

ceptional gallantry performed by Captain C. L. R. Petrie, Manchester Regiment, on the morning of the 12th June, 1901.

I have, &c.,  
A. H. COLES, Colonel,  
Commanding Uganda Rifles.

Major Delmé-Radcliffe to Colonel Coles.  
Nimule, September 10, 1901.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to bring to the notice of the Commandant the following act of gallantry performed by Captain Petrie:—

On the 12th June, at 5 A.M., the bivouac of the mutineers was surrounded and rushed by the troops under my command. It lay in a wood on the bank of a broad swamp. The grass was everywhere very tall. A party of mutineers was observed by Captain Petrie to escape down the swamp and enter a dense patch of papyrus. Captain Petrie had only a few men with him at the moment owing to the manner in which his company had lost touch in the tall grass and bad light when the attack was made. The morning was foggy, the sun was not up, the smoke of the bivouac fires and heavy firing mingled with the fog and hung in a dense layer over the swamp, so that nothing could be distinguished clearly. Some individuals were seen to enter the papyrus bed at a certain spot, and Captain Petrie followed them. His party was at once fired at, the shots coming in rapid succession. It was important to kill or capture the mutineers, but Captain Petrie thought that, in the semi-darkness and difficulty of the swamp—a very matted tangle with mud and water reaching to the waist—there was more likelihood of the men shooting each other than the enemy, and that the latter would certainly escape unless the papyrus were closely watched outside. He

therefore came out again, withdrew the five men he had with him, and posted them outside the swamp. He then re-entered the papyrus bed armed with a rifle, and pluckily followed by his orderly, to attack any one whom it might contain. He was continually fired at, but working his way along and shooting when he saw a sign of anything to shoot at, he eventually severely wounded one mutineer, though without knowing it at the time. This man continued to maintain a rapid fire, and Captain Petrie then saw two individuals in front of him. Finally, he succeeded in shooting one (the man already wounded) through the head, exchanging shots at three yards' range and being himself wounded in the chin by the mutineer. The second individual then proved to be a woman, who lying in the mud and water was handing the man cartridges as he fired. Another mutineer was killed by the men outside. I heard the firing and came up on the other side of the swamp, where a number of mutineers were captured and killed, the latter including Farajalla Effendi. I could follow the flight by the smoke rising above the papyrus, but did not know who was inside at the time, though from the rapidity of the firing thought there must be several men pursuing mutineers. Captain Petrie in reporting the incident merely stated that he had shot a mutineer and been slightly wounded himself. But I heard the incident being discussed in camp, as it had evidently impressed every one as a very gallant action of Captain Petrie's. The Soudanese fully appreciated the desperate character of the men he attacked, and the advantage the defender had over the attacker in such a spot as the papyrus swamp. I therefore made inquiries, with the result that the above facts were disclosed.

I have, &c.,  
C. DELMÉ-RADCLIFFE, Major,  
Commanding Lango Field Force.

War Office, April 18, 1902.

THE KING has been graciously pleased to signify His intention to confer the decoration of the Victoria Cross on the undermentioned Non-Commissioned Officer, whose claims have been submitted for His Majesty's approval, for his conspicuous bravery in South Africa, as stated against his name:—

Corps.	Name.	Act of Courage for which recommended.
South African Constabulary	Sergeant James Rogers	On the 15th June, 1901, during a skirmish near Thaba'Nchu, a party of the rearguard of Captain Sitwell's column, consisting of Lieutenant F. Dickinson, Sergeant James Rogers, and 6 men of the South African Constabulary, was suddenly attacked by about 60 Boers. Lieutenant Dickinson's horse having been shot, that Officer was compelled to follow his men on foot. Sergeant Rogers seeing this, rode back, firing as he did so, took Lieutenant Dickinson up behind him, and carried him for half-a-mile on his horse. The Sergeant 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 Sergeant Rogers to call upon him to surrender; his only answer was to continue firing.