British Medal, Khedive's Medal and Five Clasps, Queen's Medal and Four Clasps, King's Medal and Two Clasps.*
 83 Lieutenant H. Z. C. Cockburn, *Royal Canadian Humane Society's Medal.*
 84 Lieutenant (Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel) R. E. W. Turner, D.S.O.
 85 Sergeant E. J. Holland.
 86 Captain N. R. Howse, *Queen's Medal and Six Clasps, King's Medal and Two Clasps.*
 87 Lieutenant J. E. I. Masterson, *Tel-el-Kebir Medal and Clasp, Khedive's Star, Burma Medal and Clasp, North-West Frontier of India Medal and Two Clasps.*
 89 Private G. Ravenhill.
 90 Sergeant J. Firth, *Queen's Medal and Clasp.*
 91 Private R. Scott.
 92 Private J. Pitts.
 93 Captain H. N. Schofield, *Queen's Medal and Six Clasps.*
 94 Lieutenant F. B. Dugdale.
 95 Sergeant W. B. Traynor.
 96 Lieutenant F. W. Bell.
 97 Lieutenant W. J. English.
 98 Farrier Major W. J. Hardham.
 99 Sergeant H. Hampton.
 100 Private H. G. Crandon.

*Serial
Number*

- 101 Private C. T. Kennedy.
- 102 Private E. Durrant.
- 104 Lieutenant L. A. E. Price-Davies, *Queen's Medal and Five Clasps, King's Medal and Two Clasps, D.S.O.*
- 105 Private W. Bees, *Tirah Campaign Medal, Queen's Medal and Three Clasps, King's Medal and Two Clasps.*
- 106 Driver F. G. Bradley.
- 108 Lieutenant L. C. Maygar, *Queen's Medal and Four Bars.*
- 111 Captain D. R. Younger, *Punjab Frontier Medal and Three Clasps.*
- 112 Lieutenant R. J. T. Digby Jones.
- 114 Lieutenant and Adjutant J. H. B. Coulsen, *South African Medal and Five Clasps, D.S.O.*
- 115 Sergeant A. Atkinson.
- 116 Private J. Barry, *India Medal and Three Clasps, South African Medal and Three Clasps.*
- 117 Shoeing-Smith A. E. Ind.
- 118 Private W. House.

4

**VICTORIA CROSSES AWARDED TO
MEMBERS OF COLONIAL FORCES ON
ACTIVE SERVICE IN SOUTH AFRICA**

a. *Awarded to*

*Serial
Number*

- 19 Captain C. D'Arcy.
- 20 Sergeant E. O'Toole.
- 22 Corporal F. C. Schiess.
- 26 Trooper P. Brown.
- 27 Sergeant R. G. Scott.
- 29 Surgeon Major J. F. McCrea.
- 30 Surgeon Major E. B. Hartley, *Morosi Rebellion Medal and Clasp.*
- 34 Trooper J. Danaher.
- 38 Captain R. C. Nesbitt.
- 39 Trooper H. S. Henderson.
- 40 Trooper F. W. Baxter.
- 53 Sergeant H. R. Martinson, *South African Medal.*
- 54 Trooper H. E. Ramsden.
- 78 Captain C. H. Mullins.
- 79 Captain R. Johnston.
- 88 Corporal J. J. Clements.
- 103 Sergeant-Major A. Young.
- 107 Surgeon Captain T. J. Crean.
- 109 Sergeant J. Rogers.
- 110 Surgeon Captain A. Martin-Leake.
- 113 Trooper H. Albrecht.

b. Citations

19. *D'Arcy, Cecil (Capt.).*

Born in New Zealand, where his father Oliver Barker D'Arcy was in garrison with the Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. On his retirement he settled in King Williams Town, South Africa, and became an officer in the *Cape Mounted Riflemen*.

On the outbreak of the Zulu War, Cecil D'Arcy became an officer in the *Frontier Light Horse* and was awarded the Victoria Cross.

The Citation reads:

For his gallant conduct on the 3rd July, 1879, during the reconnaissance made before Ulundi by the Mounted Corps, in endeavouring the rescue of Trooper Raubenheimer of the Frontier Light Horse, who fell from his horse as the troops were retiring. Capt. D'Arcy, though the Zulus were close upon them, waited for the man to mount behind him. The horse kicked them both off and though much hurt by the fall and quite alone, Capt. D'Arcy coolly endeavoured to lift the trooper, who was stunned by the fall, onto the horse, and it was only when he found that he had not the strength to do so, that he mounted and rode off. His escape was miraculous, as the Zulus had actually closed in on him'.

According to Col. B. C. Judd, O.B.E., D'Arcy later joined the *Cape Mounted Riflemen* and served in Basutoland in 1880-81. He was found dead in the Pirie Forest in his early eighties.

20. *O'Toole, Edmund (Sgt.).*

Sgt. Edmund O'Toole was awarded the Victoria Cross while serving with the *Frontier Light Horse* in the Zulu War.

The Citation reads:

For his conspicuous courage and bravery on several occasions during the campaign and especially for his conduct on the 3rd July, 1879, at the close of the reconnaissance before Ulundi, in assisting to rescue Sgt. Fitzmaurice, 1st Bn. 24th Mounted Infantry, whose horse fell and rolled on him, as the troops retired before great numbers of the enemy. When lifted on behind him by Lord William Beresford, the man being half stunned by the fall, could not hold on, and he must have been left, had not Sgt. O'Toole, who was keeping back the advancing Zulus, given up his carbine and assisted to hold Sgt. Fitzmaurice on the horse. At the time the Zulus were rapidly closing on them, and there was no armed man between them and Sgt. O'Toole'.

O'Toole's name appears on the Nominal Roll of the *Pioneer Column*, which occupied Mashonaland in 1890. He was in "A" Troop under Capt. Heany.

22. *Schiess, Ferdinand Christian (Cpl.).*

Cpl. Ferdinand Christian Schiess was born on 7 April, 1856 at Burgdorf, Berne, Switzerland, son of Niklaus and Anna Schiess. He settled in Natal at an early age. He won the Victoria Cross on the night of 22/23 January, 1879 at Rorke's Drift.

The Citation reads:

Cpl. Schiess, 2 Natal Native Contingent, for conspicuous bravery in the Defence of Rorke's Drift Post on the night of the 22nd January, 1879, when, in spite of his having been wounded in the foot a few days pre-

viously, he greatly distinguished himself when the Garrison were repulsing with the bayonet a series of desperate assaults made by the Zulus, and displayed great activity and devoted gallantry throughout the defence. On one occasion when the Garrison had retired to the inner line of defence, and the Zulus occupied the wall of mealie bags which had been abandoned, he crept along the wall, without any order, to dislodge a Zulu who was shooting better than usual and succeeding in killing him, and two others, before he, the corporal, returned to the inner defence³.

The V.C. was presented to him on 3 February, 1918 by Sir Garnet Wolseley and the award is now in the National Army Museum at Sandhurst.

26. *Brown, Peter (Trooper).*

Trooper Peter Brown of the Cape Mounted Riflemen was a Cape Colonial who was awarded the Victoria Cross during the Basuto War of 1879.

The Citation reads:

Trooper Peter Brown, during the assault on Moirosi's Mountain on the 8th April, 1879, whilst lying under cover waiting for the order to recommence the advance, heard two men, who had been wounded some time before, crying out for water. Tpr. Brown carried a water bottle to these two men, under heavy fire, to an adjacent rock to which they had crept for shelter.

Whilst giving the first man water, he was wounded severely in the right thigh and immediately afterwards a bullet shattered his right arm, the use of which he has never recovered⁴.

On his death on 11 September 1894, his Victoria Cross was sold on the Parade in Cape Town for R2-50. It was bought by an officer of the *Cape Town Highlanders* and is now to be seen in the *Cape Mounted Rifle* Section of the Museum in King William's Town.

27. *Scott, Robert George (Sgt.).*

Sgt. Robert George Scott of the *Cape Mounted Rifles* was born at Whittlesea, England, on 22 April, 1857. He came out to the Cape with the customary batch of recruits and attested on 26 September, 1876 and served in the Zulu and Moirosi wars of 1879. It was in the Moirosi War that he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

The Citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry and devotion during an attack on Moirosi's Mountain, on the 8th April, 1879, in volunteering to throw time fuse shells as hand grenades, over a line of stone barricades, from behind which the enemy were bringing a heavy fire to bear on the colonial troops, and which it was impossible effectually to return. After causing all the men of his party to retire under cover, lest the shell should burst prematurely — by which precaution many lives were in all probability saved — Sgt. Scott advanced in a most deliberate manner under a heavy fire, and having got under the wall, made two attempts to throw shells over it. At the second attempt, owing to some defect in the fuse, which he had just lighted, the shell exploded almost in Sgt. Scott's hands, blowing his right hand to pieces, and wounding him severely in the left leg⁵.

He left the *Cape Mounted Rifles* and became a Major in the *Kimberley Light Horse* and raised *Scott's Railway Guards* in 1900. For this and other services he

received the D.S.O. In the First World War he commanded the *Kimberley Commando* and later the *S.A. Veteran Regiment*. He died at Cape Town on 3 October, 1918.

29. *McCrea, John Frederick (Surgeon)*.

Surgeon John Frederick McCrea, was born in Guernsey and qualified as a medical practitioner in 1878.

He joined the 1st Regiment, *Cape Mounted Yeomanry* in August, 1880 and served in the Basuto War of 1880/81. It was during that war that he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

The Citation reads:

For his conspicuous bravery during the severely contested engagement with the Basuto's, on the 14th January, 1881, at Tweefontein, near Thaba Tsen, when, after the enemy had charged the burghers in a most determined manner, forcing them to retire with the loss of sixteen killed and twenty-one wounded, Surgeon McCrea went out for some distance, under a heavy fire and with the assistance of Captain Buxton of the Majeteng Contingent, conveyed a wounded burgher named Aucamp to the shelter of a large ant heap and having placed him in a position of safety, returned to the ambulance for a stretcher. Whilst on his way thither Surgeon McCrea was severely wounded in the right breast by a bullet, notwithstanding which he continued to perform his duties at the ambulance and again assisted to bring in several wounded men, continued afterwards to attend the wounded during the remainder of the day, and scarcely taking time to dress his own wound, which he was obliged to do himself, there being no other medical officer in the field. Had it not been for this gallantry and devotion to his duty on the part of Surgeon McCrea, the sufferings of the wounded would undoubtedly have been much aggravated and greater loss of life might very probably have ensued.*

Besides being awarded the V.C. for his bravery, he was promoted Major and transferred to the *Cape Mounted Rifles*. He retired in 1894 and died at Kokstad the same year.

30. *Hartley, Edmund (Surgeon Major)*.

Surgeon Major Edmund Hartley, son of Dr. Edmund Hartley of Ivybridge, South Devon, qualified as a medical practitioner at St. George's Hospital, London. In 1874, he was District Surgeon and remained with the successor unit, the *Cape Mounted Rifles* until 1903, when he retired as Colonel and C.M.G. and died at Ash near Aldershot on 20 March, 1919. He was awarded the Victoria Cross on 5 June, 1879.

The Citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry displayed by him in attending the wounded, under fire, at the unsuccessful attack of Moirosi's Mountain, in Basutoland on the 5th June, 1879; and for having gone into the open ground, under a heavy fire, and carried in his arms, from an exposed position, Cpl. A. Jones, of the Cape Mounted Riflemen who was wounded. While conducting him to a place of safety the corporal was again wounded. The Surgeon Major then returned, under the severe fire of the enemy, in order to dress the wounds of other men of the storming party'.

34. *Danaher, John (Trooper).*

The Citation reads:

John Danaher, Trooper, Nourse's Horse, afterwards 2nd Battn. The Connaught Rangers. For gallant conduct (with L. Corpl. James Murray, 2nd Battn. The Connaught Rangers) during an engagement with the Boers at Elandsfontein on the 15th January, 1881, in advancing for 500 yards, under a heavy fire from a party of about sixty Boers, to bring out of action a private of the 21st Foot who had been severely wounded; in attempting which L. Corpl. Murray was himself severely wounded⁹.

38. *Randolph Cosby Nesbitt (Captain).*

Captain Randolph Cosby Nesbitt was a member of a well known Cape family, his father being Captain (later Lt.-Col.) R. A. Nesbitt of the *Frontier Armed Military Police* and *Cape Mounted Rifles* 1861/1879, was born in Queenstown on 20 September, 1867 and joined the C.M.R. in 1885. It is not known when he went to Rhodesia, but by 1896 he was a member of the *Mashonaland Mounted Police* and was awarded the Victoria Cross in that year.

The Citation reads:

This officer, on the 19th June, 1896, led the Mazoe rescue patrol, consisting of only thirteen men, fought his way through the rebels to get to Salthouse's party, and succeeded in bringing them back to Salisbury, with heavy fighting, in which three of his small force were killed and five wounded and fifteen horses killed and wounded⁹.

39. *Henderson, Herbert Stephen (Trooper).*

Trooper Herbert Henderson was born at Hillhead, Glasgow, 30 March, 1870. After finishing an apprenticeship with a firm of engineers in Glasgow, he went to the Gold Mines at Langlaagte. He left for Rhodesia in 1894. When the Rebellion broke out he joined the Rhodesia Horse as a scout.

The Citation reads:

On the morning of the 30th March, 1896, just before daylight, Captain Macfarland's party was surprised by the Natives. Troopers Celliers and Henderson, who formed part of the advanced guard, were cut off from the main body, and Celliers was shot through the knee. His horse was also badly wounded and eventually died. Henderson then placed Celliers on his own horse, and made the best of his way to Bulawayo. The country between Campbell's Store, where they were cut off, and Bulawayo, a distance of about thirty-five miles, was full of natives fully armed, and they had, therefore, to proceed principally by night, hiding in the bush in the daytime. Celliers, who was weak from loss of blood and in great agony, asked Henderson to leave him, but he would not, and brought him in, after passing two days and one night in the veldt without food¹⁰.

40. *Baxter, Frank William (Trooper).*

Memorandum, 7 May, 1897:

Trooper Frank William Baxter, of the Bulawayo Field Force, on account of his gallant conduct in having, on the 22nd April, 1896, dismounted and given his horse to a wounded comrade, Trooper Wise, who was being closely pursued by an overwhelming force of the enemy, would have been recommended to Her Majesty for the Victoria Cross had he survived.

Trooper Baxter was however awarded the Victoria Cross later by King Edward¹¹.

53. *Martineau, Horace Robert (Egt.).*

Sgt. Horace Robert Martineau was born in London on 31 October, 1874. After an education at the University College School, he went to Southern Rhodesia and served in the Matabele War of 1893. Later he joined the *Cape Police* and when the Anglo-Boer War broke out, he enlisted in the *Protectorate Regiment* and took part in the Siege of Mafeking, where he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

The Citation reads:

On the 26th December, 1899, during the fight at Game Tree, near Mafeking, when the order to retire had been given, Sgt. Martineau stopped and picked up Corporal Le Camp, who had been struck down about ten yards from the Boer Trenches, and half dragged, half carried, him towards a bush about 150 yards from the Trenches. In doing so, Sgt. Martineau was wounded in the side, but paid no attention to it, and proceeded to staunch and bandage the wounds of his comrade, who he afterwards assisted to retire. The firing while they were retiring, was very heavy and Sgt. Martineau was again wounded. When shot the second time he was absolutely exhausted from supporting his comrade, and sank down unable to proceed further. He received three wounds, one of which necessitated the amputation of his arm near the shoulder¹².

54. *Ramsden, Horace E. (Trooper).*

Trooper Horace E. Ramsden was a member of the *Protectorate Regiment* and took part in the Siege of Mafeking where he won the Victoria Cross.

The Citation reads:

On the 26th December, 1899, during the fight at Game Tree, near Mafeking, after the order to retire was given, Tpr. H. E. Ramsden picked up his brother Tpr. A. E. Ramsden, who had been shot through both legs and was lying about ten yards from the Boer trenches, and carried him approximately 600 to 800 yards under heavy fire (putting him down from time to time for a rest), till they met some men who helped carry him to a place of safety¹³.

78. *Mullins, Charles Herbert (Capt.).*

Capt. Charles Herbert Mullins, a son of the Rev. Canon Mullins, was born in Grahamstown, a product of St. Andrew's College there and Keble College, a Barrister at Law, temperamentally inclined to peace rather than war, and yet in action sternly purposeful and a born leader of men. Served in the Anglo-Boer War with the *Imperial Light Horse*.

He was awarded the Victoria Cross at Elandslaagte.

The Citation reads:

On the 21st October, 1899, at Elandslaagte, at a most critical moment, the advance being momentarily checked by a very severe fire at point blank range, he, with Capt. Johnston, very gallantly rushed forward under this heavy fire and rallied the men, thus enabling the flanking movement which decided the day to be carried out. Capt. Mullins was severely wounded in this action¹⁴.

He was created a C.M.G. in 1900 and died in 1916.

79. *Johnston, Robert (Capt.).*

Capt. Robert Johnston was born on 13 August, 1872, son of Robert Johnston, Q.C., of Donegal, he was educated at King William's College, Isle of Man, and was a rugby International and served with the *Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers* before coming to the Witwatersrand. When the Anglo-Boer War broke out, he joined the *Imperial Light Horse* and with Capt. C. H. Mullins, distinguished himself in leadership at Elandslaagte.

The Citation was compiled in conjunction with that of Capt. Mullins (see previous citation):

On the 21st October, 1899, at Elandslaagte, at a most critical moment, the advance being momentarily checked by a very severe fire at point blank range, these two officers very gallantly rushed forward under this heavy fire and rallied the men, thus enabling the flanking movement which decided the day to be carried out. On this occasion Capt. Mullins was wounded⁶.

88. *Clements, J. J. (Capt.).*

Corporal J. J. Clements was a South African serving with *Rimington's Guides*.

The Citation reads:

On the 24th February, 1901, near Strijdenburg, when dangerously wounded through the lungs, and called upon to surrender, Cpl. Clements threw himself into the midst of a party of five Boers, shooting three of them with his revolver, and thereby causing the whole party to surrender to himself and two unwounded men of Rimington's Guides⁶.

103. *Young, Alexander (Sgt.-Maj.).*

Sgt.-Maj. Alexander Young was born on 27 January, 1872 at Ballinona, Galway, the son of William and Annie Young. He enlisted in the Queen's Bays in 1890. After serving in India and the Sudan, he joined the *Cape Police* and served in the Anglo-Boer War during which he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

The Citation reads:

Towards the close of the action at Ruiters Kraal on the 13th August, 1901, Sgt.-Major Young, with a handful of men, rushed some Kopjes which were being held by Commandant Erasmus and about twenty Boers. Sgt.-Maj. Young then galloped on some fifty yards ahead of his party, and closing with the enemy, shot one of them and captured Commandant Erasmus, the latter firing at him three times at point blank range before being taken prisoner⁷.

After the war he remained in the *Cape Police* and served in the Natal Rebellion. In 1914 he obtained a commission in the 4th *South African Mounted Rifles* and served in South West Africa and later in France with the 4th S.A. Infantry.

He was killed in action on 19 October, 1916 and his name is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial, France.

107. *Crean, Thomas Joseph (Surgeon Captain).*

Surgeon Captain Thomas Joseph Crean was born in Dublin in 1873, son of Michael and Emma Crean. He graduated in medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin and settled on the Witwatersrand in 1897 after coming to South Africa as a member of a British Rugby Team.

At the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War he joined the *Imperial Light Horse* as a trooper, but in June, 1901 became a Surgeon Captain, and won the Victoria Cross at Tygerskloof near Bethlehem.

The Citation reads:

During the action with De Wet at Tygerskloof, on the 18th December, 1901, this officer continued to attend to the wounded in the firing line, under heavy fire at only 150 yards' range, after he had himself been wounded, and only desisted when he was hit a second time, and, as it was at first thought, mortally wounded¹⁸.

109. *Rogers, James (Sgt.).*

Sgt. James Rogers was an Australian, born at Riverina, New South Wales on 2 June, 1875. When he came to South Africa is not known, but he joined the *South African Constabulary* and won his Victoria Cross whilst serving with that unit.

The Citation reads:

On the 15th June, 1901, during a skirmish near Thaba Nchu, a party of the rear-guard of Captain Stilwell's column, consisting of Lieut. F. Dickinson, Sergt. Rogers and six men of the South African Constabulary, was suddenly attacked by about sixty Boers. Lieut. Dickinson's horse having been shot, that officer was compelled to follow his men on foot. Sergt. Rogers seeing this, rode back, firing as he did so, took Lieut. Dickinson up behind him and carried him for half a mile on his horse. The Sgt. then returned to within 400 yards of the enemy, and carried away, one after the other, two men who had lost their horses, after which he caught the horses of two other men, and helped the men to mount. All this was done under a very heavy rifle fire. The Boers were near enough to Sgt. Rogers to call on him to surrender; his only answer was to continue firing¹⁹.

110. *Martin-Leake, Arthur (Surgeon Capt.).*

Surgeon Captain Arthur Martin-Leake, son of Stephen Martin-Leake of Thorpe Hall, Essex, was born on 4 April, 1874 and educated at Westminster School and University College, London. Qualifying in Medicine in 1898 he joined the Hertfordshire Company of the *Imperial Yeomanry* and came out to South Africa. After his year of service had expired, he became an army civilian surgeon and in 1900 joined the *South African Constabulary*, with which unit he was serving when he won the Victoria Cross.

The Citation reads:

During the action at Vlakfontein, on the 8th February, 1902, Surgeon Captain Martin-Leake went up to a wounded man, and attended to him under a heavy fire from about forty Boers at 100 yards range. He then went to the assistance of a wounded officer, and whilst trying to place him in a comfortable position, was shot three times, but would not give up till he rolled over thoroughly exhausted. All eight men at this point were wounded, and while lying on the veldt, surgeon Captain-Leake refused water till everyone else had been served²⁰.

He later won a bar to his V.C. while serving with the *Royal Army Medical Corps (R.A.M.C.)* in Belgium in 1914²¹.

113. *Albrecht, Herman (Trooper).*

Trooper Herman Albrecht was awarded the Victoria Cross during the Anglo-Boer War. Little is known about him other than that he was believed to have been the nephew of Commandant Albrecht of the Orange Free State Artillery. The only photograph of him was taken from a School Group in Burghersdorp, C.P. He joined the *Imperial Light Horse* at the outbreak of war.

The memorandum covering his gallantry and that of a comrade (Lt. Jones) reads:

Would have been recommended for the Victoria Cross, had they survived on account of their having, during the attack on Waggon Hill (Lady-smith), on the 6th January, 1900, displayed conspicuous bravery and gallant conduct in leading the force which reoccupied the top of the hill at a critical moment just as the three foremost attacking Boers reached it, the leader being shot by Lieut. Jones and the two others by Albrecht.

The Victoria Cross was however awarded to Sgt. Albrecht posthumously (See regulations dated 8 August, 1902)²².

5

VICTORIA CROSSES AWARDED TO MEMBERS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN DEFENCE FORCE (WORLD WARS I AND II)

a. *Awards*

First World War

*Serial
Number*

- 120 Private W. F. Faulds.
- 121 Captain W. A. Bloomfield.
- 122 Sergeant F. C. Booth, M.M.
- 124 Lance Corporal W. H. Hewitt.

Second World War

*Serial
Number*

- 132 Sergeant Q. G. M. Smythe.
- 133 Captain G. R. Norton, M.M.
- 134 Captain E. Swales, D.F.C.

b. *Citations*

- 120. *Faulds, William Frederick (Pte).*

Private William Frederick Faulds, born at Cradock, C.P. on 19 February, 1895, joined the *Cradock Commando* on 19 October, 1914 and served in South West Africa until he was discharged on 12 January, 1915.

On 2 September, 1915 he joined the *1st S.A. Infantry* and proceeded to Egypt via the United Kingdom and then went to France arriving there on 16 April, 1916. He won the Victoria Cross near Delville Wood on 17 July, 1916 and was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant on 19 May, 1917. He also won the Military Cross on 22 March, 1918, at the same time being wounded and falling into enemy hands. He was repatriated to England in November, 1918.

The Citation for the V.C. reads:

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. A bombing party under Lieut. Craig attempted to rush across 40 yards of ground which lay between the British and enemy trenches. Coming under very heavy rifle and machine-gun fire, the officer and the majority of the party were killed or wounded. Unable to move, Lieut. Craig lay midway between the two lines of trench, the ground being quite open in full day light. Private Faulds, accompanied by two other men, climbed the parapet, ran out, picked up the officer and carried him back, one man being severely wounded in doing so.

Two days later, Private Faulds again showed most conspicuous bravery in going out alone to bring in a wounded man, and carrying him nearly half a mile to a dressing station, subsequently rejoining his platoon. The artillery fire at the time was so intense that stretcher bearers and others considered that any attempt to bring in the wounded men meant certain death. The risk Private Faulds faced unflinchingly, and his bravery was crowned with success²¹.

121. *Bloomfield, William Anderson (Maj.).*

Major William Anderson Bloomfield was born on 30 January, 1873. In the First World War he was a section leader of the *Ermelo Town Guard* during the Rebellion, then a Lieutenant in the *16th Intelligence Unit (Collin's Scouts)* in South West Africa and later a Captain in the Scouts of the *2nd Mounted Brigade* in German East Africa, where he was awarded the Victoria Cross. He died on 12 May, 1954.

The Citation reads:

For most conspicuous bravery. Finding that, after being heavily attacked in an advanced and isolated position, the enemy was working round his flanks, Captain Bloomfield evacuated his wounded and subsequently withdrew his command to a new position, he himself being amongst the last to retire. On arrival at the new position he found that one of the wounded — No. 2475, Corpl. D. M. P. Bowker — had been left behind. Owing to very heavy fire he experienced difficulties in having the wounded Corporal brought in. Rescue meant passing over some 400 yards of open ground, swept by heavy fire, in full view of the enemy. This task Capt. Bloomfield determined to face himself, and unmindful of personal danger, he succeeded in reaching Corpl. Bowker and carrying him back, subjected throughout the double journey to heavy machine-gun and rifle fire. This act showed the highest degree of valour and endurance²².

122. *Booth, Frederick Charles (Sgt.).*

Sgt. Frederick Charles Booth, *South African Forces*, attached *Rhodesia Native Regiment*.

The Citation reads:

For most conspicuous bravery during an attack, in thick bush, on the enemy position. Under very heavy fire, Sergt. Booth went forward alone and brought in a man who was dangerously wounded. Later he rallied native troops who were badly disorganised, and brought them to the firing line. This N.C.O. has on many previous occasions displayed the greatest bravery, coolness and resource in action, and his set a splendid example of pluck, endurance, and determination²⁵.

124. *Hewitt, William Henry (L. Cpl.).*

Lance Corporal William Henry Hewitt was born in Suffolk in 1885 and came to South Africa about 1906. He was a member of the *S.A. Constabulary* for nearly a year and then served in the *Natal Police* for three years and four months. He enlisted in the *2nd S.A. Infantry* on 24 November, 1915 and his draft arrived in France on 12 July, 1916. He was a Lewis gunner and was wounded twice, i.e. on 24 October, 1916 and again in September, 1917.

The Citation reads:

For most conspicuous bravery during operations. L.-Corpl. Hewitt attacked a "Pill-box" with his section and tried to rush the doorway. The garrison, however, proved very stubborn, and in the attempts, this non-commissioned officer received a severe wound. Nevertheless, he proceeded to the loophole of the "Pill-box;" where, in his attempt to put a bomb into it, he was again wounded in the arm. Undeterred, however, he eventually managed to get a bomb inside, which caused the occupants to dislodge and they were successfully and speedily dealt with by the remainder of the section²⁶.

132. *Smythe, Quentin George Murray (Sgt.).*

Sgt. Quentin George Murray Smythe was born on 6 August, 1916 at Nottingham Road, Natal. A farmer by occupation, he joined the *Royal Natal Carbineers* at the outbreak of the Second World War, served first in East Africa, and then proceeded with his unit to the Western Desert. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant on 28 May, 1941. During the attack by the Axis Forces on the Gazala Line he won the Victoria Cross.

The Citation reads:

For conspicuous gallantry in action in the Alem Hamza area on the 5th June, 1942. During an attack on an enemy strong point in which his officer was severely wounded, Sgt. Smythe took command of the platoon although suffering from a shrapnel wound in the forehead. The strong point having been overrun, our troops came under enfilade fire from an enemy machine-gun nest. Realising the threat to his position, Sgt. Smythe himself stalked and destroyed the nest with hand grenades, capturing the crew. Though weak from loss of blood, he continued to lead the advance, and on encountering an anti-tank gun position again attacked it single-handed and captured the crew.

He was directly responsible for killing several of the enemy, shooting some and bayonetting another as they withdrew.

After consolidation he received orders for a withdrawal, which he successfully executed, defeating skillfully an enemy attempt at encirclement. Throughout the engagement Sgt. Smythe displayed remarkable disregard for danger and his leadership and courage were an inspiration to his men²⁷.

The following personal account of No. 12 Platoon's attack on Point 208 at Al Hamza, 5 June, 1942, by Sergeant Q. G. M. Smythe, V.C., forms a part of the NAREP ME Series (Vol. vii), as prepared by the former Union War Histories Section.

On the evening of June 4th, we were given orders to stand by for an attack on the Italians, who were dug in to our front. Lieutenant Douglas received his orders late in the evening, and, when they had been passed on to us, the time was 0130 hours on the 5th.

The orders received were as follows:— The enemy, approximately a company in strength, are in dug-in positions at Point 208. 12 Platoons with 2 armoured cars carrying Vickers, and one mortar detachment, plus an artillery F.O.O., are to attack and capture the enemy positions, and then consolidate.

The time given for leaving camp was 0330 hours, and this left very little time for sleeping, as some of the men had still to pack, and get their equipment ready: while they were doing so, the cooks made hot coffee.

At 0330 hours the platoon was assembled, and set out quietly for the A Company mine gap, and then to No. 3 shaft of the Crown Mines post, which was our next assembly point. Here we met the B Company Platoon, which was on a similar task on our right, and the A Company Platoon to be on their right.

After a last smoke we moved out first, as we had farther to go than the other platoons. We moved as quietly as possible with No. 34 Section on the left, 35 Section on the right, and myself, the R.A.P. Corporal with his two stretcher bearers, 4 of the mortar detachment, and 36 Section bringing up the rear.

Lieutenant Douglas led with compass and Portsmouth counted paces for him. After marching about 2 400 paces we went to ground, and I went forward to Lieutenant Douglas. Just then the artillery barrage started at 0530, and we noticed that it was falling considerably closer than we expected, being only about 1 000 yards ahead of us, instead of 1 600 yards. We had been told that the enemy were 4 000 paces away.

We decided to stay where we were, and wait for our armoured cars and F.O.O. After about 10 minutes Sergeant Percy's car arrived, and I went to find out about the others. I was told that they had run into our minefield, and were unable to move. Luckily the rest of our mortar detachment arrived with Sergeant Percy.

I went back to Lieutenant Douglas, taking with me the mortar commander, section leaders and Sergeant Percy. I informed Lieutenant Douglas about the armoured cars, and he decided that we would advance with fixed bayonets as soon as the barrage lifted. The mortar commander, Corporal Smythe was ordered to set up his mortar about 300 yards behind the platoon, and to begin firing deliberately for 5 minutes from the lifting of the barrage, and then to await further orders.

34 and 35 Sections led the advance, the men moving at five yards interval — with Sergeant Percy on the left flank. Platoon H.Q. was to be between the two leading sections: 36 section was to be in the rear with the R.A.P.

At 0535 hours the barrage lifted, and we started the advance at a steady walk. After about 250 yards we came to a low feature, and began to advance over it. When we were halfway across Trickett of No. 35 Section shouted that the enemy were behind us. Lieutenant Douglas gave orders to turn about, and we moved against the enemy lines in the same formations, the two leading sections changing flanks.

We had not moved far, when the enemy who had begun firing as we turned, hit Lieutenant Douglas in the arm, putting him out of the fight. Leaving a man with Lieutenant Douglas to give Corporal Betty of the R.A.P. a hand, I called to the

rest of the platoon to charge. Meanwhile Trickett, who was now slightly ahead of us, was doing good work with his Bren gun, firing from his hip.

When we came up to the enemy positions, we found two of them in the act of firing at our men. Shooting one, I promptly stuck my bayonet through the other one's chest. As I was pulling it out he caught it with both hands, and must have depressed the catch, for the rifle came away minus the bayonet. I was forced to carry on without it.

Before we reached the last positions, one of the enemy threw a hand grenade at us, wounding L. Cpl. Leach and myself.

At first I was rather dazed, and thought I was blind, as my right eye was cut, and a piece of shrapnel lodged above it. I was very relieved when, on wiping my eye with my hand, I found it to be undamaged.

While this was taking place, an enemy machine-gun was firing on us at point blank range from a spur of the feature ahead: telling the platoon to take cover, I threw a grenade — the distance was some 30 yards — and effectively silenced it.

As we were going up the ridge, we heard our armoured car come back, and shout for the medical corporal, who got in and was driven off.

We later heard that Sergeant Percy and both the other members of his crew were wounded. Sergeant Percy had broken away from the platoon and as he had no infantry with him, he got out to round up some prisoners. A machine-gun opened up on him, and he was badly wounded, as were the other members of the crew, when they helped him back into the car.

As we took up our positions on the feature, we saw an enemy D.R. riding fairly fast across our front about 800 yards away. No. 36 Section's Bren gunner opened fire, and after 2 or 3 bursts, he was seen to be knocked off his motor cycle. When we were all in position, I fired the two Verey signals, the prearranged success signals. Having done this, I went back to Lieutenant Douglas to see if there was anything I could do for him, and if possible send him back, as he had refused to go, before we had taken the position. Seeing there was nothing I could do for him, I detailed one man to help him back to camp, and told one of the Tommy gunners to take the prisoners back.

During all the operation the enemy fire was intense, and it only abated for 10 minutes, after we had taken the prisoners.

I returned to the platoon feeling rather worried, as there was very heavy firing on our right, and it seemed that the B Company platoon was having rather a bad time. If they were forced to withdraw, the enemy would be able to bring up machine-guns on our right flank, or even come round behind us, and cut off our withdrawal.

While we were lying in position Buckley and Biles tried to turn a 47 m.m. anti-tank gun, which we had captured, against the enemy, but one of them pulled the trigger by mistake, and the recoil knocked Biles out. Giving up the attempt to use it, Buckley then smashed the breach block with a S.T. grenade.

After we had been in position for about 10 minutes, some 5 machine-guns opened fire on us from the left flank, and some from a feature in front of us. This made me decide to withdraw one section to the position, where we had left the mortar. I gave Corporal Clark orders to this effect, and shortly after saw them go over the ridge under heavy fire.

By this time the enemy had apparently driven off the B Company platoon; they brought up 6 machine-guns, including a Bren, to our right flank and rear. This left us with only a narrow gap, through which to withdraw, and I decided to pull the rest of the platoon out. I told Corporal Mayo to go back to a bit of rising

ground behind us, and give the rest of us covering fire. Corporal Cook in turn was to cover Mayo's withdrawal.

This fire was kept up until Corporal Mayo was in position, and had opened fire. Then I told Corporal Cook to withdraw his section to a position behind and to the right of Corporal Mayo.

Giving this section a start of 200 yards, the remaining runner and I began to evacuate the position. By the time that we had caught up with No. 34 Section, who were still firing, the smoke screen laid by our artillery was becoming quite dense, and I decided to withdraw the platoon in extended line.

After we had gone about 800 yards, there were 5 of us walking along, when a 105 m.m. shell burst between us: the blast knocked Buckley and Holmes off their feet. We completed the march back to camp without further excitement, except that I was worried about 35 Section, and the mortar men, whom we had failed to find. However when we arrived, we were told that the mortar men had already gone through, and that 35 Section were all in.

133. *Norton, Gerard Ross (Capt.).*

Captain Gerard Ross Norton was born on 7 September, 1915 at Herschel, Cape Province, South Africa and educated at Selbourne College, East London. After serving his peace-time training from 1936 to 1938 in *Die Middellandse Regiment*, where he became a Sergeant he was transferred to *The Kaffrarian Rifles* and served with that unit until the fall of Tobruk. Norton was one of the few who made his escape and made his way by devious routes, to El Alamein. Travelling over 450 miles in 38 days, mostly on foot. The rest of the journey was in a truck which he and some companions assembled out of several derelicts. He was awarded the Military Medal (M.M.) for this feat.

He returned to South Africa on 9 November, 1942 and after training at the Officers Training Corps, was commissioned on 21 August, 1943 and posted to the 6th S.A. *Armoured Division* Pool. He was promoted Captain on 1 December, 1944 and seconded to the 4/6 *Royal Hampshire Regiment*, with whom he was serving when he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

The Citation reads:

In Italy on 31st August, 1944 Lt. Norton was commanding a platoon during the attack on the Monte Gridolfo feature, one of the strong points of the Gothic Line defences, and one which contained well-sited concrete gun emplacements. The leading platoon of his Company was pinned down by heavy enemy fire from the valley on the right flank of the advance.

On his own initiative and with complete disregard for his personal safety, Lt. Norton at once engaged a series of emplacements in this valley. Single-handed, he attacked the first machine-gun position with a grenade, killing the crew of three. Still alone, he then worked his way forward to a second position containing two machine-guns and 15 riflemen. After a fight lasting ten minutes he wiped out both machine-gun nests with his Tommy gun, and killed or took prisoner the remainder of the enemy.

Throughout these attacks Lt. Norton came under direct fire from an enemy self-propelled gun and, whilst still under heavy fire from this gun, he went on to clear the cellar and upper rooms of a house, taking several more prisoners, and putting many of the enemy to flight.

Although by this time wounded and weak from loss of blood, he continued calmly and resolutely to lead his platoon up the valley to capture

the remaining enemy positions. Throughout the attack Lt. Norton displayed matchless courage, outstanding initiative and inspiring leadership. By his supreme gallantry, fearless example and determined aggression he assured the successful breach of the Gothic line at this point²⁸.

134. *Swales, Edwin (Capt.).*

Captain Edwin Swales was born at Inanda, Natal on 3 July, 1915 and educated at Durban High School and then worked in a bank. He served his peace-time training in the *Natal Mounted Rifles* and when the Second World War broke out, he joined his old Unit and served as a second class warrant officer in East Africa and the Western Desert until 17 January, 1942 when he was transferred to the *South African Air Force* (S.A.A.F.), where he qualified as a Pilot and was appointed in the rank of Lieutenant on 26 June, 1943 and promoted to Captain on 4 November, 1943. Soon after completing his training, he was seconded to the *Royal Air Force* and initially became a member, and later a "Master Bomber," of the *R.A.F. Pathfinder Force* (Squadron 582). His task was to seek out enemy targets for the main force of bombers in raids on key points. Early in 1945 he was granted the immediate award of the Distinguished Flying Cross (D.F.C.) for his work in one of the many sorties in which he attacked a variety of enemy targets. Just one month after this award, Captain Swales flew off into the darkening skies on his last mission which cost him his life and earned him a Posthumous Victoria Cross.

The Citation reads:

Captain Swales was "Master Bomber" of a force of aircraft which attacked Pforzheim on the night of February 23rd, 1945. As "Master Bomber" he had the task of locating the target area with precision and of giving aiming instructions to the main force of bombers following in his wake.

Soon after he had reached the target area he was engaged by an enemy fighter and one of his engines was put out of action. His rear gun failed. His crippled aircraft was an easy prey to further attacks. Unperturbed, he carried on with his allotted task; clearly and precisely he issued aiming instructions to the main force. Meanwhile the enemy fighter closed the range and fired again. A second engine of Capt. Swales' aircraft was put out of action. Almost defenceless, he stayed over the target area issuing his aiming instructions until he was satisfied that the attack had achieved its purpose. It is now known that the attack was one of the most concentrated and successful of the war.

Capt. Swales did not, however, regard his mission as completed. His aircraft was damaged. Its speed had been so much reduced that it could, only with difficulty, be kept in the air. The blind flying instruments were no longer working. Determined at all costs to prevent his aircraft and crew from falling into enemy hands, he set course for home. After an hour he flew into thin layered cloud. He kept his course by skillful flying between the layers, but later heavy cloud and turbulent air conditions were met. The aircraft, by now over friendly territory, became more and more difficult to control; it was losing height steadily. Realising that the situation was desperate Capt. Swales ordered his crew to bale out. Time was very short and it required all his exertions to keep the aircraft steady while each of his crew moved in turn to the escape hatch and parachuted to safety. Hardly had the last crew-member jumped when the aircraft plunged to earth. Capt. Swales was found dead at the controls. Intrepid in attack, courageous in the face of danger, he did his duty to the last, giving his life, that his comrades might live²⁹.

6

VICTORIA CROSSES AWARDED TO SOUTH AFRICANS ON ACTIVE SERVICE WITH THE IMPERIAL FORCES

a. *Awarded to*

Serial Number

- 1 Lieutenant J. P. H. Crowe, *Persian Campaign Medal and Clasp, Indian Mutiny Campaign Medal and Two Clasps.*
- 119 Lance Corporal T. E. Rendle.
- 123 Captain O. A. Reid.
- 125 Major, Acting Lieutenant-Colonel J. Sherwood-Kelly, D.S.O., *Companion to the Order of St. Michael and St. George.*
- 126 Lieutenant, Acting Captain A. M. Lascelles, *M.C.*
- 127 Captain R. F. J. Hayward, *M.C. and Bar.*
- 128 Captain R. A. West, *King's Medal and Clasp, Queen's Medal and Clasp, D.S.O.*
- 129 Lieutenant A. W. Beauchamp-Proctor, *M.C., D.F.C., D.S.O.*
- 130 Lieutenant R. V. Gorle.
- 131 Acting Squadron Leader J. D. Nettleton.

b. *Citations*

1. *Crowe, Joseph Petrus Hendrik (Lt.).*

Lieutenant Joseph Petrus Hendrik Crowe was the second son of Capt. Joseph Crowe, *60th Rifles*, and Classina Magdalena Vermaak. Joseph Petrus Hendrik Crowe was born on 12 January, 1926 at Uitenhage and received a commission as Ensign in the *78th Highlanders* on the recommendation of Sir Henry Pottinger, Governor of the Cape Colony. In 1850 he became Lieutenant and served in Persia and in the Indian Mutiny, 1857-1858, and was awarded the Victoria Cross during these campaigns.

The Citation reads:

For being the first to enter the redoubt at Boorzeke Chowkee, the entrenched village in front of the Buserutunge on 12 August, 1875⁰.

He was the first South African to receive the Victoria Cross.

119. *Rendle, Thomas Edward (Bandsman).*

Bandsman Thomas Edward Rendle, *1st Battalion Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.*

The Citation reads:

For conspicuous bravery, on the 20th November, 1914, near Wulverghem, when he attended the wounded under very heavy shell and rifle fire, and rescued men from the trenches in which they had been buried by the blowing in of the parapets by the fire of the enemy's heavy howitzers⁰.

123. *Reid, Oswald Austin (Capt.).*

Captain Oswald Austin Reid was born in Johannesburg on 2 November, 1893, his parents being Harry Austin and Alice Gertrude Reid. He was educated at Diocessan College, Cape Town, St. John's College, Johannesburg and at Radley College. He joined the British Army on 14 August, 1914 as 2nd Lieutenant in the 4th Battalion, *The King's (Liverpool) Regiment* and went to Mesopotamia, attached to the 6th Battalion *Royal North Lancashire Regiment*. He participated in the operations at Kut and Baghdad and was awarded the Victoria Cross at Dialah River. He also served on the Russian Front in 1919.

The Citation reads:

For most conspicuous bravery in the face of desperate circumstances. By his dauntless courage and gallant leadership he was able to consolidate a small post with the advanced troops on the opposite side of a river to the main body, after the line of communications had been cut by the sinking of the pontoons.

He maintained this position for thirty hours against constant attacks by bombs, machine-gun and shell fire, with the full knowledge that repeated attempts at relief had failed, and that his ammunition was all but exhausted. It was greatly due to his tenacity that the passage of the river was effected on the following night. During the operations he was wounded².

125. *Sherwood-Kelly, John (Lt.-Col.).*

Lt.-Col. John Sherwood-Kelly was born in Queenstown, C.P. on 13 January, 1880, educated at Queenstown Grammar School, Dale College and St. Andrew's College. After finishing his education he joined the *Cape Mounted Police* in 1896. He then served with the *British South Africa Police* as a trooper during the Matabele Revolt in 1898. During the Anglo-Boer War he served as a private in *Colonel Plumer's Column* and took part in the Relief of Mafeking. After being attached to the *Imperial Light Horse* for a short period, he joined *Kitchener's Fighting Scouts* and took part in operations in Rhodesia, the Orange Free State and the Transvaal. He was commissioned in the field and was mentioned in despatches several times. In November, 1902 he joined the *Somaliland Burgher Corps* in the third expedition against the Mad Mullah, until July, 1903. He then became a trader in the Transkei.

At the outbreak of the First World War he went to England and joined the *2nd King Edward's Horse*. He was transferred to the *Norfolk Regiment* where he was commissioned and rose to the rank of Major in November, 1914. He was later attached to and commanded the *1st King's Own Scottish Borderers* at Gallipoli. He also served as Officer Commanding the *1st Inniskilling Fusiliers* in France (1916-1918) and of the *Norfolk Yeomanry*, 1918. During his service in Gallipoli and on the Western Front Lt.-Col. Sherwood Kelly was wounded five times and gassed. His distinguished leadership, devotion to duty and outstanding courage in the face of the enemy earned him seven mentions in despatches, the D.S.O. in 1916, C.M.G. in 1917 and the V.C. at Hareburg on 20 November, 1917. In 1919 he commanded the *2nd. Bn. Hampshire Regiment* in Northern Russia.

The Citation for the Victoria Cross reads:

John Sherwood-Kelly, C.M.G., D.S.O., Major (acting Lieutenant-Colonel) Norfolk Regt., commanding a Battalion Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers. For most conspicuous bravery and fearless leading, when a party of men of another unit detailed to cover the passage of the canal by his Battalion, were held up on the rear side of the canal by heavy rifle fire directed at the bridge. Lt.-Col. Sherwood-Kelly at once ordered covering fire, personally led the leading Company of his battalion across the canal and, after crossing, reconnoitered under heavy rifle and machine-gun fire the high ground held by the enemy. The left flank of his battalion advancing to the assault of this objective was held up by a thick belt of wire, whereupon he crossed to that flank, and with a Lewis gun team forced his way under heavy fire, through obstacles, got the gun into position on the far side, and covered the advance of his battalion through the wire, thereby enabling them to capture the position. Later, he personally led a charge against some pits, from which a heavy fire was being directed on his men, captured the pits, together with five machine-guns and 46 prisoners and killed a large number of the enemy. The great gallantry displayed by this officer throughout the day inspired the greatest confidence in his men, and it was mainly due to his example and devotion to duty that his battalion was enabled to capture and hold their objective³³.

126. *Lascelles, Arthur Moore (Capt.).*

Captain Arthur Moore Lascelles, born in 1880, was the son of John and May Elizabeth Lascelles or Marionethshire, Wales. He joined the *Cape Mounted Riflemen* on 11 August, 1902 and served with them and the successor unit, i.e. the *South African Mounted Riflemen* until 10 October, 1915.

He served with the latter unit in South West Africa as a Quartermaster Sergeant until the end of hostilities in that country (1915). He then proceeded to England, was commissioned in the *2nd Durham Light Infantry* and won the Military Cross on the Somme in 1916. He won the Victoria Cross at Masuières on 3 December, 1917.

The Citation reads:

For most conspicuous bravery, initiative and devotion to duty when in command of his company in a very exposed position. After a very heavy bombardment during which Capt. Lascelles was wounded, the enemy attacked in strong Force but was driven off, success being due, in a great degree, to the fine example set by this officer, who, refusing to allow his wound to be dressed, continued to encourage his men and organise the defence. Shortly afterwards the enemy again attacked and captured the trench, taking several of his men prisoners. Captain Lascelles at once jumped on to the parapet and, followed by the remainder of his company, 12 men only, rushed across under very heavy machine-gun fire and drove over 60 of the enemy back, thereby saving a most critical situation. He was untiring in reorganising the position, but shortly afterwards the enemy again attacked and captured the trench and Captain Lascelles, who escaped later. The remarkable determination and gallantry of this officer in the course of operations, during which he received two further wounds, afforded an inspiring example to all³⁴.

Captain Lascelles died of wounds at Fontaine on 7 November, 1918.

127. *Hayward, Reginald Frederick Johnson (Capt.).*

Captain Reginald Frederick Johnson Hayward was born in East Griqualand on 17 June, 1891 and educated at Hilton College, Natal. He then went to the Royal Veterinary College, London.

At the outbreak of the First World War he received a commission in the 6th Battalion, *The Wiltshire Regiment*, and became Lieutenant on 24 December, 1914. He was awarded the Military Cross for his leadership and Bar for his gallantry and initiative.

The Victoria Cross followed for outstanding bravery near Frewicourt on 21/22 March, 1918.

The Citation reads:

For most conspicuous bravery in action. This officer, while in command of a company, displayed almost superhuman powers of endurance and consistent courage of the rarest nature. In spite of the fact that he was buried, wounded in the head, and rendered deaf on the first day of operations, and had his arm shattered two days later, he refused to leave his men (even though he received a third serious injury to his head), until he collapsed from sheer physical exhaustion. Throughout the whole of this period the enemy were attacking his company front without cessation, but Captain Hayward continued to move across the open from one trench to another, with absolute disregard of his own personal safety, concentrating entirely on reorganising his defences and encouraging his men. It was almost entirely due to the magnificent example of ceaseless energy of this officer, that many most determined attacks upon his portion of the trench system failed entirely³⁵.

128. *West, Richard Annesley (Capt.).*

Captain Richard Annesley West was born on 26 September, 1876 at Cheltenham. He was the son of Augustus and Sara West. On the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer War he came to South Africa as a trooper in the 45th Irish Hunt Company of the *Imperial Yeomanry* and then transferred to the 2nd *Battalion Kitchener's Fighting Scouts*. He was promoted to Lieutenant in November, 1901. After the war he served in the Transvaal Repatriation Department and in 1904 was appointed Lieutenant and Asst. Adjutant of the *Transvaal Horse Artillery Volunteers*. He served with that unit until 1912 when he was posted to the Transvaal Reserve of Officers.

On the outbreak of the First World War he joined the *North Irish Horse* as a Lieutenant and in January, 1918 he became a Major in the *Tank Corps*. Already in possession of the D.S.O. and Bar and the M.C. for services rendered in April, 1917 at Monchy-le-Preux and in August and September, 1918 at Guillencourt near Courcelles, he won the Victoria Cross at Courcelles on 2 September, 1918, losing his life at the same time. He was buried the same evening at Mory, four miles north of Bapsume.

The Citation reads:

For most conspicuous bravery, leadership and self-sacrifice. During an attack, the infantry having lost their bearings in the dense fog, this officer at once collected and reorganised any men he could find and led them to their objective in the face of heavy machine-gun fire.

Throughout the whole action he displayed the most utter disregard of danger, and the capture of the objective was, in a great part, due to his initiative and gallantry. On a subsequent occasion it was intended that a battalion of light tanks under the command of this officer should exploit the initial infantry and a heavy Tank attack. He therefore went forward in order to keep in touch with the progress of the battle, and arrived at the front line when the enemy were in process of delivering a local counter-attack. The infantry battalion had suffered heavy officer casualties and its flanks were exposed. Realising that there was a danger of the battalion giving way, he at once rode out in front of them under extremely heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, and rallied the men. In spite of the fact that the enemy were close upon him, he took charge of the situation and detailed non-commissioned officers to replace officer casualties. He then rode up and down in front of them in face of certain death, encouraging the men and calling to them "Stick it men;" "Show them fight;" and "For God's sake put up a good fight." He fell riddled by machine-gun bullets. The magnificent bravery of this very gallant officer at the critical moment inspired the infantry to redoubled efforts, and the hostile attack was defeated^b.

129. *Beauchamp-Proctor, Andrew Weatherby (Lt.).*

Lt. Andrew Weatherby Beauchamp-Proctor was born at Mossel Bay on 4 September, 1894. His father J. J. Proctor, who married a Miss Weatherby, combined teaching with voluntary Military Service in two wars.

Andrew went to his father's school, first at George and then at Mafeking until 1911 when he became a boarder at S.A.C.S., Cape Town, where he matriculated in 1912. He then studied for the Engineering Diploma of the South African College. When war started in 1914, he was given a second year pass by the College authorities and on 1 October that year he joined the *Duke of Edinburgh's Own Rifles* as a Signaller and proceeded to South West Africa. He was transferred to the *South African Field Telegraph and Postal Corps* and was demobilised at the end of the South West Africa Campaign on 9 July, 1915 and returned to College to continue his studies.

Early in 1917 Major A. M. Miller was sent by the British Government on a recruiting tour and Andrew Proctor was one of his first recruits. He was attached in the *Royal Flying Corps* on 12 March, 1917 and crossed to England to undergo his training. On 29 July, 1917 he was appointed to the rank of Flying Officer and posted to the newly formed No. 84 Squadron which was ordered to France on 21 September, 1917. In mid-March, 1918 he received an immediate award of the Military Cross. By the end of May Proctor was credited with eleven enemy aircraft destroyed and thirteen most likely destroyed. On 28 May, he was awarded a Bar to his Military Cross. He was one of the first to receive the award of the D.F.C., instituted by King George V on 3 June, 1918.

As the months passed he seemed to bear a charmed life, but on 8 October, 1918 his luck ran out. On that day he on his own attacked a formation of eight enemy aeroplanes and was wounded and his aircraft badly damaged, but despite a useless arm he skillfully flew his plane to his base, and made his report before being evacuated to hospital.

Whilst lying in hospital near Newcastle-on-Tyne the *London Gazette* of 2 November announced his admission to the Distinguished Service Order. But even greater honour was in store for him as three weeks after Armistice the *London Gazette* of

30 November 1918 announced the award to him of the Victoria Cross *for valour beyond the call of duty*⁷.

During his short service, he destroyed 22 enemy machines, 16 enemy kite balloons and drove down 16 aircraft completely out of control¹⁶.

He lost his life in a flying accident on 21 June, 1921 and his body was brought to Mafeking for burial, arriving in Cape Town on the "Balmoral Castle" on 8 August, 1921.

The Citation reads:

Andrew Weatherby Beauchamp-Proctor, Lieut. (Acting Capt.), D.S.O., M.C., D.F.C., No. 84 Squadron, Royal Air Force. Between 8th August, 1918, and 8th October, 1918, this officer proved himself victor in twenty-six decisive combats, destroying twelve enemy kite balloons, ten enemy aircraft, and driving down four other enemy aircraft completely out of control. Between 1st October, 1918, and 5th October, 1918, he destroyed two enemy scouts, burnt three enemy kite balloons, and drove down one enemy scout completely out of control. On 1st October, 1918, in a general engagement with about twenty-eight machines, he crashed one Fokker biplane near Fontaine, and a second near Ramicourt; on 2 October he burnt down a hostile balloon near Selvigny; on 3 October he drove down, completely out of control, an enemy scout near Mont d'Origny, and burnt a hostile balloon; on 5 October the third hostile balloon near Bohain. On 8 October, 1918, while flying home at low altitude, after destroying an enemy two-seater near Marez, he was painfully wounded in the arm by machine-gun fire, but, continuing, landed safely at his aerodrome, and after making his report was admitted to hospital.

In all he has proved himself conqueror over fifty-four foes, destroying twenty-two enemy machines, sixteen enemy kite balloons, and driving down sixteen enemy aircraft completely out of control. Capt. Beauchamp-Proctor's work in attacking enemy troops on the ground and in reconnaissance during the withdrawal following on the Battle of St. Quentin from 21 March, 1918, and during the victorious advance of our Armies commencing on 8 August, has been almost unsurpassed in its brilliancy, and, as such, has made an impression on those serving in his squadron and those around him that will not easily be forgotten. Capt. Beauchamp-Proctor was awarded the Military Cross on 22 June, 1918; D.F.C. on 2 July, 1918; Bar to M.C. on 16 September, 1918, and Distinguished Service Order on 2 November, 1918.

Request by Genl. J. C. Smuts :

On 4 July, 1921 Genl. J. C. Smuts wrote as follows to Sir Edgar Walton, the Union High Commissioner in London

My dear Walton,

Representations have been made to me by Abe Bailey and others, and I have also received a cable from the Mayor of Mafeking, to the effect that there is a general feeling that the body of the late Flight Lieut. Proctor should be exhumed and sent to Mafeking for burial. They say that, as a South African boy, it is only right and proper that after his very eventful career he should be buried in his own country, and they are willing to put the money up to give effect to the proposals.

I have said that I cannot undertake to accept any liability in England for this but that I have no objection to the exhumation order being applied for and the body being exhumed and sent to South Africa where the railways will carry it to Mafeking without charge.

Perhaps you could go into this question with Bailey and the one or two others who are interested, and then place yourself in communication with the parents of the deceased officer and make such arrangements as you may think fit.

A copy of this letter is going to the Department of Defence in Cape Town, and Colonel Mentz has authorised his department to make such military arrangements for the conduct of the funeral obsequies in South Africa as are required.

Believe me,

Yours Sincerely,

(Sgd.) J. C. Smuts.

130. *Gorle, Robert Vaughan (Lt.).*

Lieut. Robert Vaughan Gorle was born on 6 May, 1896 at South Sea and educated at Malvern Wells and Rugby. His father was Major Harry Vaughan Gorle, D.S.O., and his mother Ethel Catherine, the daughter of Rev. Cannon Archdall of Cork.

He was farming in the Transvaal and on the outbreak of the World War, he went to England as a "non contingent" volunteer and joined the *Royal Field Artillery*. He won the Victoria Cross at Ledegheim on 1 October, 1918.

The Citation reads:

For most conspicuous bravery, initiative and devotion to duty during the attack on Ledegheim on 1st October, 1918, when in command of an 18-pounder gun working in close conjunction with infantry. He brought his gun into action in the most exposed position on four separate occasions, and disposed of enemy machine-guns by firing over open sights under direct machine-gun fire at 500 to 600 yards range. Later, seeing that the infantry were being driven back by intense hostile fire, he, without hesitation, galloped his gun in front of the leading infantry, and on two occasions knocked out enemy machine-guns which were causing trouble. His disregard of personal safety and dash were a magnificent example to the wavering line, which rallied and retook the northern end of the village³⁹.

131. *Nettleton, John Deering (Acting Squadron Leader).*

Acting Squadron Leader John Deering Nettleton was born at Nongoma in Natal in 1917 and after his schooling he served on the South African Training Ship "General Botha," joining the *South African Division of the R.N.V.R.* in 1935, two years later being promoted to Sub-Lieutenant. On 4 September, 1938 he resigned his post, having obtained a short service commission in the *R.A.F.* where he commenced his duties on 6 October, 1938⁴⁰.

He won the Victoria Cross whilst serving as Acting Squadron Leader of *No. 44 (Rhodesia) Squadron*.

The Citation reads:

Squadron Leader Nettleton was the leader of one of two formations of six Lancaster heavy bombers detailed to deliver a low level attack in daylight on the diesel engine factory of Augsburg in Southern Germany on April 7th, 1942. The enterprise was daring, the target of high military importance. To reach it, and get back, some 1 000 miles had to be flown over hostile territory. Soon after crossing into enemy territory his formation was engaged by 25 to 30 fighters. A running fight ensued. His rear guns went out of action. One by one the aircraft in his formation were shot down until in the end only his own and one other remained. The fighters were shaken off, but the target was still far distant. There was formidable resistance to be faced. With great spirit and almost defenceless, he held his two remaining aircraft on their perilous course and after a long and arduous flight, mostly at only 50 feet above the ground, he brought them to Augsburg. Here anti-aircraft fire of great intensity and accuracy was encountered. The two aircraft came low over the roof tops. Though fired at from point blank range, they stayed the course to drop their bombs true on the target. The second aircraft, hit by flak, burst into flames and crash landed. The leading aircraft, though riddled with holes, flew safely back to base, the only one of six to return.

Squadron Leader Nettleton who has successfully undertaken many other hazardous operations, displayed unflinching determination as well as leadership and valour of the highest order⁴¹.

