

Grenadier Guard Officers

V.C - Medal Awards:

1st World War - Captains



The Victoria Cross – V.C

The first British medal to be created for bravery, the “Victoria Cross” was instituted in January 1856 by Queen Victoria, with the first recipients being honoured for their gallantry during the Crimean War. The bronze cross, which bears the inscription "For Valour", is cast from the metal of Russian guns captured at Sevastopol during the Crimean campaign. It is awarded: *"for most conspicuous bravery, or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice, or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy."*

Ribbon: Crimson with miniature of the cross, when ribbons are worn alone (Since 1916).



(Naval awards had “Blue” ribbon until 1918).

Captain: George Henry Tatham **Paton**, V.C, M.C, 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards. Died 1st December 1917. Aged 22. Son of George William and Etta Tatham Paton, of Whyteleafe, Surrey. At Rest: Metz-En-Couture, Communal Cemetery, British Extension, Pas de Calais, France. Buried: Plot II, Row E, Grave 24.

An extract from: “The London Gazette,” dated 12th February 1918, records the following:-" 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 regardless 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."

Captain: Thomas Tannatt **Pryce**, V.C, M.C and bar, 4th Battalion Grenadier Guards. Died 13th April 1918, Aged 32. Son of Thomas and Rosalie S. Pryce, Husband of Margaret Sybil Pryce, of Maidenhead, Berkshire. Listed on Panel 1, Ploegsteert Memorial, Comines-Warneton, Hainaut, Belgium.

An extract from: "The London Gazette," dated 21st May, 1918, records the following-"*For most conspicuous bravery, devotion to duty, and self-sacrifice when in command of a flank on the left of the Grenadier Guards. Having been ordered to attack a village he personally led forward two platoons, working from house to house, killing some thirty of the enemy, seven of whom he killed himself. The next day he was occupying a position with some thirty to forty men, the remainder of his company having become casualties. As early as 8.15 a.m., his left flank was surrounded and the enemy was enfilading him. He was attacked no less than four times during the day, and each time beat off the hostile attack, killing many of the enemy. Meanwhile the enemy brought three field guns to within 300 yards of his line, and were firing over open sights and knocking his trench in. At 6.15 p.m., the enemy had worked to within sixty yards of his trench. He then called on his men, telling them to cheer and charge the enemy and fight to the last. Led by Captain Pryce, they left their trench and drove back the enemy with the bayonet some 100 yards. Half an hour later the enemy had again approached in stronger force. By this time Captain Pryce had only 17 men left, and every round of his ammunition had been fired. Determined that there should be no surrender, he once again led his men forward in a bayonet charge, and was last seen engaged in a fierce hand-to-hand struggle with overwhelming numbers of the enemy. With some forty men he had held back at least one enemy battalion for over ten hours. His company undoubtedly stopped the advance through the British line, and thus had great influence on the battle.*"