

THE ROYAL FUSILIERS

RECIPIENTS OF

THE VICTORIA CROSS



“FOR VALOUR”

Compiled and Edited by J P Kelleher ©2010

WILLIAM NORMAN VC



Born in Warrington Lancashire 1832

Enrolled into the 4th.Royal Lancashire Militia 1st.February 1853

Volunteered to serve in the 7th.Royal Fusiliers and enlisted at Warrington on 15th.May 1854.

Regimental No.3443

Age 19 years / Height 5ft. / Hair Brown / Eyes hazel / Complexion Fair

Marks or scars: Initials WN on Forearm : Trade: Labourer

VICTORIA CROSS

Date of Deed 19th.December 1854

London Gazette 24th.February 1857 *“On the night of 19th.December 1854 he was placed on single sentry, some distance in front of the advanced sentries of an outlying piquet in the White Horse Ravine, a post of much danger, and requiring great vigilance. The Russian piquet was posted about 300 yards in his front: three Russian soldiers advanced under cover of brushwood, for the purpose of reconnoitring. Private William Norman, single handed, took two of them prisoner without alarming the Russian piquet”.*

Wounded by a musket ball through the left leg.

HM Queen Victoria decorated Private Norman in Hyde Park on the 26th.June 1857

Also served with 1/7th.Royal Fusiliers at Umbeyla 1863 – Medal and Clasp

Discharged at Ferozepore, India 15th. May 1865

He later enrolled into the 1st.Volunteer Battalion The South Lancashire Regiment and retired with the rank of Corporal.

Married Elizabeth -

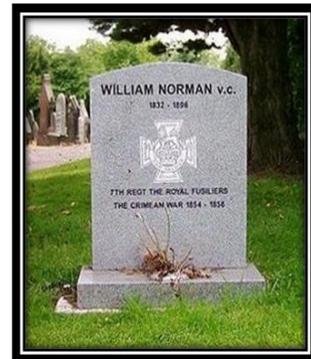
Issue – William b.1868 / Charlotte b.1872 / Sarah b.1875

William Norman VC died on the 13th.March 1896 at 7, Fernely Buildings, Hulme, Salford, Lancashire, and was buried in a Common Grave at Weaste Cemetery, Salford on the 18th.March 1896.

MEDALS : Victoria Cross, Crimea Medal + Clasp Sebastopol, Indian General Service Medal 1854-95 + Clasp Umbeyla, Turkish Crimea Medal

Sold by auction on 20th.May 1920, and again on 18th.November 1926 for £90

and purchased by the Officers of the regiment, past and presented to the Royal Fusiliers Museum c.1962.



HENRY MICHAEL (MITCHELL) JONES VC



Born in Crumlin, Dublin on 11th.February 1831. Baptized 21.7.1831

Entered the army as an Ensign in the 60th.Regiment and exchanged to 18th.Regt.April 1849

Exchanged to the 7th.Royal Fusiliers in 1854

A the Battle of the Alma on 20th.September 1854 whilst carrying the Queen's Colour he was severely wounded by gunshot through the lower jaw. He carried the bullet in his jaw for thirty years until he complained of a toothache. He saw a doctor who removed the bullet which had been lodged in his jawbone.

He was also slightly wounded in the shoulder at the Quarries on 7th June 1855, and wounded in the chest by a shell splinter on the 8th.June 1855.

VICTORIA CROSS

Date of Deed 7th.June 1855

London Gazette 25th.September 1857 *“For having distinguished himself while serving with a party which stormed and took The Quarries before Sebastopol, he repeatedly leading his men on to repel the continual assaults by the enemy during the night. Although wounded early in the evening, Captain Jones remained unflinchingly at his post until after daylight the following morning.”*

Promoted Captain in 1855. Claimed to have been wounded eight times, and broke out of hospital twice to get back into action. It is claimed he threatened to resign unless he was awarded the Victoria Cross. Several officers who had served with him supported this.

Appointed to Knight of the Legion d'Honneur 5th.Class (France). He resigned his commission three months prior to the notification of the award of the Victoria Cross in 1857 and entered the Diplomatic Service in 1858 to become Acting-Vice Consul at Bosna Seraj and Skutari.. In 1863 he was appointed Consul for the Islands of Fiji and Tonga, and five years later promoted to Consul General at Tabreez. He became Consul General at Christiana in 1875, and Eastern Rumelia in 1880.Appointed Resident Minister, Bangkok 1889;Lima 1894;Quito 1895-98

Prior to his death at the age of 85 he claimed his recipe for longevity was “Eighteen holes of golf before lunch, eighteen holes after lunch, and a couple of glasses of whisky.”

Married ?

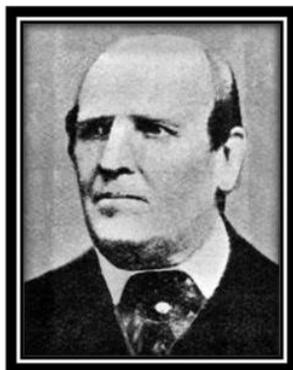
Issue – a son – late Lieutenant Oliver St. Michael .Jones, Notts & Derby Regt K.L.A. 4.10.1917

Capt. H M Jones Died 18th.December 1916 at 25 Gildredge Road, Eastbourne, Sussex. Buried at Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne. His Last Will & Testament was published in the Times 1st.March 1917

MEDALS: Victoria Cross and Campaign medals etc are in The Australian Army History Unit, Victoria Barracks, Sydney NSW Australia



MATTHEW HUGHES VC



Born in Bradford, Yorkshire 1822 son of Samuel and Alice Hughes
1st.Enlistment: Attested for 7th.Royal Fusiliers at Leeds on 7th.March 1840 age 18 years. Regt.No.1496
Discharged by purchase 14th.January 1844
2nd.Enlistment : 7th.Royal Fusiliers at Leeds on 20th.June 1844 Regt.No.1879
Prisoner in the custody of the Civil Power 19th.February to 12th.March 1845
Promoted Corporal 31st.January 1855; Promoted Serjeant 22nd.September 1855
Tried by Court Martial 13th.December 1855 and reduced to Private (later Pardoned)
Served Turkey and the Crimea 2 years and 2 months. East Indies 3 years and 10 months, Gibraltar 3 years and 2 months. 21 entries if Defaulters Book. Discharged at Walmer, Kent 18th.September 186.
Intended Occupation – Labourer – Intended residence- Bradford, Yorkshire

VICTORIA CROSS

Date of Deed 7th.June 1855
London Gazette 24th.February 1857 *“Matthew Hughes, 1879 Pte. 7th.Royal Fusiliers. Was noticed by Colonel Campbell, 90th.Light Infantry, on 7^h.June 1855 at the storming of the Quarries, for twice going for ammunition under a heavy fire across the open ground; he also went to the front and brought in Pte. John Hampton who was lying severely wounded; and on the 18th.June 1855 he volunteered to bring in Lieut. & Adjutant Hobson, 7th.Fusiliers, who was lying severely wounded, and in the act of doing so was severely wounded himself.”*

Wounded 7th.June 1855 by a shell in the knee at the Quarries, and wounded in the foot at the Redan Pte.Hampton survived the war and was discharged to pension in 1856. Lieut.Hobson died from his wounds.

HM Queen Victoria presented Hughes with his Victoria Cross in Hyde Park on 26th.June 1857

He married Ellen : Issue Mary Ann Born 1860 in Staffordshire.

Matthew Hughes VC was at one time a lodging house-keeper, and also a beer house keeper at 147 Wapping Road, Bradford Yorkshire. He died age 60 at Bradford on 9th.January 1882.

Buried Section 388 Undercliffe Cemetery, Bradford, Yorkshire.

MEDALS: Victoria Cross, Crimea Medal + Clasps Alma/Inkerman/Sebastopol, Turkish Medal were purchased on 25th.November 1910 by the Officers of the Royal Fusiliers for £71. And presented to the Officers Mess Collection.



WILLIAM HOPE VC



Born in Edinburgh on the 12th.April 1834, only surviving son of Rt.Hon. John Hope, Lord Chief Justice Clerk of Scotland, and Jesse Scott Irving. Educated at Preparatory School Hatfield by private tutors and Trinity College Cambridge. Entered service with the 7th.Royal Fusiliers on 12th April 1855.

VICTORIA CROSS

Date of Deed 18th.June 1855

London Gazette 5th.May 1857 *“After the troops had retreated on the morning of the 18th.June 1855, Lieut. W. Hope being informed by the late Sgt. Major William Bacon, who was wounded, that Lieut & Adjutant Hobson was lying outside the trenches badly wounded, went out to look for him, and found him lying outside the trenches and found him lying in the old agricultural ditch running towards the left flank of the Redan. He then returned and got four men to bring him in. Finding however that Lieut. Hobson could not be removed without a stretcher, he then ran back across the open ground the Egerton’s Pit, where he procured one, and carried it back to where Hobson was lying. All this was done under a heavy fire from the Russian batteries.”*

Lieut. Hope received his Victoria Cross personally from Hm Queen Victoria in Hyde Park on 26th.June 1857. Sgt. Major William Bacon was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal (RF Collection)

Note: In 1893 a submission was made to the War Office on behalf of Lieut. Hope claiming a second award bar to his Victoria Cross in respect of his bravery at the French Magazine Explosion of November 1855. The submission rejected under Clause V of the Royal Warrant appertaining to the granting of second awards.

AL VALOIRE (Sardinian Medal For Military Valour) *“In November 1855 there occurred the great explosion of the French Magazine. General Straubensee approached the tents of the 7th.Royal Fusiliers and asked for volunteers to mount the wall of the powder mill and cover the wall with wet tarpaulins and blankets. Lieut.Hope and twenty five men of the 7th. volunteered at once thereby saving many lives and much needed ammunition.”*

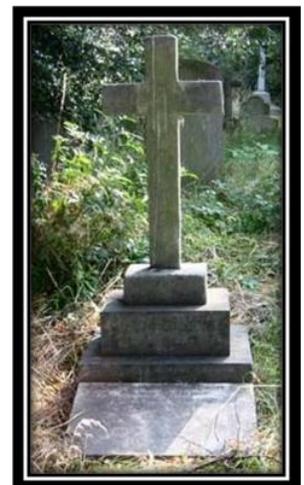
Lieut. Hope left the army in 1857 and married Margaret Jane Cunningham Graham:

He later became Colonel of the 1st.(City of London) Artillery Volunteer Corps he invented the shrapnel shell for rifled guns.

He died on 17th.December 1909 and was buried in the family plot at Brompton Cemetery.



MEDALS : Victoria Cross/
Crimea Medal + Clasp
Sebstopol/ Al Valoire/Turkish
Medal purchased by the Royal
Fusiliers Museum for £62,000 at
Dix, Noonan, Webb auction
3rd.December 1997 .



THOMAS EGERTON HALE VC



Born in Faddiley, Nantwich, Cheshire on the 24th.September 1832 son of the late G.P.Hale of Cheshire, elder brother of Egerton Peter Hale who served with General Garibaldi in the Italian War of Liberty in 1860.

VICTORIA CROSS

Date of Deed 8th.September 1855

London Gazette 5th.May 1857 *“Thomas Egerton Hale MD Asst. Surgeon 7th.Regiment “1. For remaining with a wounded officer (Capt.H M Jones 7th.Regiment) in the fifth parallel on 8th.September 1855, when all the men in the immediate neighbourhood retreated, excepting Lieut. William Hope, 7th.Regiment and Dr. Hale; and for endeavouring to rally the men in conjunction with Lieut.Hope.” 2. “For having on the 8th.September 1855 after the regiment had retired into the trenches, cleared the most advanced sap of the wounded men from the open ground, being assisted by Sgt. Charles Fisher, 7th.Regiment.”*

Dr. Hale also served in the Indian Mutiny 1857;as Medical Officer in Charge at Cherat 1860; on the Punjab Frontier 1864-66.

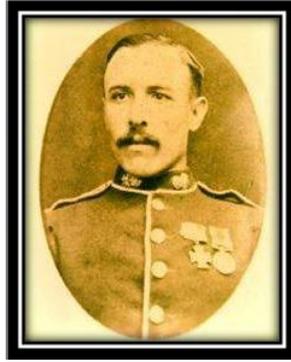
Retired from the army on 20th.June 1876.

Created a CB in 1905 Dr .Hale died on the 25th.December 1909 and is buried in Acton Churchyard, Cheshire.

MEDALS : Victoria Cross etc sold at Christie, Manson and Wood auction 13th.July 1955 for £420, and now in the Museum of the Medical Services, Aldershot.



THOMAS ELSDON ASHFORD VC



Born 1858 at 2 Peck's Cottage, All Saints, Newmarket, Cambridgeshire, illegitimate son of Thomas Ashford and Emma Elsdon (his parents married in 1861). His mother died in 1869, and his father subsequently re-married that same year.

Attested at Woolwich for the 49th.Brigade on 12th.June 1877, and joined the 2/7th. Royal Fusiliers on the 14th.June. Occupation- Baker – Age 18 years 6 months – Height 5ft. 5 inches. Regimental Number 49/1317

VICTORIA CROSS

Date of Deed 16th.August 1880

London Gazette 7th.October 1881 “ *For Conspicuous gallantry on the occasion of the Sortie from Kandahar, on the 16th.August 1880, against the village of Deh Khoja, in having rescued (with Lieut .Chase) and carried for a distance of over 200 yards, under the fire of the enemy, a wounded soldier, Pte.Massey of the Royal Fusiliers, who had taken shelter in a blockhouse. Several times they were compelled to rest, but they persevered in bringing him to a place of safety. Pte.Ashford rendered Lieut.Chase every assistance, and remained with him throughout.*”

Discharged to Class B Army Reserve 24.2.1884 to 13.6.1889

Briefly took up farming at Hallerton. Leicestershire and later became a postman at Whitwick , and is the only postman to be entitled to wear the Victoria Cross. He married Betsy Ann Sisson in 1891.

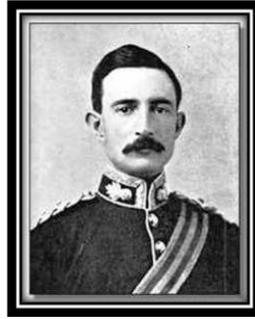
He died from bronchitis on 21st.February 1913 and was buried on 4th.March in Whitwick Cemetery. The Guard of Honour being furnished by The Leicestershire Regiment.

He was survived by his widow and two daughters.

MEDALS Victoria Cross presented to the Royal Fusiliers Museum by bequest in 1992. The whereabouts of Ashford's campaign medal are unknown.



CHARLES FitzCLARENCE VC



Born on 8th.May 1865 at Bishopscourt, County Kildare, Ireland, son of Hon.George FitzClarence and Lady Maria Henriette , nee Scott and Grandson of George, 1st.Earl of Munster eldest son of King William IV.

Educated at Eton and wellington Colleges.

Gazetted Lieutenant from the Militia into the Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) on 10th.November 1886. Promoted Captain 6th.April 1898.

Married on 20th.April 1898 at the Citadel Church Cairo to Violet, youngest daughter of the late Lord Alfred Spencer Churchill MP, and Granddaughter of John, 6th.Duke of Marlborough.

Served in the South African War on Special Service with the Protectorate Regiment.

VICTORIA CROSS

Date of Deeds 14th.october 1899, 27th.october 1899, 26th.December 1899

London Gazette 6th.July 1900 *“On the 14th.October 1899 Capt.FitzClarence went with his squadron of the protectorate Regiment, consisting of only partially trained men, who had never been in action, to the assistance of an armoured train which had gone out of Mafeking. The enemy was greatly superior in numbers, and the squadron for a time surrounded, and it looked as if nothing could save them from being shot down. Capt.FitzClarence, however, by his personal coolness and courage, inspired the greatest confidence in his men, and by his bold and efficient handling of them, not only succeeded in relieving the armoured train, but inflicted a heavy defeat on the Boers who lost fifty killed and a large number of wounded; his own losses being two killed and fifteen wounded. The moral effect of this blow had a very important bearing on subsequent encounters with the Boers.*

“On the 27^h.October 1899Capt.FitzClarence led his squadron from Mafeking across the open, and made a night attack with the bayonet on one of the enemy’s trenches. A hand-to-hand fight took place in the trench while a heavy fire was concentrated on it from the rear. The enemy was driven out with heavy loss. Capt.FitzClarence was the first man into position and accounted for four of the enemy with his sword. The British lost six killed and nine wounded. FitzClarence himself slightly wounded.

“On the 26^h.December 1899 during the action of Game tree near Mafeking, Capt.FitzClarence again distinguished himself by his coolness and courage, and was again wounded severely in the leg.”



Captain FitzClarence transferred to the Irish Guards on 6th.October 190, and it was whilst leading the 1st.Battalion Irish Guards at Polygon Wood on 12th.November 1914 that he was killed.

MEDALS Victoria Cross and campaign medals were sold by auction on 8th.February 1990 for £38,000 and are now in the Ashcroft VC collection.

MAURICE JAMES DEASE VC



Born at Gaulestown, Coole, Co. Westmeath, Ireland on 28th.September 1889, son of Edmund FitzLawrance Dease JP and Grandson of James Arthur Dease of Turbotson JP DL, Vice Lieut. Of Cavan. Heir to his uncle, Major Gerald Dease DL, late Royal Fusiliers, of Co. Westmeath.

Educated at Frogmal Park, Hampstead and Stoneyhurst College (1903), where he known as “the aviary boy” due to his great interest in birds, the Army College Wimbledon, and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst from where he was commissioned into the 4th.Battalion Royal Fusiliers (The City of London Regiment) on 27th.May 1910.

He was selected by the Commanding officer to attend classes in mountain warfare under an Indian Army officer. He subsequently became Scout Officer of the 4th.Battalion and was later appointed Machine Gun officer. Promoted Lieutenant on 19th.April 1912.

VICTORIA CROSS

Date of Deed 23rd.August 1914

London Gazette 16th.November 1914 *“Though two or three times wounded, he continued to control the fire of his machine guns at Mons on the 23rd.August until all his men were shot. He died of his wounds.”*

Buried St. Symphorium Military Cemetery, Belgium

Memorials : Plaque on Nimy Bridge, Mons.: Catholic Officers Association

Roll of Honour : Stonyhurst College war memorial. Westminster Cathedral

Memorial in Westmeath Church

MEDALS Victoria Cross, 1914 Star Trio purchased from the Dease family by the Royal Fusiliers Museum for £18,000 on 16th.January 1985.



SIDNEY FRANK GODLEY VC



Born 14th.August 1889 East Grinstead, Sussex, son of Frank and Avis Godley.
Educated at the National School Sidcup. Enlisted into the 4th.Battalion Royal Fusiliers (The City of London Regiment) 13th.December 1909 Regimental Number 13814

VICTORIA CROSS

Date of Deed 23rd.August 1914

London Gazette 25th.November 1914 *“On 23rd.August 1914 at Mons, Belgium in the defence of the Nimy Bridge, for coolness and gallantry in fighting with a machine gun, under a very heavy fire for two hours after being severely wounded.”*

Mentioned in Despatches London Gazette 20th.October 1914

Pte Godley was taken prisoner of war (notification dated 27th.April 1916), his captors informing him of his award.

Married Ellen Eliza Norman on 2nd.August 1919 at St.Mark’s Church, Harlesden, London NW.

Sidney Frank Godley died on 29th.June 1957 at Epping Hospital, Essex age 67 years, and was buried at Loughton Cemetery, St.John’s Church, Loughton Essex.

Mrs. Godley died in 1963 and was buried alongside her husband.

Memorials : Plaque at Nimy Bridge, Mons.

Block of council flats named after him at Digby Street London E2



MEDALS: Victoria Cross and Campaign medals are in private hands.

WILBUR TAYLOR DARTNELL VC



Born on 6th.April 1885 at Fitzroy, Melbourne, Australia

Occupation Actor

Served in South Africa 1899 age 15years as a Private William Thomas Dartnell No.1172 in the Victoria Mounted Rifles. He joined the 25th.(Frontiersmen) Bn. Royal Fusiliers (City of London regiment) in 1914. Lieutenant Dartnell distinguished himself during the capture of the German Post at Bukoba. He had the honour of replacing the German flag with the Union flag. The German flag is now framed and glazed and hangs in City of London HQ RRF HM Tower of London.

VICTORIA CROSS

Date of Deed 3rd.September 1915

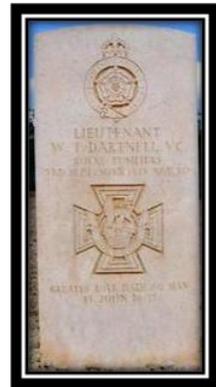
London Gazette 23rd.December 1915 *“For most conspicuous bravery near Maktau (East Africa) on 3rd.september 1915. During a mounted infantry engagement the enemy got within a few yards of our men, and it was found impossible to get the more seriously wounded away. Lieutenant Dartnell, who was himself wounded in the leg, seeing the situation, and knowing that the enemy’s black troops murdered the wounded, insisted on being left behind in the hope of being able to save the lives of the other wounded men. He gave his own life in the gallant attempt to save others.”*

Lieutenant Dartnell died of his wounds on the 3rd.September 1915, and was buried at Voi Cemetery, Kenya, East Africa.

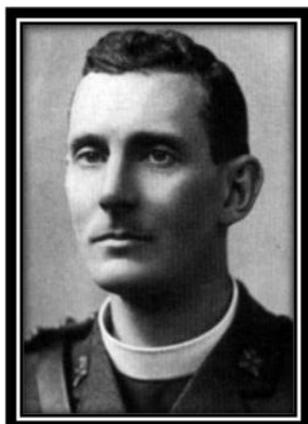
Memorials : Australian War Memorial Canberra

Plaque in the foyer of Covent Garden Theatre, London WC

MEDALS Victoria Cross and Campaign medals were purchased at auction on 1st.April 1981 for A\$12,000, and again on 17th.November 1983 in Australia for A\$36,000 and presented to the Australian Hall of Valour, Canberra, Australia



EDWARD NOEL MELLISH VC MC



Born on the 24th.December 1880 at Oakleigh Park, Barnet, Hertfordshire, son of the late Edward and Mary Mellish. Educated at Saffron Walden Grammar School, and studied Theology at King's College London. A one time member of the 20th.Middlesex (Artists) Rifles Volunteer Corps, he served as a Trooper in the Baden Powell Police in South Africa 1900-02 (Medal + 2 Clasps). He was ordained in 1912 and became Curate at St.Paul's Church, Deptford, London SE. Served as Army Chaplain 1915-1919, attached to the 4th.Bn.Royal Fusiliers (The City of London Regiment).

VICTORIA CROSS

Date of Deeds 27/28th. and 29th.March 1916 at St.Eloi, Belgium

London Gazette 20th.April 1916 *"Captain, The Reverend Noel Mellish went backwards and forwards under continuous and very heavy shell and machine gun fire between our original trenches and those captured from the enemy, in order to tend and rescue wounded men. He brought in ten badly wounded men on the first day from ground swept by machine gun fire. He went back on the second day and brought in twelve more, and on the night of the third day he took charge of a party of volunteers and once more returned to the trenches to rescue the remaining wounded."*

He was awarded the Military Cross in 1918

Served as an Air Raid Warden 1939-45.

Married at St.Paul's Church, Deptford Elizabeth Wallace Molesworth. Issue – Patrick, served with 2nd.Bn Royal Fusiliers in North Africa, was wounded and lost a leg : Robin, served with 2nd.Bn Royal Fusiliers in Greece and with the 1st.Bn in B.A.O.R.

Rev. Mellish died on 8th.July 1962 at South Petherton, Somerset, and his remains were cremated at Weymouth Crematorium.

MEDALS Victoria Cross, Military Cross and Campaign Medals presented to the Royal Fusiliers Museum in 1966



FREDERICK WILLIAM PALMER VC MM



Born Hammersmith, London 11th.November 1891

VICTORIA CROSS

Date of Deed 16/17th.February 1917, Flers-Courcelette, France

London Gazette 3rd.April 1917 Frederick William Palmer 731 Lance Sgt (now 2nd.Lieutenant) 22nd.(Kensington) Battalion Royal Fusiliers (the City of London Regiment)

“For most Conspicuous bravery, control and determination. During the progress of certain operations, all the officers of his company having been shot down, Sgt. Palmer assumed command, and having cut his way under point blank machine gun fire, through the barbed wire entanglements, he rushed the enemy’s trench with six of his men, dislodged the hostile machine gun which had been hampering our advance, and established a block. He then collected men detached from other regiments, and held the barricade for nearly three hours against several determined counter attack, under an incessant barrage of bombs and rifle grenades from his flanks and front. During his temporary absence in search of more bombs an eighth counter attack was delivered by the enemy, who succeeded in driving his party and threatened the defences of the whole flank. At this critical moment, although he had been blown off his feet by a bomb and was greatly exhausted, he rallied his men, drove back the enemy and maintained his position. The very conspicuous bravery shown by this NCO cannot be overstated, and his splendid determination and devotion to duty undoubtedly averted what might have proved a serious disaster in this sector of the line”

Awarded the Military Medal

He later joined the Royal Flying Corps, and served with the Royal Air Force during WW2.

Frederick Palmer died at Lymington Hospital, Hampshire on 10th.September 1955 and was buried at All Saints Churchyard Hordle, Hampshire

MEDALS Victoria Cross, Military Medal and Campaign medals are on loan to the
Royal Fusiliers Museum



GEORGE JARRATT VC



Born Kennington Surrey on 22nd.July 1891, lived at Annerley.

Enlisted into The Royal West Kent Regiment at St.Paul's Churchyard London EC, No.12991
Transferred or posted to 8th.(Service) Bn The Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) No. 55295

VICTORIA CROSS

Date of Deed 3rd.May 1917

London Gazette 8th.June 1917 *“For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty, in deliberately sacrificing his life to save others, he had, together with some wounded men, been taken prisoner and placed under guard in a dug-out. The same evening the enemy were driven back by our troops, the leading infantrymen of which commenced to bomb the dugouts. A grenade fell in the dugout, and without hesitation Corporal Jarratt placed both feet on the grenade, the subsequent explosion blowing off both his feet. The wounded were later safely removed to our lines. Corporal Jarratt died before he could be removed. By this supreme act of self sacrifice the lives of those wounded were saved.”*



Died of Wounds at Pelves, France 3rd.May 1917 Arras Memorial,
Fauberg d'Amiens Cemetery, Arras

MEDALS Victoria Cross and campaign medals were purchased from the widow of Corporal Jarratt by the Royal Fusiliers Museum.



JOHN MOLYNEUX VC



Born at 22nd.November 1890, son of Joseph and Minnie Jane Molyneux
Educated at Holy Trinity Church of England School St.Helens Lancashire
Employed a miner with Sutton Heath and Lee Green Colliery.
Enlisted into 2nd.Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London) Regiment 7th.September 1914 No.1817
After basic training at Dover he served in Gallipoli, suffering frost bite on 25/26th.November 1915.
In hospital at Malta, and proceeded to France in March 1916 where he was wounded in the left arm on the Somme in 1916. He was invalided to UK, but later returned to 2nd.Battalion having regained his fitness.

VICTORIA CROSS

Date of Deed 9th.October 1917 East of Langemarck
London Gazette 26th.November 1917 *“For conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. During an attack, which was held up by machine gun fire which caused many casualties, Sgt. Molyneux instantly organised a bombing party to clear the trench in front of a house. Many enemy were killed and a machine gun captured. Having cleared this obstacle, he immediately jumped out of the trench and called for someone to follow him, and rushed for the house. By the time the men arrived he was in the thick of a hand-to-hand fight, this only lasted a short time and the enemy surrendered, and in addition to the dead and wounded between twenty and thirty prisoners were taken. Apart from the personal bravery of this Non-Commissioned officer, his initiative and dash prevented a slight check from becoming a serious block in the advance, and undoubtedly prevented many casualties.”*

Sgt .Molyneux received his Victoria cross from HM King George V on the 12th.December 1917.
He was also awarded the **Belgian Croix de Guerre** in February 1918
He married Mary Agnes – and was employed at Plikington Brothers Ltd.until retirement
John Molyneux died on the 25th.March 1972 at Ashton’s Green Hostel, St.Helen’s Lancashire, and his remains interred at Section 3 St.Helen’s Crematorium.

MEDALS Victoria Cross and Campaign medals purchased by the Royal Fusiliers Museum at auction in January 1973 for £2,100



NEVILLE BOWES ELLIOTT-COOPER VC DSO MC



Born at 81 Lancaster Gate, London W2 on 22nd.January 1889 son of Sir Robert Elliott-Cooper KCB. Educated at Eton College and Royal Military College Sandhurst. Commissioned 2nd.Lieutenant 3rd.Battalion Royal Fusiliers (City of London Regiment) on 9th.October 1908, served South Africa, Mauritius and India. Soon after the outbreak of war he was attached to 8th.(Service) Battalion. Royal Fusiliers.

MILITARY CROSS London Gazette 14th.May 1916 *“For Conspicuous ability in organising an attack on 15th.April 1916, and consolidating craters subsequently gained. He has shown great ability in many difficult situations.”*

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER London Gazette 18th.July 1917 *“For rallying his battalion when it had become temporarily disorganised, and for leading forward a patrol of twenty men under very heavy fire and for returning to his Brigadier with twenty prisoners and very valuable information,”*

VICTORIA CROSS

Date of Deed 30th.November 1917 East of La Vacquerie, Cambrai

London Gazette 13th.February 1918 *“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. Realizing that his men were greatly outnumbered and suffering heavy casualties, he signalled for the 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 lines of defence.”*

Lieut. Colonel Elliott-Cooper died in German hands on 11th.February 1918 at No.1(Reserve) P.O.W camp, Lazaret, Hanover and was buried in Hamburg Cemetery with full military honours bestowed by his captors.

MEDALS The original Victoria Cross, Distinguished Service Order and Military Cross together with the bronze memorial disc were presented by the family to the Royal Fusiliers Museum in 1973.

The whereabouts of the 1914-15 Star, British War and Victory medals are not known.



ROBERT GEE VC MC MP



Born in Leicester 7th.May 1876 son of Robert and Amy Gee.
Apprenticed at the age of 16 years to Ornamental Metal and iron Works at Aylestone, Leicestershire.
Enlisted into 2nd.Battalion Royal Fusiliers (The City of London Regiment) 1893. RQMS 1911, LSGC 1912.
Commissioned 2nd.Battalion Royal Fusiliers 1915.
Served Gallipoli and Egypt 1915-16, France and Flanders 1916-18
Wounded 1st.July 1916, twice wounded 1917.
Awarded the **MILITARY CROSS**

VICTORIA CROSS

Date of Deed 30th.November 1917 – Counter attack at les Rive Vertes, Mercoing and Masnieres Cambrai
London Gazette 11th.January 1918 Robert Gee MC Lieut. (T/Capt.) 2nd.Battalion The Royal Fusiliers *“For most conspicuous bravery and initiative and determination when an attack by a strong enemy force pierced our line and captured Brigade Headquarters and ammunition dump. Captain Gee finding himself a prisoner, killed one of the enemy with his spiked stick, and succeeded in escaping. He then organized a party of the Brigade Staff, with which he attacked the enemy fiercely, closely followed and supported by two companies of Infantry. Bu his own personal bravery and prompt action he, aided by his orderlies, cleared the locality. Captain gee established a defensive flank on the outskirts of the village, then finding that an enemy machine gun was still in action ,with a revolver in each hand, and followed by one man, he rushed and captured the gun, killing eight of the crew. At this time he was wounded, but refused to have the wound dressed until he was satisfied the defence was organized.”*

Mentioned In Despatches September 1916, December 1917 and January 1918.
Conservative & Unionist MP for East Woolwich 1921 and MP for Bosworth in 1924.
All round sportsman.
Capt Gee moved to Mullewa, Western Australia where he died on 2nd.August 1960.
Memorial at War Veterans House, Perth

MEDALS Victoria Cross, Decorations and medals presented by Captain Gee’s family to the Royal Fusiliers Museum, together with an illuminated scroll in a silver casket upon his receiving the Freedom of City of Leicester.



WALTER NAPLETON STONE VC



Born at Lansdowne Place, Blackheath on 7th.December 1891, fifth and youngest son of Edward Stone FSA, a solicitor, and Emily Francis Stone (nee Miéville). The family moved to 21 Vanburgh Park in 1914. Mr. Stone died in 1918, his wife died in 1943.

Walter Napleton Stone was educated at Pembroke College, Cambridge. On leaving here he went to Regina, Canada then to Toronto to study land surveying. Here he met Mabel Maud Jukes and they had a son, Reginald Miéville Stone born 21st May 1914. Neither a marriage nor the child are recorded on Captain Stone's service documents dated November 1914. Returning to England, Stone enlisted into the Inns of Court OTC on 9th.November 1914, and entered the Royal Military College Sandhurst on 29th.December 1914. He was commissioned into the 3rd.Battalion Royal Fusiliers (The City of London Regiment) on 12th.May 1915 and attached to the 17th.(Empire) Battalion on 5th.January 1916.

His father is recorded as next of kin, and all relevant documents were sent to him on his son's death. This was the case with the Victoria Cross.

Mabel Jukes later married Eric Oliver Gurney, an American citizen. Reginald M Stone took his stepfathers name.

VICTORIA CROSS

Date of Deed 30th.November 1917 Mouvres, Cambrai Sector, France

London Gazette 13th.February 1918 *"For most conspicuous bravery when in command of a company in an isolated position, 1,000 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 with unexpected speed, he sent three platoons back, and remained with the rearguard himself. He stood on the parapet with the telephone observing the enemy, and continued to send back valuable information until the wire was cut on his orders, and Captain Stone was seen fighting to the last, till he fell shot through the head. The extraordinary coolness of this officer and the accuracy of his information enabled dispositions to be made just in time to save the line, and avert a disaster."*

Captain Stone's British War and Victory Medals were issued on 30th.September 1922.

He had two elder brothers: Temp. Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Stone DSO, 15th.(attached 16th.) Bn. The Lancashire Fusiliers, Killed In Action 2nd.October 1918, and Lieutenant Commander Reginald George Stone DSO, RN. Another brother was Lieut. Francis Le Strange Stone MC, 3rd.Hussars.

Memorials Cambrai; South Transept, St.Mary's Church, Shrewsbury and family memorial stone Greenwich Cemetery, London SE.

Victoria Cross and medals – in private ownership



CHARLES GRAHAM ROBERTSON VC MM



Born Penrith, Cumberland 4th.July 1879 only son of James and Catherine Robertson.

Educated at Dorking High School, Surrey

Employed as a booking hall clerk with the London & North Eastern Railway Company, to which he returned after WW1.

He had previously served in South Africa with the 34th.Company (Middlesex) Imperial Yeomanry, and played football for the Dorking 2nd.XI.

He enlisted into the 10th.(Stockbroker's_ battalion The Royal Fusiliers (The City of London Regiment) in 1914, regimental Number STK/15913 later G/58769, and arrived in France on the 19th.November 1915.

VICTORIA CROSS

Date of Deed 8th./9th. March 1918 West of Poderhoek Chateau, Belgium

London Gazette 9th.April 1918 Lance Corporal Robertson, G/58769 10th.Battalion Royal Fusiliers *"Having repelled a strong attack by the enemy, realised that he was being cut off and sent for reinforcements, while remaining at his post with only one man, firing his Lewis Gun and killing large numbers of the enemy. NO reinforcements arrived, so he withdrew, and was then forced to withdraw again to a defended post where he got on top of the parapet with a comrade, mounted his gun and continued firing. His comrade was almost immediately killed and he was severely wounded, but managed to crawl back with his gun, having exhausted his ammunition."*

Awarded the **MILITARY MEDAL** – London Gazette 2nd.November 1917

Corporal Robertson was discharged on 19th.December 1918 and received the Silver War Badge, he later served as a sergeant in the Home Guard during WW2.

He died on the 10th.May 1954, and is buried in Dorking cemetery, Surrey.

MEDALS Victoria Cross, MM and medals were presented to the Royal Fusiliers Museum

by Mrs. Robertson in 1977. His Queen's South Africa medal with 3 clasps was purchased in 1977. It is believed that Robertson became disenchanted with the conduct of the South African War and chose not to wear the medal.



ARTHUR PERCY SULLIVAN VC



Born at Crystal Brook, South Australia on the 27th.November 1896. son of A M Sullivan
Employed at the National Bank, Gladstone, South Australia.

Enlisted in the 10th.Battalion A.I.F. at Fort Pirie 27th.April 1918 and was later posted to an artillery unit. He embarked for active service but arrived in France after the cessation of hostilities. He was discharged from the A.I.F. on 12th.June 1919, and then volunteered for the 45th.Battalion Royal Fusiliers (The City of London Regiment) at White City to take part in the North Russian Relief Force , Regt. No.133003.

VICTORIA CROSS

Date of Deed 10th.August 1919

London Gazette 29th.September 1919 *“For conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty at the Sheika River North Russia. The platoon to which he belonged, after fighting a rearguard covering action, had to cross the river by means of a narrow plank, during the passage an officer and three men fell into a deep swamp. Without hesitation, under intense fire, Corporal Sullivan jumped into the river and rescued all four, bringing them out singly. But for this gallant action his comrades would have all drowned, as all ranks were exhausted and the enemy less than one hundred yards away.”*

Corporal Sullivan decided to return to Australia upon demobilization rather than wait in London for his investiture. He received his Victoria cross from HRH Edward, Prince of Wales at Government House, Adelaide on 12th.July 1920. He returned to the National Bank and in 1929 became a branch manager. In 1937 he was selected to join the Australian Military Contingent for the Coronation of HM King George VI. On 9th.April 1937 whilst returning to his quarter in Wellington Barracks, he slipped and fell, hitting his head. He died in hospital soon after. Following a military funeral with full honours, his ashes were returned to Australia and placed in the Northern Suburbs Crematorium.



MEDALS – Australian War Memorial Hall of Valour, Canberra
Photograph of VC and medals courtesy Australian Hall of Valour REL/05670.001



Memorials – Bronze plaque on the railings of Wellington Barracks
Australian War Memorial Hall of Valour, Canberra

SAMUEL GEORGE PEARSE VC MM



Born at Penarth, Glamorgan Wales on 16th.July 1897, son of George Pearse.

His family moved to a property in Koorlong, Mildura, Australia.

After service in the militia, Pearse enlisted at Melbourne on 5th.July 1915. He embarked for Egypt and from there joined 7th.Bn. A.I.F. at Gallipoli. In August 1916 he transferred to 2nd.Machine Gun Company, where, on his first day of duty he was wounded. Having transferred to the Western Front he was awarded the Military Medal on 28th.September 1917 during the fighting East of Ypres where he crept forward and bombed a German position causing many casualties. Later, when employed as a runner he brought in many wounded man. He was again wounded in May 1918. He later transferred to 1st.Australian Machine Gun Corps, and was demobilized July 1919. He married in June 1919, and in July that year he volunteered for the 45th.Battalion Royal Fusiliers (The City of London Regiment) at White City to take part in the North Russian Relief Force, Regt. No.1330021.

VICTORIA CROSS

Date of Deed 24th.August 1919, Emtsa, North Russia

London Gazette 23rd.October 1919 *“For most conspicuous bravery, devotion to duty and self sacrifice during the operation against the enemy battery position, North of Emtsa on the 29th.August 1919. Sgt.Pearse cut his way through the enemy barbed wire under a very heavy machine gun and rifle fire and cleared a way for the troops to enter the battery position. Seeing that a blockhouse was harassing our advance and causing casualties, he charged the blockhouse single handed, killing all the occupants with bombs. This gallant NCO met his death a minute later, and it was due to him that the position was carried with so few casualties. His magnificent bravery and utter disregard for personal danger won for him the admiration of all troops.”*

Buried Archangel Cemetery, Obozerskaya Burial Ground

His Victoria Cross was presented to his widow by HM The King at Buckingham Palace on the 25th.March 1920.

MEDALS Victoria Cross, Military Medal and campaign medals in private ownership

Memorials – North Russia Memorial, Brookwood Cemetery, Surrey ; Australian War Memorial