

Grenadier Guards Enlisted Men. V.C - Medal Awards: 1st World War – Private's



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).

Private: Edward **Barber**, **V.C.**, 15518. 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards. Presumed to have died on or since 12th March 1915, Aged 22. Son of William and Sarah Ann Barber, of Tring, Hertfordshire. Listed on Panel 2, Le Touret Memorial, Pas de Calais, France.

An extract from: "The London Gazette," dated 19th April, 1915, records the following: - "For most conspicuous bravery on 12th March, 1915, at Neuve Chapelle. He ran speedily in front of the grenade company to which he belonged, and threw bombs on the enemy with such effect that a very great number of them at once surrendered. When the grenade party reached Private Barber they found him quite alone and unsupported, with the enemy surrendering all about him."

Private: William Edgar **Holmes**, **V.C.**, 16796. 2nd Battalion Grenadier Guards. Died 9th October 1918, Aged 23. Son of Mrs. E. E. Holmes, of Didbrook, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire. At Rest: Carnieres Communal Cemetery Extension, Nord, France. Buried: Plot I, Row B, Grave 3

An extract from: "The London Gazette," No. 31082, dated 24th December 1918, records the following:-"For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty at Cattenieres on the 9th October 1918. Private Holmes carried in two men under the most intense fire, and while he was attending to a third case, he was severely wounded. In spite of this he continued to carry wounded, and was shortly afterwards again wounded with fatal results. By his self-sacrifice and disregard of danger he was the means of saving the lives of several of his comrades."