

H.M.S. "Mersey."

Chief Yeoman of Signals E. W. Pettingale, O.N. 148718.

Able Seaman H. J. Carter, O.N. 217542.

Able Seaman William Corry, O.N. 190507 (R.F.R. Ch.B. 7705).

Stoker (2nd Class) Richard Thompson, O.N. 105721.

Royal Naval Air Service.

Air Mechanic Ebenezer Henry Alexander Boggis, O.N. 14849.

WAR OFFICE, December 7, 1915.

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to award the Victoria Cross to the under-mentioned Non-Commissioned Officer and Man:—

No. 91608 Corporal James Lennox Dawson, 187th Company, Royal Engineers.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on 13th October 1915, at Hohenzollern Redoubt.

During a gas attack, when the trenches were full of men, he walked backwards and forwards along the parapets, fully exposed to a very heavy fire, in order to be the better able to give directions to his own sappers, and to clear the infantry out of the sections of the trench that were full of gas. Finding three leaking gas cylinders, he rolled them some 16 yards away from the trench, again under very heavy fire, and then fired rifle bullets into them to let the gas escape.

There is no doubt that the cool gallantry of Corporal Dawson on this occasion saved many men from being gassed.

No. 17424 Private Thomas Kenny, 13th (Service) Battalion, The Durham Light Infantry.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the night of 4th November 1915, near La Houssoie.

When on patrol in a thick fog with Lieutenant Brown, 13th Battalion, Durham Light Infantry, some Germans, who were lying out in a ditch in front of their parapet, opened fire and shot Lieutenant Brown through both thighs. Private Kenny, although heavily and repeatedly fired upon, crawled about for more than an hour with his wounded officer on his back, trying to find his way through the fog to our trenches. He refused more than once to go on alone, although told by Lieutenant Brown to do so. At last, when utterly exhausted, he came to a ditch which he recognised, placed Lieutenant Brown in it, and went to look for help. He found an officer and a few men of his battalion at a listening post, and after guiding them back, with their assistance Lieutenant Brown was brought in, although the Germans again opened heavy fire with rifles and machine-guns, and threw bombs at 30 yards distance. Private Kenny's pluck, endurance, and devotion to duty were beyond praise.

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to approve of the appointment of the undermentioned Officers to be Companions of the Distinguished Service Order, in recognition of their gallantry and devotion to duty in the field:—

Major (temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Alexander William Pagan, 1st Battalion, Gloucestershire Regiment.

For conspicuous good work when in command of his battalion near Loos on 8th October 1915, during a heavy bombardment of 4½ hours, followed by a heavy infantry attack.

He had already been brought to notice for good work done on 9th May and 25th September 1915.

Second Lieutenant Norman Martin, 3rd Battalion (attached 1st Battalion), The Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

For conspicuous gallantry and determination near Hulluch on 13th October 1915.

During a bombing attack in a German communication trench, one officer of the company was killed, another wounded, and three parties of bombers were all either killed or wounded. Second Lieutenant Martin then commenced throwing bombs himself, after which he expended all the rounds in his revolver, and continued to fire with a rifle.

It was largely due to his coolness and courage that the barricade was held till more bombers had been obtained.

Second Lieutenant Gilbert France Watson, Welsh Field Company, Welsh Divisional Engineers, Royal Engineers, Territorial Force.

For conspicuous gallantry and determination near Hooge. On the night of 24th-25th September 1915, he made an excellent reconnaissance of the enemy's wire, and on the 25th crawled out with two men, and successfully cut it before the assault. During the assault, with a party of 12 sappers and 25 infantry, he dug 80 yards of a communication trench in two hours under very heavy fire, by which nearly three-quarters of his men became casualties. He then reported for instructions, and took the remains of his party into the captured positions in order to consolidate them. When retirement was ordered he got back to our original trenches with one sergeant, who was killed almost at once, and three or four men, and, finding the trenches unoccupied, he collected about 25 men of the 4th Battalion Gordon Highlanders, and held on until relieved by another battalion after dark.

Second Lieutenant Watson set a fine example of bravery and devotion to duty.

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to confer the Military Cross on the under-mentioned Officers, in recognition of their gallantry and devotion to duty in the field:—

Temporary Captain Hugh Francis de Wolf, 16th Battalion, The King's (Liverpool Regiment)