

*War Office,*

13th February 1918.

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

Capt. (T./Lt.-Col.) Neville Bowes Elliott-Cooper, D.S.O., M.C., R. Fus.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty.

Hearing that the enemy had broken through our outpost line, he rushed out of his dug-out, and on seeing them advancing across the open he mounted the parapet, and dashed forward calling upon the Reserve Company and details of Battalion Headquarters to follow. Absolutely unarmed, he made straight for the advancing enemy, and under his direction our men forced them back 600 yards. While still some forty yards in front he was severely wounded.

Realising that his men were greatly outnumbered and suffering heavy casualties, he signalled to them to withdraw, regardless of the fact that he himself must be taken prisoner.

By his prompt and gallant leading he gained time for the reserves to move up and occupy the line of defence.

Lt. Hugh Mackenzie, D.C.M., late Can. M.G. Corps.

For most conspicuous bravery and leading when in charge of a section of four machine guns accompanying the infantry in an attack.

Seeing that all the officers and most of the non-commissioned officers of an infantry company had become casualties, and that the men were hesitating before a nest of enemy machine guns, which were on commanding ground and causing them severe casualties, he handed over command of his guns to an N.C.O., rallied the infantry, organised an attack, and captured the strong point.

Finding that the position was swept by machine-gun fire from a "pill-box" which dominated all the ground over which the troops were advancing, Lt. Mackenzie made a reconnaissance and detailed flanking and frontal attacking parties which captured the "pill-box," he himself being killed while leading the frontal attack.

By his valour and leadership this gallant officer ensured the capture of these strong points and so saved the lives of many men and enabled the objectives to be attained.

Lt. (A./Capt.) George Henry Tatham Paton, M.C., late G. Gds.

For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice.

When a unit on his left was driven back, thus leaving his flank in the air and his company practically surrounded, he fearlessly exposed himself to re-adjust the line, walking up and down within fifty yards of the enemy under a withering fire. He personally removed several wounded men, and was the last to leave the village. Later, he again re-adjusted the line, exposing himself regard-

less of all danger the whole time, and when the enemy four times counter-attacked he sprang each time upon the parapet, deliberately risking his life, and being eventually mortally wounded, in order to stimulate his command.

After the enemy had broken through on his left, he again mounted the parapet, and with a few men—who were inspired by his great example—forced them once more to withdraw, thereby undoubtedly saving the left flank.

Lt. (A./Capt.) Walter Napleton Stone, late R. Fus.

For most conspicuous bravery when in command of a company in an isolated position 1000 yards in front of the main line, and overlooking the enemy's position. He observed the enemy massing for an attack, and afforded invaluable information to Battalion Headquarters.

He was ordered to withdraw his company, leaving a rearguard to cover the withdrawal. The attack developing with unexpected speed, Capt. Stone sent three platoons back and remained with the rearguard himself. He stood on the parapet with the telephone under a tremendous bombardment, observing the enemy, and continued to send back valuable information until the wire was cut by his orders.

The rearguard was eventually surrounded and cut to pieces, and Capt. Stone was seen fighting to the last, till he was shot through the head.

The extraordinary coolness of this heroic officer and the accuracy of his information enabled dispositions to be made just in time to save the line and avert disaster.

T./Lt. (A./Capt.) Richard William Leslie Wain, late Tank Corps.

For most conspicuous bravery in command of a section of Tanks.

During an attack the Tank in which he was disabled by a direct hit near an enemy strong point which was holding up the attack. Capt. Wain and one man, both seriously wounded, were the only survivors.

Though bleeding profusely from his wounds, he refused the attention of stretcher-bearers, rushed from behind the Tank with a Lewis gun, and captured the strong point, taking about half the garrison prisoners.

Although his wounds were very serious he picked up a rifle and continued to fire at the retiring enemy until he received a fatal wound in the head.

It was due to the valour displayed by Capt. Wain that the infantry were able to advance.

T./Lt. Samuel Thomas Dickson Wallace, R.F.A.

For most conspicuous bravery and devoted services in action in command of a section.

When the personnel of the battery was reduced to five by the fire of the artillery, machine guns, infantry, and aeroplanes; had lost its commander and five of the sergeants, and was surrounded by enemy infantry on the front right flank, and finally in rear, he