

War Office,
17th October 1917.

His Majesty The KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the award of the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned Officer, Non-commissioned Officers and men:—

T./2nd Lt. Hardy Falconer Parsons, late Glouc. R.

For most conspicuous bravery during a night attack by a strong party of the enemy on a bombing post held by his command.

The bombers holding the block were forced back, but 2nd Lt. Parsons remained at his post, and single handed, and although severely scorched and burnt by liquid fire, he continued to hold up the enemy with bombs until severely wounded.

This very gallant act of self-sacrifice and devotion to duty undoubtedly delayed the enemy long enough to allow of the organisation of a bombing party, which succeeded in driving back the enemy before they could enter any portion of the trenches.

This gallant officer succumbed to his wounds.

No. 34795 Sjt. John Carmichael, N. Staff. R. (Glasgow).

For most conspicuous bravery.

When excavating a trench, Sjt. Carmichael saw that a grenade had been unearthed and had started to burn. He immediately rushed to the spot and, shouting to his men to get clear, placed his steel helmet over the grenade and stood on the helmet. The grenade exploded and blew him out of the trench.

Sjt. Carmichael could have thrown the bomb out of his trench, but he realised that by so doing he would have endangered the lives of the men working on top.

By this splendid act of resource and self-sacrifice Sjt. Carmichael undoubtedly saved many men from injury, but it resulted in serious injury to himself.

No. 57113 Sjt. Frederick Hobson, late Can. Inf. Bn.

During a strong enemy counter-attack a Lewis gun in a forward post in a communication trench leading to the enemy lines, was buried by a shell, and the crew, with the exception of one man, killed.

Sjt. Hobson, though not a gunner, grasping the great importance of the post, rushed from his trench, dug out the gun, and got it into action against the enemy who were now advancing down the trench and across the open.

A jam caused the gun to stop firing. Though wounded, he left the gunner to correct the stoppage, rushed forward at the advancing enemy and, with bayonet and clubbed rifle, single handed, held them back until he himself was killed by a rifle shot. By this time, however, the Lewis gun was again in action and reinforcements shortly afterwards arriving, the enemy were beaten off.

The valour and devotion to duty displayed by this non-commissioned Officer gave the gunner the time required to again get the gun into action, and saved a most serious situation.

No. 7708 L./Sjt. John Moyney, Ir. Gds. (Rathdowney, Queen's County).

For most conspicuous bravery when in command of fifteen men forming two advanced posts. In spite of being surrounded by the enemy he held his post for ninety-six hours, having no water and little food. On the morning of the fifth day a large force of the enemy advanced to dislodge him. He ordered his men out of their shell holes, and, taking the initiative, attacked the advancing enemy with bombs, while he used his Lewis gun with great effect from a flank. Finding himself surrounded by superior numbers, he led back his men in a charge through the enemy, and reached a stream which lay between the posts and the line. Here he instructed his party to cross at once while he and Private Woodcock remained to cover their retirement.

When the whole of his force had gained the south-west bank unscathed he himself crossed under a shower of bombs. It was due to endurance, skill and devotion to duty shown by this non-commissioned officer that he was able to bring his entire force safely out of action.

No. 15092 Cpl. Sydney James Day, Suff. R. (Norwich).

For most conspicuous bravery.

Cpl. Day was in command of a bombing section detailed to clear a maze of trenches still held by the enemy; this he did, killing two machine gunners and taking four prisoners. On reaching a point where the trench had been levelled, he went alone and bombed his way through to the left, in order to gain touch with the neighbouring troops.

Immediately on his return to his section a stick bomb fell into a trench occupied by two officers (one badly wounded) and three other ranks.

Cpl. Day seized the bomb and threw it over the trench, where it immediately exploded.

This prompt action undoubtedly saved the lives of those in the trench.

He afterwards completed the clearing of the trench, and, establishing himself in an advanced position, remained for sixty-six hours at his post, which came under intense hostile shell and rifle grenade fire.

Throughout the whole operations his conduct was an inspiration to all.

No. 8614 Pte. (actg. L./Cpl.) Frederick G. Room, R. Ir. Regt. (Bristol).

For most conspicuous bravery when in charge of his company stretcher-bearers. During the day the company had many casualties, principally from enemy machine guns and snipers. The company was holding a line of shell-holes and short trenches. L./Cpl. Room worked continuously under intense fire, dressing the wounded and helping to evacuate them. Throughout this period, with complete disregard for his own life, he showed unremitting devotion to his duties.

By his courage and fearlessness he was the means of saving many of his comrades' lives.