

WAR OFFICE, June 29, 1915.

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the grant of the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned Officers, Non-commissioned Officers and Men:—

Lieutenant John George Smyth, 15th Ludhiana Sikhs, Indian Army.

For most conspicuous bravery near Richebourg L'Avoue on 18th May 1915.

With a bombing party of 10 men, who voluntarily undertook this duty, he conveyed a supply of 96 bombs to within 20 yards of the enemy's position over exceptionally dangerous ground, after the attempts of two other parties had failed.

Lieutenant Smyth succeeded in taking the bombs to the desired position with the aid of two of his men (the other eight having been killed or wounded), and to effect his purpose he had to swim a stream, being exposed the whole time to howitzer, shrapnel, machine gun and rifle fire.

Jemadar Mir Dast, I.O.M., 55th Coke's Rifles (Frontier Force), attached 57th Wilde's Rifles (Frontier Force).

For most conspicuous bravery and great ability at Ypres on 26th April 1915, when he led his platoon with great gallantry during the attack, and afterwards collected various parties of the regiment (when no British Officers were left) and kept them under his command until the retirement was ordered.

Jemadar Mir Dast subsequently on this day displayed remarkable courage in helping to carry eight British and Indian Officers into safety, whilst exposed to very heavy fire.

No. 7709 Lance-Corporal William Angus, 8th (Lanark) Battalion, The Highland Light Infantry, (Territorial Force).

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty at Givenchy on the 12th June 1915, in voluntarily leaving his trench under very heavy bomb and rifle fire, and rescued a wounded Officer who was lying within a few yards of the enemy's position.

Lance-Corporal Angus had no chance whatever in escaping the enemy's fire when undertaking this very gallant action, and in effecting the rescue he sustained about 40 wounds from bombs, some of them being very serious.

No. 3902 Company Serjeant-Major Frederick Barter, Special Reserve, attached 1st Battalion, The Royal Welsh Fusiliers.

For most conspicuous bravery and marked ability at Festubert on 16th May 1915.

When in the first line of German trenches, Company Serjeant-Major Barter called for Volunteers to enable him to extend our line, and with the eight men who responded he attacked the German position with bombs, capturing 3 German Officers and 102 men, and 500 yards of their trenches. He subsequently found and cut eleven of the enemy's mine leads, situated about 20 yards apart.

No. 1780 Lance-Corporal David Findlay, 2nd Battalion, The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders).

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion

to duty on 9th May 1915, near Rue du Bois, when he led a bombing party of twelve men with the greatest gallantry in the attack until ten of them had fallen.

Lance-Corporal Finlay then ordered the two survivors to crawl back, and he himself went to the assistance of a wounded man and carried him over a distance of 100 yards of fire-swept ground into cover, quite regardless of his own personal safety.

No. 1272 Private John Lynn, 2nd Battalion, The Lancashire Fusiliers.

For most conspicuous bravery near Ypres on 2nd May 1915.

When the Germans were advancing behind their wave of asphyxiating gas, Private Lynn, although almost overcome by the deadly fumes, handled his machine gun with very great effect against the enemy, and when he could not see them he moved his gun higher up on the parapet, which enabled him to bring even more effective fire to bear, and eventually checked any further advance.

The great courage displayed by this soldier had a fine effect on his comrades in the very trying circumstances.

He died the following day from the effects of gas poisoning.

No. 2832 Corporal John Ripley, 1st Battalion, The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders).

For most conspicuous bravery at Rue du Bois on 9th May 1915.

When leading his section on the right of the right platoon in the assault, he was the first man of the battalion to ascend the enemy's parapet, and from there he directed those following him to the gaps in the German wire entanglements. He then led his section through a breach in the parapet to a second line of trench, which had previously been decided upon as the final objective in this part of our line.

In that position Corporal Ripley, with seven or eight men, established himself, blocking both flanks and arranging a fire position, which he continued to defend until all his men had fallen, and he himself had been badly wounded in the head.

No. 7942 Acting Corporal Charles Sharpe, 2nd Battalion, The Lincolnshire Regiment.

For most conspicuous bravery near Rouges Bancs on 9th May 1915.

When in charge of a blocking party sent forward to take a portion of the German trench he was the first to reach the enemy's position, and, using bombs with great determination and effect, he himself cleared them out of a trench 50 yards long.

By this time all his party had fallen, and he was then joined by four other men, with whom he attacked the enemy again with bombs and captured a further trench 250 yards long.

No. 10082 Corporal James Upton, 1st Battalion, The Sherwood Foresters (Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Regiment).

For most conspicuous bravery near Rouges Bancs on 9th May 1915.

During the whole of this day Corporal