(Lastname), (firstname). Nationality

Born: in

Pre-War Occupation:

Marital Status:

Reason for Award:

Military Rank:

Killed in Duty on /Survived the First World War

**Algie, Wallace. Canadian.**

*Born:* June 10th, 1891 in Alton, Ontario.

*Pre-War Occupation:* Banker

*Marital Status:* Unsure

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice on the 11th October, 1918, north-east of Cambrai, when with attacking troops which came under heavy enfilade machine-gun fire from a neighbouring village.

Rushing forward with nine volunteers, he shot the crew of an enemy machine gun, and, turning it on the enemy, enabled his party to reach the village.  He then rushed another machine gun, killed the crew, captured an officer and 10 enemy, and thereby cleared the end of the village.

Lt. Algie, having established his party, went back for reinforcements, but was killed when leading them forward.  His valour and personal initiative in the face of intense fire saved many lives and enabled the position to be held.” *(London Gazette, no.31155, January 31st, 1919)*

*Military Rank:* Lieutenant

Killed in duty on October 11th, 1918

**Barker, William. Canadian**

*Born:* November 3rd, 1894 in Dauphin, Manitoba

*Pre-War Occupation:* Student

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “On the morning of the 27th October, 1918, this officer observed an enemy two-seater over the Fôret de Mormal.  He attacked this machine, and after a short burst it broke up in the air.  At the same time a Fokker biplane attacked him, and he was wounded in the right thigh, but managed, despite this, to shoot down the enemy aeroplane in flames.

He then found himself in the middle of a large formation of Fokkers, who attacked him from all directions; and was again severely wounded in the left thigh; but succeeded in driving down two of the enemy in a spin.

He lost consciousness after this, and his machine fell out of control.  On recovery he found himself being again attacked heavily by a large formation, and singling out one machine, he deliberately charged and drove it down in flames.

During this fight his left elbow was shattered, and he again fainted, and on regaining consciousness he found himself still being attacked, but, notwithstanding that he was now severely wounded in both legs and his left arm shattered, he dived on the nearest machine and shot it down in flames.

Being greatly exhausted, he dived out of the fight to regain our lines, but was met by another formation, which attacked and endeavoured to cut him off, but after a hard fight he succeeded in breaking up this formation and reached our lines, where he crashed on landing.

This combat, in which Major Barker destroyed four enemy machines (three of them in flames), brought his total successes up to fifty enemy machines destroyed, and is a notable example of the exceptional bravery and disregard which this very gallant officer has always displayed throughout his distinguished career.

Major Barker was awarded the Military Cross on 10th January, 1917; first Bar on 18th July, 1917; the Distinguished Service Order on 18th February, 1918; second Bar to Military Cross on 16th September, 1918; and Bar to Distinguished Service Order on 2nd November, 1918.”

*(London Gazette, no.31042, November 30th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Major

Survived the First World War and died in an airplane accident on March 12th, 1930

**Barron, Colin. Scottish**

*Born:* September 20, 1893 in Banffshire, Scotland

*Pre-War Occupation:* Teamster

*Marital Status:* SingleReason for Award: “For conspicuous bravery when in attack his unit was held up by three machine-guns. Corpl. Barron opened on them from a flank at point-blank range, rushed the enemy guns single-handed, killed four of the crew, and captured the remainder. He then, with remarkable initiative and skill, turned one of the captured guns on the retiring enemy, causing them severe casualties.

The remarkable dash and determination displayed by this N.C.O. in rushing the guns produced far-reaching results, and enabled the advance to be continued.” *(London Gazette, no.30471, January 11th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Corporal

Survived the First World War and died on August 15th, 1958

**Bellew, Edward. British**

*Born:* October 28th, 1893 "at Sea" in Bombay, India

*Pre-War Occupation:* Civil Service

*Marital Status:* Married

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty near Keerselaere on 24th April, 1915, during the German attack on the Ypres salient.  Capt. (then Lieut.) Bellew, as Battalion Machine Gun Officer, had two guns in action on the high ground overlooking Keerselaere.  The enemy’s attack broke in full force on the morning of the 24th against the front and right flank of the Battalion – the latter being exposed owing to a gap in the line.  The right Company was soon put out of action, but the advance was temporarily stayed by Capt. Bellew, who had sited his guns on the left of the right Company.  Reinforcements were sent forward but they in turn were surrounded and destroyed.  With the enemy in strength less than 100 yards from him, with no further assistance in sight, and with his rear threatened, Capt. Bellew and Serjt. Peerless, each operating a gun, decided to stay where they were and fight it out.  Serjt. Peerless was killed and Capt. Bellew was wounded and fell.  Nevertheless, he got up and maintained his fire till ammunition failed and the enemy rushed the position.  Capt. Bellew then seized a rifle, smashed his machine gun, and fighting to the last, was taken prisoner.”

*(London Gazette, no.31340, May 15th 1919)*

*Military Rank:* Lieutenant

Survived the First World War and died on February 1st, 1961

**Bent, Philip. Canadian**

*Born:* January 3rd, 1891 in Halifax, Nova Scotia

*Pre-War Occupation:* Unknown

*Marital Status:* Unsure

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery, when during a heavy hostile attack, the right of his own command and the battalion on his right were forced back. The situation was critical owing to the confusion caused by the attack and the intense artillery fire. Lt. Col. Bent personally collected a platoon that was in reserve, and together with men from other companies and various regimental details, he organised and led them forward to the counter-attack, after issuing orders to other officers as to the further defence of the line. The counter-attack was successful and the enemy were checked. The coolness and magnificent example shown to all ranks by Lt.-Col. Bent resulted in the securing of a portion of the line which was of essential importance for subsequent operations. This very gallant officer was killed whilst leading a charge which he inspired with the call of Come on the Tigers". Star" *(London Gazette, January 11th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Lieutenant-Colonel

Killed in Duty on October 1st, 1917

* Buried at Tyne Cot Memorial in Belgium.

**Bishop, William. Canadian**

*Born:* February 8th, 1894 in Owen Sound, Nova Scotia

*Pre-War Occupation:* Student

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery, determination and skill.

Captain Bishop, who had been sent out to work independently, flew first of all to an enemy aerodrome; finding no machine about, he flew on to another aerodrome about three miles south-east, which was at least twelve miles the other side of the line.  Seven machines, some with their engines running, were on the ground.  He attacked these from about fifty feet, and a mechanic, who was starting one of the engines, was seen to fall.  One of the machines got off the ground, but at a height of sixty feet Captain Bishop fired fifteen rounds into it at very close range, and it crashed to the ground.

A second machine got off the ground, into which he fired thirty rounds at 150 yards range, and it fell into a tree.

Two more machines then rose from the aerodrome.  One of these he engaged at the height of 1,000 feet, emptying the rest of his drum of ammunition.  This machine crashed 300 yards from the aerodrome, after which Captain Bishop emptied a whole drum into the fourth hostile machine, and then flew back to his station.

Four hostile scouts were about 1,000 feet above him for about a mile of his return journey, but they would not attack.

His machine was very badly shot about by machine gun fire from the ground.”

*(London Gazette, no.30228, August 11th, 1917)*

*Military Rank:* Captain

Survived the First World War and died on September 11th, 1956

**Bourke, William. English**

*Born:* November 28th, 1885 in London, England

*Pre-War Occupation:* Unknown

*Marital Status:* Unsure

Reason for Award: “… hearing cries in the water he again entered the harbour, and after a prolonged search eventually found Lieutenant Sir John Alleyne and two ratings, all badly wounded, in the water, clinging to an upended skiff, and rescued them. During all this time the motor launch was under a very heavy fire at close range, being hit in 55 places, once by a 6 inch shell—two of her small crew being killed and others wounded. The vessel was seriously damaged and speed greatly reduced. Lieutenant Bourke, however, managed to bring her out and carry on…” *(London Gazette, August 27th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Lieutenant

Survived the First World War and died in 1958

**Brereton, Alexander. Canadian**

*Born:* November 13th, 1892 in Oak River, Manitoba

*Pre-War Occupation*: Barber

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery during an attack, when a line of hostile machine guns opened fire suddenly on his platoon, which was in an exposed position, and no cover available.  This gallant N.C.O. at once appreciated the critical situation and realised that unless something was done at once the platoon would be annihilated.  On his own initiative, without a moment’s delay, and alone, he sprang forward and reached one of the hostile machine-gun posts, where he shot the man operating the machine gun and bayoneted the next one who attempted to operate it, whereupon nine others surrendered to him.

Cpl. Brereton’s action was a splendid example of resource and bravery, and not only undoubtedly saved many of his comrades’ lives, but also inspired his platoon to charge and capture the fire remaining posts.” *(London Gazette, no.30922, September 27th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Corporal

Survived the First World War and died on June 11th, 1976

**Brillant, Jean. Canadian**

*Born:* March 15th, 1892 in Assametquaghan, Quebec

*Pre-War Occupation:* Telegraph Operator

*Marital Status:* Single

Reason for Award: “For most conspicuous bravery and outstanding devotion to duty when in charge of a company which he led in attack during two days with absolute fearlessness and extraordinary ability and initiative, the extent of the advance being twelve miles.

On the first day of operations shortly after the attack had begun, his company left flank was held up by an enemy machine-gun.  Lt. Brillant rushed and captured the machine-gun, personally killing two of the enemy crew.  Whilst doing this, he was wounded, but refused to leave his command.

Later on the same day, his company was held up by heavy machine-gun fire.  He reconnoitred the ground personally, organised a party of two platoons and rushed straight for the machine-gun nest.  Here 150 enemy and fifteen machine-guns were captured, Lt. Brillant personally killing five of the enemy, and being wounded a second time.  He had this wound dressed immediately, and again refused to leave his Company.

Subsequently this gallant officer detected a field gun firing on his men over open sights.  He immediately organised and led a ‘rushing’ party towards the gun.  After progressing about 600 yards, he was again seriously wounded.  In spite of this third wound, he continued to advance for some 200 yards more, when he fell unconscious from exhaustion and loss of blood.

Lt. Brillant’s wonderful example throughout the day inspired his men with an enthusiasm and dash which largely contributed towards the success of the operation.”

*(London Gazette, no.30922, September 27th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Lieutenant

Killed in Duty on August 9th, 1918

**Brown, Harry. Canadian**

*Born:* May 11th, 1898 in Gananoque, Ontario

*Pre-War Occupation:* Farmer

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery, courage and devotion to duty.

After the capture of a position, the enemy massed in force and counter-attacked.  The situation became very critical, all wires being cut.  It was of the utmost importance to get word back to Headquarters.  This soldier and one other were given the message with orders to deliver the same at all costs.  The other messenger was killed.  Pte. Brown had his arm shattered, but continued on through an intense barrage until he arrived at the close support lines and found an officer.

He was so spent that he fell down the dugout steps, but retained consciousness long enough to hand over his message, saying, “Important message.”  He then became unconscious, and died in the dressing station a few hours later.

His devotion to duty was of the highest possible degree imaginable, and his successful delivery of the message undoubtedly saved the loss of the position for the time and prevented many casualties.” *(London Gazette, no.30338, October 17th, 1917)*

*Military Rank:* Private

Killed in Duty on August 16th, 1917

**Cairns, Hugh. British**

*Born:* December 4th, 1896 in Ashington, England

*Pre-War Occupation:* Plumber

*Marital Status:* Single

Reason for Award: “For most conspicuous bravery before Valenciennes on 1st November, 1918, when a machine gun opened on his platoon.  Without a moment’s hesitation Serjt. Cairns seized a Lewis gun and single-handed, in the face of direct fire, rushed the post, killed the crew of five, and captured the gun.  Later, when the line was held up by machine-gun fire, he again rushed forward, killing 12 enemy and capturing 18 and two guns.

Subsequently, when the advance was held up by machine guns and field guns, although wounded, he led a small party to outflank them, killing many, forcing about 50 to surrender, and capturing all the guns.

After consolidation he went with a battle patrol to exploit Marly and forced 60 enemy to surrender.  Whilst disarming this party he was severely wounded.  Nevertheless, he opened fire and inflicted heavy losses.  Finally he was rushed by about 20 enemy and collapsed from weakness and loss of blood.

Throughout the operation he showed the highest degree of valour, and his leadership greatly contributed to the success of the attack.  He died on the 2nd November from wounds.”

*(London Gazette, no.31155, January 31st, 1919*

*Military Rank:* Sergeant

Killed in Duty on November 2nd, 1918

**Campbell, Frederick. Canadian**

*Born:* June 15th, 1869 in Mount Forest, Ontario

*Pre-War Occupation:* Farmer

*Marital Status:* Married

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery on 15th June, 1915, during the action at Givenchy.

Lieutenant Campbell took two machine-guns over the parapet, arrived at the German first line with one gun, and maintained his position there, under very heavy rifle, machine-gun, and bomb fire, notwithstanding the fact that almost the whole of his detachment had then been killed or wounded.

When our supply of bombs had become exhausted, this Officer advanced his gun still further to an exposed position, and, by firing about 1,000 rounds, succeeded in holding back the enemy’s counter-attack.

This very gallant Officer was subsequently wounded, and has since died.”

*(London Gazette, no.29272, August 23rd, 1915)*

*Military Rank:* Lieutenant

Killed in Duty on June 19th, 1915

**Clarke, Leo. Canadian**

*Born:* December 1st, 1892 in Hamilton, Ontario

*Pre-War Occupation:* Resident Engineer

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery.  He was detailed with his section of bombers to clear the continuation of a newly-captured trench and cover the construction of a “block.”  After most of his party had become casualties, he was building a “block” when about twenty of the enemy with two officers counter-attacked.  He boldly advanced against them, emptied his revolver into them and afterwards two enemy rifles which he picked up in the trench.

One of the officers then attacked him with the bayonet, wounding him in the leg, but he shot him dead.  The enemy then ran away, pursued by Acting Corporal Clarke, who shot four more and captured a fifth.

Later he was ordered to the dressing-station, but returned next day to duty.”

*(London Gazette, no.29802, October 26th, 1916)*

*Military Rank:* Corporal

Killed in Duty on October 5th, 1916

* Lived on the same street in Winnipeg as two other Victoria Cross winners; the street was renamed Valour Park in their honour

**Clark-Kennedy, William. Scottish**

*Born:* March 3rd, 1880 in Dunskey, Scotland

*Pre-War Occupation:* Company Manager

*Marital Status:* Married

Reason for Award: “For most conspicuous bravery, initiative and skilful leading on the 27th and 28th August, 1918, when in command of his battalion.

On the 27th he led his battalion with great bravery and skill from Crow and Aigrette trenches in front of Wancourt to the attack on the Fresnes-Rouvroy line.  From the outset the brigade, of which the 24th Battalion was a central unit, came under very heavy shell and machine-gun fire, suffering many casualties, especially amongst leaders.  Units became partially disorganised and the advance was checked.  Appreciating the vital importance to the brigade front of a lead by the centre, and undismayed by annihilating fire, Lt.-Col. Clark-Kennedy, by sheer personality and initiative, inspired his men and led them forward.  On several occasions he set an outstanding example by leading parties straight at the machine-gun nests which were holding up the advance and overcame these obstacles.

By controlling the direction of neighbouring units and collecting men who had lost their leaders, he rendered valuable services in strengthening the line, and enabled the whole brigade front to move forward.

By the afternoon, very largely due to the determined leadership of this officer and disregard for his own life, his battalion, despite heavy losses, has made good the maze of trenches west of Cherisy and Cherisy Village, had crossed the Sensee Rivert bed, and had occupied Occident Trench in front of the heavy wire of the Fresnes-Rouvroy line; under continuous fire he then went up and down his line until far into the night, improving the position, giving wonderful encouragement to his men, and sent back very clear reports.

On the next day he again showed valorous leadership in the attack on the Fresnes-Rouvroy line and Upton Wood.  Though severely wounded soon after the start he refused aid, and dragged himself to a shell-hole, from which he could observe.  Realising that his exhausted troops could advance no further he established a strong line of defence and thereby prevented the loss of most important ground.  Despite intense pain and serious loss of blood he refused to be evacuated for over five hours, by which time he had established the line in a position from which it was possible for the relieving troops to continue the advance.

It is impossible to overestimate the results achieved by the valour and leadership of this officer.”

*(London Gazette, no.31067, December 14th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Lieutenant-Colonel

Survived the First World War and died on October 25th, 1961

**Combe, Robert. Scottish**

*Born:* August 5th, 1880 in Aberdeen, Scotland

*Pre-War Occupation:* Chemist

*Marital Status:* Married

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and example.

He steadied his Company under intense fire, and led them through the enemy barrage, reaching the objective with only five men.

With great coolness and courage Lt. Combe proceeded to bomb the enemy, and inflicted heavy casualties.  He collected small groups of men and succeeded in capturing the Company objective, together with eighty prisoners.

He repeatedly charged the enemy, driving them before him, and, whilst personally leading his bombers, was killed by an enemy sniper.

His conduct inspired all ranks, and it was entirely due to his magnificent courage that the position was carried, secured and held.”

*(London Gazette, no.30154, June 27th, 1917)*

*Military Rank:* Lieutenant

Killed in Duty on May 3rd, 1917

**Coppins, Frederick. British**

*Born:* October 25th, 1889 in London, England

*Pre-War Occupation*: Unemployed

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when, during an attack, his platoon came unexpectedly under fire of numerous machine guns.  It was not possible to advance or to retire, and no cover was available.  It became apparent that the platoon would be annihilated unless the enemy machine guns were silenced immediately.  Cpl. Coppins, without hesitation, and on his own initiative, called on four men to follow him and leapt forward in the face of intense machine-gun fire.  With his comrades he rushed straight for the machine guns.  The four men with him were killed and Cpl. Coppins wounded.  Despite his wounds he reached the hostile machine guns alone, killed the operator of the first gun and three of the crew, and made prisoners of four others, who surrendered.

Cpl. Coppins, by this act of outstanding valour, was the means of saving many lives of the men of his platoon, and enabled the advance to be continued.

Despite his wound, this gallant N.C.O. continued with his platoon to the final objective, and only left the line when it had been made secure and when ordered to do so.”

*(London Gazette, no.30922, September 27th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Corporal

Survived the First World War and died on March 30th, 1963

**Croak, John. Canadian**

*Born:* May 18th, 1892 in Little Bay, Newfoundland

*Pre-War Occupation:* Laborer

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery in attack when having become separated from his section he encountered a machine-gun nest, which he bombed and silenced, taking the gun and crew prisoners.  Shortly afterwards he was severely wounded, but refused to desist.

Having rejoined his platoon, a very strong point, containing several machine guns, was encountered.  Private Croak, however, seeing an opportunity, dashed forward alone and was almost immediately followed by the remainder of the platoon in a brilliant charge.  He was the first to arrive at the trench line, into which he led his men, capturing three machine guns and bayoneting or capturing the entire garrison.

The perseverance and valour of this gallant soldier, who was again severely wounded, and died of his wounds, were an inspiring example to all.”

*(London Gazette, no.30922, September 27th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Private

Killed in Duty on August 8th, 1918

**Cruickshank, Robert. Canadian**

*Born:* June 17th, 1888 in Winnipeg, Manitoba

*Pre-War Occupation:* Salesman

*Marital Status:* Unsure

*Reason for Award:* "The platoon to which Private Cruickshank belonged came under very heavy rifle and machine-gun fire at short range and was led down a steep bank into a wadi, most of the men being hit before they reached the bottom. Immediately after reaching the bottom of the wadi the officer in command was shot dead, and the sergeant who then took over command sent a runner back to Company Headquarters asking for support, but was mortally wounded almost immediately after; the corporal having in the meantime been killed, the only remaining N.C.O. (a lance-corporal), believing the first messenger to have been killed, called for a volunteer to take a second message back.

Private Cruickshank immediately responded and rushed up the slope, but was hit and rolled back into the wadi bottom. He again rose and rushed up the slope, but, being again wounded, rolled back into the wadi. After his wounds had been dressed he rushed a third time up the slope and again fell badly wounded. Being now unable to stand he rolled himself back amid a hail of bullets. His wounds were now of such a nature as to preclude him making any further attempt and he lay all day in a dangerous position, being sniped at and again wounded where he lay. He displayed the utmost valour and endurance, and was cheerful and uncomplaining throughout.”

*(London Gazette, June 21st, 1916)*

*Military Rank:* Private

Survived the First World War and died on August 30th, 1961

**De Wind, Edmund. Irish**

*Born:* December 11th, 1883 in Comber, Ireland

*Pre-War Occupation:* Bank Official

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice on the 21st March, 1918, at the Race Course Redoubt, near Grugies. For seven hours he held this most important post, and though twice wounded and practically single-handed, he maintained his position until another section could be got to his help. On two occasions, with two N.C.O.'s only, he got out on top under heavy machine gun and rifle fire, and cleared the enemy out of the trench, killing many. He continued to repel attack after attack until he was mortally wounded and collapsed. His valour, self-sacrifice and example were of the highest order.” *(London Gazette, May 13th, 1919)*

*Military Rank:* Private

Killed in Duty on March 21st, 1918

* Memorialized on the Pozieres Memorial in Somme, France

**Dinesen, Thomas. Danish**

*Born:* August 9th, 1892 in Rungsted, Denmark

*Pre-War Occupation:* Civil Engineer

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous and continuous bravery displayed during ten hours of hand-to-hand fighting, which resulted in the capture of over a mile of strongly garrisoned and stubbornly defended enemy trenches.

Five times in succession he rushed forward alone, and single-handed put hostile machine guns out of action, accounting for twelve of the enemy with bomb and bayonet. His sustained valour and resourcefulness inspired his comrades at a very critical stage of the action, and were an example to all.”

*(London Gazette, no.30975, October 26th, 1918)*

Military Rank: Private

Survived the First World War and died on March 10th, 1979

**Fisher, Frederick. Canadian**

*Born:* August 3rd, 1895 in St. Catherine's, Ontario

*Pre-War Occupation:* Student

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award*: “On 23rd April, 1915, in the neighbourhood of St. Julien, he went forward with the machine gun, of which he was in charge, under heavy fire, and most gallantly assisted in covering the retreat of a battery, losing four men of his gun team.

Later, after obtaining four more men, he went forward again to the firing line and was himself killed while bringing his machine gun into action under very heavy fire, in order to cover the advance of supports.” *(London Gazette, no.29202, June 23rd, 1915)*

*Military Rank:* Lance-Corporal

Killed in Duty on April 23rd, 1915

* First Canadian serving in a Canadian Unit to receive the Victoria Cross

**Flowerdew, Gordon. British**

*Born:* January 2nd, 1885 in Billingford, England

*Pre-War Occupation:* Rancher

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and dash when in command of a squadron detailed for special service of a very important nature. On reaching the first objective, Lieutenant Flowerdew saw two lines of the enemy, each about sixty strong, with machine guns in the centre and flanks, one line being about two hundred yards behind the other. Realising the critical nature of the operation and how much depended upon it, Lieutenant Flowerdew ordered a troop under Lieutenant Harvey, V.C., to dismount and carry out a special movement while he led the remaining three troops to the charge. The squadron (less one troop) passed over both lines, killing many of the enemy with the sword; and wheeling about galloped at them again. Although the squadron had then lost about 70 per cent of its numbers, killed and wounded, from rifle and machine-gun fire directed on it from the front and both flanks, the enemy broke and retired. The survivors of the squadron then established themselves in a position where they were joined, after much hand-to-hand fighting, by Lieutenant Harvey’s party. Lieutenant Flowerdew was dangerously wounded through both thighs during the operation, but continued to cheer on his men. There can be no doubt that this officer’s great valour was the prime factor in the capture of the position.” *(London Gazette, no.30648, April 24th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Lieutenant

Killed in Duty on March 31st, 1918

**Benjamin, Geary. British**

*Born:* On an unspecified date in 1891 in London, England

Pre-War Occupation: Unspecified

*Marital Status:* Unsure

Reason for Award: “…The crater was first exposed to very heavy artillery fire which broke down the defences, and afterwards throughout the night to repeated bomb attacks which filled it with dead and wounded. Each attack was, however, repulsed mainly owing to the splendid personal gallantry and example of Second Lieutenant Geary. At one time he used a rifle with great effect, at another threw hand grenades, and exposed himself with entire disregard to danger in order to see by the light of flares where the enemy were coming on. In the intervals between the attacks he spent his whole time arranging for the ammunition supply and for reinforcements…” *(London Gazette, October 15th, 1915)*

*Military Rank:* Lieutenant

Survived the First World War and died in 1976

**Good, Herman. Canadian**

*Born:* November 29th, 1887 in South Bathurst, New Brunswick

*Pre-War Occupation:* Farmer

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and leading when in attack his company was held up by heavy fire from three machine guns, which were seriously delaying the advance. Realising the gravity of the situation, this N.C.O. dashed forward alone, killing several of the garrison and capturing the remainder.

Later on Cpl. Good, while alone, encountered a battery of 5.9-inch guns, which were in action at the time. Collecting three men of his section, he charged the battery under point-blank fire and captured the entire crews of three guns.”*(London Gazette, no.30922, September 27th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Corporal

Survived the First World War and died on April 18th, 1969

**Gregg, Milton. Canadian**

*Born:* April 10th, 1892 in Mountain Dale, New Brunswick

*Pre-War Occupation:* Student

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and initiative during operations near Cambrai, 27th September to 1st October, 1918.

On 28th September, when the advance of the brigade was held up by fire from both flanks and by thick, uncut wire, he crawled forward alone and explored the wire until he found a small gap, through which he subsequently led his men, and forced an entry into the enemy trench. The enemy counter-attacked in force, and, through lack of bombs, the situation became critical. Although wounded, Lt. Gregg returned alone under terrific fire and collected a further supply. Then rejoining his party, which by this time was much reduced in numbers, and, in spite of a second wound, he reorganised his men and led them with the greatest determination against the enemy trenches, which he finally cleared.

He personally killed or wounded 11 of the enemy and took 25 prisoners, in addition to 12 machine guns captured in this trench. Remaining with his company in spite of wounds, he again on the 30th September led his men in attack until severely wounded. The outstanding valour of this officer saved many casualties and enabled the advance to continue.”

*(London Gazette, no.31108, January 6th, 1919)*

*Military Rank:* Lieutenant

Survived the First World War and died on March 13th, 1978

**Hall, Frederick. Irish**

*Born:* February 21st, 1885 in Kilkenny, Ireland

*Pre-War Occupation:* Clerk

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “On 24th April, 1915, in the neighbourhood of Ypres, when a wounded man who was lying some 15 yards from the trench called for help, Company Serjeant-Major Hall endeavoured to reach him in the face of a very heavy enfilade fire which was being poured in by the enemy. The first attempt failed, and a Non-commissioned Officer and private soldier who were attempting to give assistance were both wounded. Company Serjeant-Major Hall then made a second most gallant attempt, and was in the act of lifting up the wounded man to bring him in when he fell mortally wounded in the head.” *(London Gazette, no.29202, June 23rd, 1915)*

*Military Rank:* Company Sergeant Major

Killed in Duty on April 24th, 1915

* Was one of three men (along with Leo Clarke and Robert Shakland) that lived on Pine Street in Winnipeg and received the Victoria Cross. The street was later renamed Valour Road in their honour.

**Hanna, Robert. Irish**

*Born:* August 6th, 1886 in Kilkeel, Ireland

*Pre-War Occupation:* Lumberman

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery in attack, when his company met with most severe enemy resistance and all the company officers became casualties. A strong point, heavily protected by wire and held by a machine gun, had beaten off three assaults of the company with heavy casualties. This Warrant Officer under heavy machine gun and rifle fire, coolly collected a party of men, and leading them against this strong point, rushed through the wire and personally bayonetted three of the enemy and brained the fourth, capturing the position and silencing the machine gun.

This most courageous action, displayed courage and personal bravery of the highest order at this most critical moment of the attack, was responsible for the capture of a most important tactical point, and but for his daring action and determined handling of a desperate situation the attack would not have succeeded.

C.S./M. Hanna’s outstanding gallantry, personal courage and determined leading of his company is deserving of the highest possible reward.” *(London Gazette, no.30372, November 8th, 1917)*

*Military Rank:* Company Sergeant Major

Survived the First World War and died on June 15th, 1967

**Harvey, Frederick. Irish**

*Born:* September 1st, 1888 in Athboy, Ireland

*Pre-War Occupation:* Rancher

*Marital Status:* Married

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty.

During an attack by his regiment on a village a party of the enemy ran forward to a wired trench just in front of the village and opened rapid rifle and machine gun fire at a very close range, causing heavy casualties in the leading troop.

At this critical moment, when the enemy showed no intention whatever of retiring and fire was still intense, Lt. Harvey, who was in command of the leading troop, ran forward well ahead of his men and dashed at the trench, still fully manned, jumped the wire, shot the machine gunner and captured the gun.

His most courageous act undoubtedly had a decisive effect on the success of the operation.”

*(London Gazette, no.30122, June 8th, 1917)*

*Military Rank:* Lieutenant

Survived the First World War August 21st, 1980

**Hobson, Frederick. British**

*Born:* September 23rd, 1873 in London, England

*Pre-War Occupation:* Store Keeper

*Marital Status:* Married

*Reason for Award:* “During a strong enemy counter-attack a Lewis gun in a forward post in a communication trench leading to the enemy lines, was buried by a shell, and the crew, with the exception of one man, killed.

Sjt. Hobson, though not a gunner, grasping the great importance of the post, rushed from his trench, dug out the gun, and got it into action against the enemy who were now advancing down the trench and across the open.

A jam caused the gun to stop firing. Though wounded, he left the gunner to correct the stoppage, rushed forward at the advancing enemy and, with bayonet and clubbed rifle, single handed, held them back until he himself was killed by a rifle shot. By this time however, the Lewis gun was again in action and reinforcements shortly afterwards arriving, the enemy were beaten off.

The valour and devotion to duty displayed by this non-commissioned Officer gave the gunner the time required to again get the gun into action, and saved a most serious situation.”

*(London Gazette, no.30338, October 17th, 1917)*

*Military Rank:* Sergeant

Killed in Duty on August 18th, 1917

**Holmes, Thomas. Canadian**

*Born:* August 17th, 1897 in Montreal, Quebec

*Pre-War Occupation:* Chicken Picker

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award*: “For most conspicuous bravery and resource when the right flank of our attack was held up by heavy machine-gun and rifle fire from a ‘pill-box’ strong point. Heavy casualties were producing a critical situation when Pte. Holmes, on his own initiative and single-handed, ran forward and threw two bombs, killing and wounding the crews of two machine guns. He then returned to his comrades, secured another bomb, and again rushed forward alone under heavy fire and threw the bomb into the entrance of the ‘pill-box,’ causing the nineteen occupants to surrender.

By this act of valour at a very critical moment Pte. Holmes undoubtedly cleared the way for the advance of our troops and saved the lives of many of his comrades.”

*(London Gazette, no.30471, January 11th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Private

Survived the First World War and died on January 4th, 1950

**Honey, Samuel. Canadian**

*Born:* February 9th, 1894 in Conn, Ontario

*Pre-War Occupation:* School Teacher

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery during the Bourlon Wood operations, 27th September to 2nd October, 1918.

On 27th September, when his company commander and all other officers of his company had become casualties, Lt. Honey took command and skilfully reorganised under very severe fire. He continued the advance with great dash and gained the objective. Then finding that his company was suffering casualties from enfilade machine-gun fire he located the machine-gun nest and rushed it single-handed, capturing the guns and ten prisoners.

Subsequently he repelled four enemy counter-attacks and after dark again went out alone, and having located an enemy post, led a party which captured the post and three guns.

On the 29th September he led his company against a strong enemy position with great skill and daring and continued in the succeeding days of the battle to display the same high example of valour and self-sacrifice. He died of wounds received during the last day of the attack by his battalion.” *(London Gazette, no.31108, January 6th, 1919)*

*Military Rank:* Lieutenant

Killed in Duty on September 30th, 1918

**Hutcheson, Bellenden. American**

*Born:* December 16th, 1883 in Mt. Carmel, Illinois

*Pre-War Occupation:* Physician and Surgeon

*Marital Status:* Unsure

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on September 2nd, when under most intense shell, machine-gun and rifle fire, he went through the Quéant-Drocourt Support Line with the battalion. Without hesitation and with utter disregard of personal safety he remained on the field until every wounded man had been attended to. He dressed the wounds of a seriously wounded officer under terrific machine-gun and shell fire, and, with the assistance of prisoners and of his own men, succeeded in evacuating him to safety, despite the fact that the bearer party suffered heavy casualties.

Immediately afterwards he rushed forward, in full view of the enemy, under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire, to tend a wounded serjeant, and, having placed him in a shell-hole, dressed his wounds. Captain Hutcheson performed many similar gallant acts, and, by his coolness and devotion to duty, many lives were saved.” *(London Gazette, no.31067, December 14th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Captain

Survived the First World War on April 9th, 1954

**Kaeble, Joseph. Canadian**

*Born:* May 5th, 1893 in St. Moise, Quebec

*Pre-War Occupation:* Mechanic

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and extraordinary devotion to duty when in charge of a Lewis gun section in the front line trenches, on which a strong enemy raid was attempted.

During an intense bombardment Cpl. Kaeble remained at the parapet with his Lewis gun shouldered ready for action, the field of fire being very short. As soon as the barrage lifted from the front line, about fifty of the enemy advanced towards his post. By this time the whole of his section except one had become casualties. Cpl. Kaeble jumped over the parapet, and holding his Lewis gun at the hip, emptied one magazine after another into the advancing enemy, and, although wounded several times by fragments of shells and bombs, he continued to fire, and entirely blocked the enemy by his determined stand. Finally, firing all the time, he fell backwards into the trench, mortally wounded. While lying on his back in the trench he fired his last cartridges over the parapet at the retreating Germans, and before losing consciousness shouted to the wounded about him: ‘Keep it up boys; do not let them get through! We must stop them!” The complete repulse of the enemy attack at this point was due to the remarkable personal bravery and self-sacrifice of this gallant non-commissioned officer, who died of his wounds shortly afterwards.” *(London Gazette, no.30903, September 16th, 1918)*

Military Rank: Corporal

Killed in Duty on June 9th, 1918

**Kerr, George. Canadian**

*Born:* June 8th, 1894 in Deseronto, Ontario

*Pre-War Occupation:* Chemist

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and leadership during the Bourlon Wood operations on 27th September, 1918, when in command of the left support company in attack.

He handled his company with great skill, and gave timely support by outflanking a machine-gun which was impeding the advance.

Later, near the Arras-Cambrai road, the advance was again held up by a strong point. Lt. Kerr, far in advance of his company, rushed this strong point single-handed and captured four machine-guns and thirty-one prisoners.

His valour throughout this engagement was an inspiring example to all.”

*(London Gazette, no.31108, January 6th, 1919)*

*Military Rank*: Lieutenant

Survived the First World War and died on December 8th, 1929

**Kerr, John. Canadian**

*Born:* January 11th, 1887 in Fox River, Nova Scotia

*Pre-War Occupation:* Farmer

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery. During a bombing attack he was acting as bayonet man, and, knowing that bombs were running short, he ran along the parados under heavy fire until he was in close contact with the enemy, when he opened fire on them at point-blank range, and inflicted heavy loss.

The enemy, thinking they were surrounded, surrendered. Sixty-two prisoners were taken and 250 yards of enemy trench captured.

Before carrying out this very plucky act one of Private Kerr’s fingers had been blown off by a bomb.

Later, with two other men, he escorted back the prisoners under fire, and then returned to report himself for duty before having his wound dressed.”

*(London Gazette, no.29802, October 26th, 1916)*

*Military Rank:* Private

Survived the First World War February 19th, 1963

**Kinross, Cecil. British**

*Born:* February 17th 1895 in Uxbridge, England

*Pre-War Occupation:* Farmer

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery in action during prolonged and severe operations.

Shortly after the attack was launched, the company to which he belonged came under intense artillery fire, and further advance was held up by a very severe fire from an enemy machine gun. Pte. Kinross, making a careful survey of the situation, deliberately divested himself of all his equipment save his rifle and bandolier and, regardless of his personal safety, advanced alone over the open ground in broad daylight, charged the enemy machine gun, killing the crew of six, and seized and destroyed the gun. His superb example and courage instilled the greatest confidence in his company, and enabled a further advance of 300 yards to be made and a highly important position to be established.

Throughout the day he showed marvellous coolness and courage, fighting with the utmost aggressiveness against heavy odds until seriously wounded.”

*(London Gazette, no.30471, January 11th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Private

Survived the First World War and died on June 21st, 1957

**Knight, Arthur. British**

*Born:* June 26th, 1886 in Haywards Heath, England

*Pre-War Occupation:* Carpenter

*Marital Status*: Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery, initiative, and devotion to duty when, after an unsuccessful attack, Sjt. Knight led a bombing section forward, under very heavy fire of all descriptions, and engaged the enemy at close quarters. Seeing that his party continued to be held up, he dashed forward alone, bayoneting several of the enemy machine-gunners and trench mortar crews, and forcing the remainder to retire in confusion. He then brought forward a Lewis gun and directed his fire on the retreating enemy, inflicting many casualties.

In the subsequent advance of his platoon in pursuit, Sjt. Knight saw a party of about thirty of the enemy go into a deep tunnel which led off the trench. He again dashed forward alone, and, having killed one officer and two N.C.O.’s, captured twenty other ranks. Subsequently he routed, single-handed, another enemy party which was opposing the advance of his platoon.

On each occasion he displayed the greatest valour under fire at very close range, and by his example of courage, gallantry, and initiative was a wonderful inspiration to all.

This very gallant N.C.O. was subsequently fatally wounded.”

*(London Gazette, no.31012, November 15th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Sergeant

Killed in Duty on September 3rd, 1918

**Konowal, Filip. Russian**

*Born:* March 25th, 1887 in Kedeski, Russia

*Pre-War Occupation:* Laborer

*Marital Status:* Married

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and leadership when in charge of a section in attack. His section had the difficult task of mopping up cellars, craters and machine-gun emplacements. Under his able direction all resistance was overcome successfully, and heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy. In one cellar he himself bayonetted three enemy and attacked single-handed seven others in a crater, killing them all.

On reaching the objective, a machine-gun was holding up the right flank, causing many casualties. Cpl. Konowal rushed forward and entered the emplacement, killed the crew, and brought the gun back to our lines.

The next day he again attacked single-handed another machine-gun emplacement, killed three of the crew, and destroyed the gun and emplacement with explosives.

This non-commissioned officer alone killed at least sixteen of the enemy, and during the two days’ actual fighting carried on continuously his good work until severely wounded.”

*(London Gazette, no.30400, November 26th, 1917)*

*Military Rank:* Corporal

Survived the First World War and died on June 3rd, 1959

**Learmonth, Okill. Canadian**

*Born:* February 20th, 1894 in Quebec City, Quebec

*Pre-War Occupation:* Government Employee

*Marital Status:* Married

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and exceptional devotion to duty. During a determined counter-attack on our new positions, this officer, when his company was momentarily surprised, instantly charged and personally disposed of the attackers. Later, he carried on a tremendous fight with the advancing enemy. Although under intense barrage fire and mortally wounded, he stood on the parapet of the trench, bombed the enemy continuously and directed the defence in such a manner as to infuse a spirit of utmost resistance into his men.

On several occasions this very brave officer actually caught bombs thrown at him by the enemy and threw them back. When he was unable by reason of his wounds to carry on the fight he still refused to be carried out of the line, and continued to give instructions and invaluable advice to his junior officers, finally handing over all his duties before he was evacuated from the front line to the hospital where he died.” *(London Gazette, no.30372, November 8th, 1917)*

*Military Rank:* Major

Killed in Duty on August 19th, 1917

**Lyall, Graham. British**

*Born:* March 8th, 1892 in Manchester, England

*Pre-War Occupation:* Mechanical Engineer

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and skilful leading during the operations north of Cambrai.

On September 27th, 1918, whilst leading his platoon against Bourlon Wood, he rendered invaluable support to the leading company, which was held up a by a strong point, which he captured, by a flank movement, together with thirteen prisoners, one field gun and four machine guns.

Later, his platoon, now much weakened by casualties, was held up by machine guns at the southern end of Bourlon Wood. Collecting any man available, he led them towards the strong point, and springing forward alone, rushed the position single-handed and killed the officer in charge, subsequently capturing at this point forty-five prisoners and five machine guns. Having made good his final objective, with a further capture of forty-seven prisoners, he consolidated his position and thus protected the remainder of the company.

On October 1st, in the neighbourhood of Blecourt, when in command of a weak company, by skilful dispositions he captured a strongly defended position, which yielded eighty prisoners and seventeen machine guns.

During two days of operations Lt. Lyall captured in all 3 officers, 182 other ranks, 26 machine guns and one field gun, exclusive of heavy casualties inflicted. He showed throughout the utmost valour and high powers of command.” *(London Gazette, no.31067, December 14th. 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Lieutenant

* Survived the First World War and was killed on November 28th, 1941 fighting in the Second World War

**MacDowell, Thain. Canadian**

*Born:* September 16th, 1890 in Lachute, Quebec

*Pre-War Occupation:* Student

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and indomitable resolution in face of heavy machine gun and shell fire.

By his initiative and courage this officer, with the assistance of two runners, was enabled in the face of great difficulties, to capture two machine guns, besides two officers and seventy-five men.

Although wounded in the hand, he continued for five days to hold the position gained, in spite of heavy shell fire, until eventually relieved by his battalion.

By his bravery and prompt action he undoubtedly succeeded in rounding up a very strong enemy machine post.” *(London Gazette, no.30122, June 8th, 1917)*

*Military Rank:* Captain

Survived the First World War and died on March 29th, 1960

**MacGregor, John. Scottish**

*Born:* February 11th, 1888 in Cawdor, Scotland

*Pre-War Occupation:* Carpenter

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery, leadership and self-sacrificing devotion to duty near Cambrai from 29th September to 3rd October, 1918.

He led his company under intense fire, and when the advance was checked by machine guns, although wounded, pushed on and located the enemy guns. He then ran forward in broad daylight, in face of heavy fire from all directions, and, with rifle and bayonet, single-handed, put the enemy crews out of action, killing four and taking eight prisoners. His prompt action saved many casualties and enabled the advance to continue.

After reorganising his command under heavy fire he rendered the most useful support to neighbouring troops. When the enemy were showing stubborn resistance, he went along the line regardless of danger, organised the platoons, took command of the leading waves, and continued the advance. Later, after a personal daylight reconnaissance under heavy fire, he established his company in Neuville St. Remy, thereby greatly assisting the advance into Tilloy. Throughout the operations Capt. MacGregor displayed magnificent bravery and heroic leadership.”

*(London Gazette, no.31108, January 6th, 1919)*

*Military Rank:* Captain

Survived the First World War and died on June 9th, 1952

**McKean, George. British**

*Born:* July 4th, 1888 in Wellington, England

*Pre-War Occupation:* Unspecified

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during a raid on the enemy’s trenches.

Lt. McKean’s party, which was operating on the right flank, was held up at a block in the communication trench by most intense fire from hand grenades and machine guns. This block, which was too close to our trenches to have been engaged by the preliminary bombardment, was well protected by wire and covered by a well protected machine gun 30 yards behind it. Realising that if this block were not destroyed, the success of the whole operation might be marred, he ran into the open to the right flank of the block, and with utter disregard of danger, leaper over the block head first on top of the enemy. Whilst lying on the ground on top of one of the enemy, another rushed at him with fixed bayonet; Lt. McKean shot him through the body and then shot the enemy underneath him, who was struggling violently. This very gallant action enabled the position to be captured. Lt. McKean’s supply of bombs ran out at this time, and he sent back to our front line for a fresh supply. Whilst waiting for them he engaged the enemy single-handed.

When the bombs arrived, he fearlessly rushed the second block, killing two of the enemy, capturing four others and drove the remaining garrison, including a hostile machine-gun section, into a dug-out. The dug-out, with its occupants and machine gun, was destroyed.

This officer’s splendid bravery and dash undoubtedly saved many lives, for had not this position been captured, the whole of the raiding party would have been exposed to dangerous enfilading fire during the withdrawal. His leadership at all times has been beyond praise.”

*(London Gazette, no.30770, June 28th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Lieutenant

Survived the First World War and died on November 28th, 1926

**McKenzie, Hugh. British**

*Born:* December 5th, 1885 in Liverpool, England

*Pre-War Occupation:* Teamster

*Marital Status:* Married

*Reason for Award:* “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.”

*(London Gazette, no.30523, February 13th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Lieutenant

Killed in Duty on October 30th, 1917

**McLeod, Alan. Canadian**

*Born:* April 20th, 1899 in Stonewall, Manitoba

*Pre-War Occupation:* Student

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “Whilst flying with his observer (Lt. A. W. Hammond, M.C.), attacking hostile formations by bombs and machine-gun fire, he was assailed at a height of 5,000 feet by eight enemy triplanes, which dived at him from all directions, firing from their front guns. By skilful manoeuvring he enabled his observer to fire bursts at each machine in turn, shooting three of them down out of control. By this time Lt. McLeod had received five wounds, and whilst continuing the engagement a bullet penetrated his petrol tank and set the machine on fire. He then climbed out on to the left bottom plane, controlling his machine from the side of the fuselage, and by side-slipping steeply kept the flames to one side, thus enabling the observer to continue firing until the ground was reached. The observer had been wounded six times when the machine crashed in "No Man's Land," and 2nd Lt. McLeod, not withstanding his own wounds, dragged him away from the burning wreckage at great personal risk from heavy machine-gun fire from the enemy's lines. This very gallant pilot was again wounded by a bomb whilst engaged in this act of rescue, but he persevered until he had placed Lt. Hammond in comparative safety, before falling himself from exhaustion and loss of blood.” *(London Gazette, May 1st, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Lieutenant

Killed in Duty on November 6th, 1918

**Merrifield, William. British**

*Born:* October 9th, 1890 in Brentwood, England

*Pre-War Occupation:* Fireman

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during the attack near Abancourt on the 1st October, 1918. When his men were held up by an intense fire from two machine-gun emplacements, he attacked them both single-handed. Dashing from shell-hole to shell-hole he killed the occupants of the first post, and, although wounded, continued to attack the second post, and with a bomb killed the occupants. He refused to be evacuated, and led his platoon until again severely wounded.

Sjt. Merrifield has served with exceptional distinction on many former occasions, and throughout the action of the 1st October showed the highest qualities of valour and leadership.”

*(London Gazette, no.31108, January 6th, 1919)*

*Military Rank:* Sergeant

Survived the First World War and died on August 8th, 1943

**Metcalf, William. American**

*Born:* January 29th, 1885 in Waite Township, Maine

*Pre-War Occupation:* Barber

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery, initiative and devotion to duty in attack, when, the right flank of the battalion being held up, he realised the situation and rushed forward under intense machine-gun fire to a passing Tank on the left. With his signal flag he walked in front of the Tank, directing it along the trench in a perfect hail of bullets and bombs. The machine-gun strong points were overcome, very heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy, and a very critical situation was relieved.

Later, although wounded, he continued to advance until ordered to get into a shell hole and have his wounds dressed.

His valour throughout was of the highest standard.” *(London Gazette, no.31012, November 15th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Lance-Corporal

Survived the First World War and died on August 8th, 1968

**Milne, William. Scottish**

*Born:* December 21st, 1892 in Cambusnethan, Scotland

*Pre-War Occupation:* Farmer

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in attack.

On approaching the first objective, Pte. Milne observed an enemy machine gun firing on our advancing troops. Crawling on hands and knees, he succeeded in reaching the gun, killing the crew with bombs, and capturing the gun.

On the line re-forming, he again located a machine gun in the support line, and stalking the second gun as he had done the first, he succeeded in putting the crew out of action and capturing the gun.

His wonderful bravery and resource on these two occasions undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his comrades.

Pte. Milne was killed shortly after capturing the second gun.” *(London Gazette, no.30122, June 8th, 1917)*

*Military Rank:* Private

Killed in Duty on April 9th, 1917

**Miner, Harry. Canadian**

*Born:* June 24th, 1891 in Cedar Springs, Ontario

*Pre-War Occupation:* Farmer

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in attack, when despite severe wounds he refused to withdraw. He rushed an enemy machine-gun post single-handed, killed the entire crew and turned the gun on the enemy.

Later, with two others, he attacked another enemy machine-gun post, and succeeded in putting the gun out of action.

Cpl. Miner then rushed single-handed an enemy bombing post, bayoneting two of the garrison and putting the remainder to flight. He was mortally wounded in the performance of this gallant deed.” *(London Gazette, no.30975, October 26th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Corporal

Killed in Duty on August 8th, 1918

**Mitchell, Coulson Norman. Canadian**

*Born:* December 11th, 1889 in Winnipeg, Manitoba

*Pre-War Occupation:* Civil Engineer

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the night of 8th-9th October, 1918, at the Canal de L’Escaut, north-east of Cambrai.

He led a small party ahead of the first wave of infantry in order to examine the various bridges on the line of approach and, if possible, to prevent their demolition.

On reaching the canal he found the bridge already blown up. Under a heavy barrage he crossed to the next bridge, where he cut a number of ‘lead’ wires. Then in total darkness, and unaware of the position or strength of the enemy at the bridgehead, he dashed across the main bridge over the canal. This bridge was found to be heavily charged for demolition, and whilst Capt. Mitchell, assisted by his N.C.O., was cutting the wires, the enemy attempted to rush the bridge in order to blow the charges, whereupon he at once dashed to the assistance of his sentry, who had been wounded, killed three of the enemy, captured 12, and maintained the bridgehead until reinforced.

Then under heavy fire he continued his task of cutting wires and removing charges, which he well knew might at any moment have been fired by the enemy.

It was entirely due to his valour and decisive action that this important bridge across the canal was saved from destruction.” *(London Gazette, no.31155, January 31st, 1919)*

*Military Rank:* Captain

Survived the First World War and died on November 17th, 1978

**Mullin, George. American**

*Born:* August 15th, 1891 in Portland, Oregon

*Pre-War Occupation:* Farmer

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery in attack, when single-handed he captured a commanding ‘Pill-box’ which had withstood the heavy bombardment and was causing heavy casualties to our forces and holding up the attack. He rushed a sniper’s post in front, destroyed the garrison with bombs, and, crawling on top of the ‘Pill-box,’ he shot the two machine-gunners with his revolver. Sjt. Mullin then rushed to another entrance and compelled the garrison of ten to surrender.

His gallantry and fearlessness were witnessed by many, and, although rapid fire was directed upon him, and his clothes riddled by bullets, he never faltered in his purpose and he not only helped to save the situation, but also indirectly saved many lives.”

*(London Gazette, no.30471, January 11th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Sergeant

Survived the First World War and died on April 5th, 1963

**Nunney, Claude. Irish**

*Born:* December 24th, 1892 in Dublin, Ireland

*Pre-War Occupation:* Painter

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery during the operations against the Drocourt-Quéant line on the 1st and 2nd September, 1918.

On 1st September, when his battalion was in the vicinity of Vis-en-Artois, preparatory to the advance, the enemy laid down a heavy barrage and counter-attacked. Pte. Nunney, who was at this time at company headquarters, immediately on his own initiative proceeded through the barrage to the company outpost lines, going from post to post and encouraging the men by his own fearless example. The enemy were repulsed and a critical situation was saved. During the attack on 2nd September his dash continually placed him in advance of his companions, and his fearless example undoubtedly helped greatly to carry the company forward to its objectives.

He displayed throughout the highest degree of valour until severely wounded.”

*(London Gazette, no.31067, December 14th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Private

Killed in Duty on September 18th, 1918

**O'Kelly, Christopher. Canadian**

*Born:* November 18th, 1895 in Winnipeg, Manitoba

*Pre-War Occupation:* Student

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery in an action in which he led his company with extraordinary skill and determination.

After the original attack had failed and two companies of his unit had launched a new attack, Capt. O’Kelly advanced his command over 1,000 yards under heavy fire without any artillery barrage, took the enemy positions on the crest of the hill by storm, and then personally organised and led a series of attacks against ‘Pill-boxes,’ his company alone capturing six of them with 100 prisoners and 10 machine guns.

Later on in the afternoon, under the leadership of this gallant officer, his company repelled a strong counter-attack, taking more prisoners, and subsequently during the night captured a hostile raiding party consisting of one officer, 10 men and a machine gun.

The whole of these achievements were chiefly due to the magnificent courage, daring and ability of Capt. O’Kelly.” *(London Gazette, no.30471, January 11th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Captain

Survived the First World War and was presumed drowned during a storm on Lac Seul on November 15th, 1922

**O'Leary, Michael. Irish**

*Born:* Sometime in 1888 in Ireland

*Pre-War Occupation:* Unknown; was a Northwest Mounted Police officer until the War broke out

*Marital Status:* Unknown

*Reason for Award:* “When forming one of the storming party which advanced against the enemy's barricades he rushed to the front and himself killed five Germans who were holding the first barricade, after which he attacked a second barricade, about 60 yards further on, which he captured, after killing three of the enemy and making prisoners of two more. Lance-Corporal O'Leary thus practically captured the enemy's position by himself and prevented the attacking party from being fired upon.” *(London Gazette, February 16th, 1915)*

*Military Rank:* Lance-Corporal

Survived the First World War and died in 1961

* Became a national hero for Ireland and appeared on enlistment posters
* Despite not serving with the Canadians, he had been living in Canada when war was declared, and only moved back to his home country of Ireland afterwards and enlisted there instead

**O'Rourke, Michael. Irish**

*Born:* March 19th, 1878 in Limerick, Ireland

*Pre-War Occupation:* Miner

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during prolonged operations.

For three days and nights Pte. O’Rourke, who is a stretcher-bearer, worked unceasingly in bringing the wounded into safety, dressing them, and getting them food and water.

During the whole of his period the area in which he worked was subjected to very severe shelling and swept by heavy machine gun and rifle fire. On several occasions he was knocked down and partially buried by enemy shells. Seeing a comrade who had been blinded stumbling around ahead of our trench, in full view of the enemy who were sniping him, Pte. O’Rourke jumped out of his trench and brought the man back, being himself heavily sniped at while doing so. Again he went forward about 50 yards in front of our barrage under very heavy and accurate fire from enemy machine guns and snipers, and brought in a comrade. On a subsequent occasion, when the line of advanced posts was retired to the line to be consolidated, he went forward under very heavy enemy fire of every description and brought back a wounded man who had been left behind.

He showed throughout an absolute disregard for his own safety, going wherever there were wounded to succour, and his magnificent courage and devotion in continuing his rescue work, in spite of exhaustion and the incessant heavy enemy fire of every description, inspired all ranks and undoubtedly saved many lives.” *(London Gazette, no.30372, November 8th, 1917)*

*Military Rank:* Private

Survived the First World War and died on December 6th, 1957

**Pattison, John. British**

*Born:* September 8th, 1875 in Woolwich, England

*Pre-War Occupation:* Laborer

*Marital Status:* Married

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery in attack.

When the advance of our troops was held up by an enemy machine gun, which was inflicting severe casualties, Pte. Pattison, with utter disregard of his own safety, sprang forward and, jumping from shell-hole to shell-hole, reached cover within 30 yards of the enemy gun.

From this point, in face of heavy fire, he hurled bombs, killing and wounding some of the crew, then rushed forward, overcoming and bayonetting the surviving five gunners.

His valour and initiative undoubtedly saved the situation and made possible the further advance to the objective.” *(London Gazette, no.30215, August 2nd, 1917)*

*Military Rank:* Private

Killed in Duty on June 3rd, 1917

**Pearkes, George. British**

*Born:* February 26th, 1883 in Watford, England

*Pre-War Occupation:* Former RCMP

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and skilful handling of the troops under his command during the capture and consolidation of considerably more than the objectives allotted to him, in an attack.

Just prior to the advance Maj. Pearkes was wounded in the left thigh. Regardless of his wound, he continued to lead his men with the utmost gallantry, despite many obstacles.

At a particular stage of the attack his further advance was threatened by a strong point which was an objective of the battalion on his left, but which they had not succeeded in capturing. Quickly appreciating the situation, he captured and held this point, thus enabling his further advance to be successfully pushed forward.

It was entirely due to his determination and fearless personality that he was able to maintain his objective with the small number of men at his command against repeated enemy counter-attacks, both his flanks being unprotected for a considerable depth meanwhile.

His appreciation of the situation throughout and the reports rendered by him were invaluable to his Commanding Officer in making dispositions of troops to hold the position captured.

He showed throughout a supreme contempt of danger and wonderful powers of control and leading.” *(London Gazette, no.30471, January 11th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Major

Survived the First World War May 30th, 1984

* Was Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia from 1961-68

**Peck, Cyrus. Canadian**

*Born:* April 26th, 1871 in Hopewell Hill, New Brunswick

*Pre-War Occupation:* Broker

*Marital Status:* Married

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and skilful leading when in attack under intense fire.

His command quickly captured the first objective, but progress to the further objective was held up by enemy machine-gun fire on his right flank.

The situation being critical in the extreme, Colonel Peck pushed forward and made a personal reconnaissance under heavy machine-gun and sniping fire, across a stretch of ground which was heavily swept by fire.

Having reconnoitred the position he returned, reorganised his battalion, and, acting upon the knowledge personally gained, pushed them forward and arranged to protect his flanks. He then went out under the most intense artillery and machine-gun fire, intercepted the Tanks, gave them the necessary directions, pointing out where they were to make for, and thus pave the way for a Canadian Infantry battalion to push forward. To this battalion he subsequently gave requisite support.

His magnificent display of courage and fine qualities of leadership enabled the advance to be continued, although always under heavy artillery and machine-gun fire, and contributed largely to the success of the brigade attack.” *(London Gazette, no.31012, November 15th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Lieutenant-Colonel

Survived the First World War and died on September 27th, 1956

**Rayfield, Walter. British**

*Born:* October 7th, 1881 in Richmond-on-Thames, England

*Pre-War Occupation*: Lumberjack

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery, devotion to duty, and initiative during the operations east of Arras from 2nd to 4th September, 1918.

Ahead of his company, he rushed a trench occupied by a large party of the enemy, personally bayoneting two and taking ten prisoners.

Later, he located and engaged with great skill, under constant rifle fire, an enemy sniper who was causing many casualties. He then rushed the section of trench from which the sniper had been operating, and so demoralised the enemy by his coolness and daring that thirty others surrendered to him.

Again, regardless of his personal safety, he left cover under heavy machine-gun fire and carried in a badly wounded comrade.

His indomitable courage, cool foresight, and daring reconnaissance were invaluable to his Company Commander and an inspiration to all ranks.” *(London Gazette, no.31067, December 14th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Captain

Survived the First World War and died on February 19th, 1949

**Richardson, James. Scottish**

*Born:* November 25th, 1895 in Bellshill, Scotland

*Pre-War Occupation:* Unemployed

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when, prior to attack, he obtained permission from his Commanding Officer to play his company ‘over the top.’

As the company approached the objective, it was held up by very strong wire and came under intense fire, which caused heavy casualties and demoralised the formation for the moment. Realising the situation, Piper Richardson strode up and down outside the wire, playing his pipes with the greatest coolness. The effect was instantaneous. Inspired by his splendid example, the company rushed the wire with such fury and determination that the obstacle was overcome and the position captured.

Later, after participating in bombing operations, he was detailed to take back a wounded comrade and prisoners.

After proceeding about 200 yards Piper Richardson remembered that he had left his pipes behind. Although strongly urged not to do so, he insisted on returning to recover his pipes. He has never been seen since, and death has been presumed accordingly owing to lapse of time.”

*(London Gazette, no.30967, October 22nd, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Piper/Private

Went missing October 8th, 1916

**Ricketts, Thomas. Canadian**

*Born:* April 15th, 1901 in Middle Arm, Newfoundland

*Pre-War Occupation:* Student

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the 14th October, 1918, during the advance from Ledeghem, when the attack was temporarily held up by heavy hostile fire and the platoon to which he belonged suffered severe casualties from the fire of a battery at point-blank range.

Pte. Ricketts at once volunteered to go forward with his section commander and a Lewis gun to attempt to outflank the battery. Advancing by short rushes under heavy fire from enemy machine guns with the hostile battery, their ammunition was exhausted when still 300 yards from the battery. The enemy, seeing an opportunity to get their field guns away, began to bring up their gun teams. Pte. Ricketts, at once realising the situation, doubled back 100 yards under the heaviest machine-gun fire, procured further ammunition, and dashed back again to the Lewis gun, and by very accurate fire drove the enemy and the gun teams into a farm.

His platoon then advanced without casualties, and captured the four field guns, four machine guns, and eight prisoners.

A fifth field gun was subsequently intercepted by fire and captured.

By his presence of mind in anticipating the enemy intention and his utter disregard of personal safety, Pte. Ricketts secured the further supply of ammunition which directly resulted in these important captures and undoubtedly saved many lives.” *(London Gazette, no.31108, January 6th, 1919)*

*Military Rank:* Private

Survived the First World War and died on February 10th, 1967

* Was only fifteen years old when he enlisted yet told officials he was eighteen
* Youngest Canadian awarded a Victoria Cross at only seventeen years old

**Robertson, James. Canadian**

*Born:* October 26th, 1883 in Pictou County, Nova Scotia

*Pre-War Occupation:* Engineer

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery and outstanding devotion to duty in attack. When his platoon was held up by uncut wire and a machine gun causing many casualties, Pte. Robertson dashed to an opening on the flank, rushed the machine gun and, after a desperate struggle with the crew, killed four and then turned the gun on the remainder, who, overcome by the fierceness of his onslaught, were running towards their own lines. His gallant work enabled the platoon to advance. He inflicted many more casualties among the enemy, and then carrying the captured machine gun, he led his platoon to the final objective. He there selected an excellent position and got the gun into action, firing on the retreating enemy who by this time were quite demoralised by the fire brought to bear on them.

During the consolidation Pte. Robertson’s most determined use of the machine gun kept down the fire of the enemy snipers; his courage and his coolness cheered his comrades and inspired them to the finest efforts.

Later, when two of our snipers were badly wounded in front of our trench, he went out and carried one of them in under very severe fire.

He was killed just as he returned with the second man.” *(London Gazette, no.30471, January 11th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Private

Killed in Duty on November 6th, 1917

**Rutherford, Charles. Canadian**

*Born:* January 9th, 1892 in Colborner, Ontario

*Pre-War Occupation:* Farmer

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “For most conspicuous bravery, initiative and devotion to duty. When in command of an assaulting party Lt. Rutherford found himself a considerable distance ahead of his men, and at the same moment observed a fully armed strong enemy party outside a ‘Pill Box’ ahead of him. He beckoned to them with his revolver to come to him, in return they waves to him to come to them. This he boldly did, and informed them that they were prisoners. This fact an enemy officer disputed and invited Lt. Rutherford to enter the ‘Pill Box,’ an invitation he discreetly declined. By masterly bluff, however, he persuaded the enemy that they were surrounded, and the whole party of 45, including two officers and three machine guns, surrendered to him.

Subsequently he induced the enemy officer to stop the fire of an enemy machine-gun close by, and Lt. Rutherford took advantage of the opportunity to hasten the advance of his men to his support.

Lt. Rutherford then observed that the right assaulting party was held up by heavy machine-gun fire from another ‘Pill Box.’ Indicating an objective to the remainder of his party he attacked the ‘Pill Box’ with a Lewis gun section and captured a further 35 prisoners with machine guns, thus enabling the party to continue their advance.

The bold and gallant action of this officer contributed very materially to the capture of the main objective and was a wonderful inspiration to all ranks in pressing home the attack on a very strong position.” *(London Gazette, no.31012, November 15th, 1918)*

*Military Rank:* Lieutenant

Survived the First World War and died on June 11th, 1989

**Scrimger, Francis. Canadian**

*Born:* February 10th, 1881 in Montreal, Quebec

*Pre-War Occupation:* Surgeon

*Marital Status:* Single

*Reason for Award:* “On the afternoon of 25th April, 1915, in the neighbourhood of Ypres, when in charge of an advanced dressing station in some farm buildings, which were being heavily shelled by the enemy, he directed under heavy fire the removal of the wounded, and he himself carried a severely wounded Officer out of a stable in search of a place of greater safety. When he was unable alone to carry this Officer further, he remained with him under fire till help could be obtained.

During the very heavy fighting between 22nd and 25th April, Captain Scrimger displayed continuously day and night the greatest devotion to his duty among the wounded at the front.”

*(London Gazette, no.29202, June 23rd, 1915)*

*Military Rank:* Captain

Survived the First World War and died on February 13th, 1937

**Shankland, Robert. Scottish**

Born: October 10th, 1887 in Ayr, Scotland

Pre-War Occupation: Clerk

Marital Status: Single

Reason for Award: “For most conspicuous bravery and resource in action under critical and adverse conditions.

Having gained a position he rallied the remnant of his own platoon and men of other companies, disposed them to command the ground in front, and inflicted heavy casualties upon the retreating enemy. Later, he dispersed a counter-attack, thus enabling supporting troops to come up unmolested.

He then personally communicated to Battalion Headquarters an accurate and valuable report as to the position on the Brigade frontage, and after doing so rejoined his command and carried on until relieved.

His courage and splendid example inspired all ranks and coupled with his great gallantry and skill undoubtedly saved a very critical situation.”

*(London Gazette, no.30433, 18 December 1917)*

Military Rank: Sergeant-Major

Survived the First World War and died on January 20th, 1968

\*Was one of three men awarded the Victoria Cross that lived on Pine Street in Winnipeg; the street was later renamed Valour Road in their honour

**Sifton, Ellis. Scottish**

Born: October 12th, 1891 in Wallacetown, Scotland

Pre-War Occupation: Farmer

Marital Status: Single

Reason for Award: “For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty.

During the attack in enemy trenches Sjt. Sifton’s company was held up by machine gun fire which inflicted many casualties. Having located the gun he charged it single-handed, killing all the crew.

A small enemy party advanced down the trench, but he succeeded in keeping these off till our men had gained the position.

He was killed just as he returned with the second man. In carrying out this gallant act he was killed, but his conspicuous valour undoubtedly saved many lives and contributed largely to the success of the operation.””

*(London Gazette, no.30122, 8 June 1917)*

Military Rank: Lance-Sergeant

Killed in Duty on April 9th, 1917

Buried in Lichfield Crater, Pas de Calais, France

**Sinton, John. Canadian**

Born: December 2nd, 1884 in Victoria, British Columbia

Pre-War Occupation: Farmer

Marital Status: Single

Reason for Award: "For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. Although shot through both arms and through the side, he refused to go to hospital, and remained as long as daylight lasted, attending to his duties under very heavy fire. In three previous actions Captain Sinton displayed the utmost bravery."

- Victoria Cross citation, The London Gazette, June 21, 1916

Military Rank: Captain

Survived the First World War and died on March 25th, 1956

\*Spent the later part of his life trying to find a treatment for malaria in the Tropics

**Spall, Robert. British**

Born: March 5th, 1890 in Ealing, England

Pre-War Occupation: Customs Broker

Marital Status: Single

Reason for Award: “For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice when, during an enemy counter-attack, his platoon was isolated. Thereupon Sjt. Spall took a Lewis gun and, standing on the parapet, fired upon the advancing enemy, inflicting very severe casualties. He then came down the trench directing the men into a sap seventy-five yards from the enemy. Picking up another Lewis gun, this gallant N.C.O. again climbed the parapet, and by his fire held up the enemy. It was while holding up the enemy at this point that he was killed.

Sjt. Spall deliberately gave his life in order to extricate his platoon from a most difficult situation, and it was owing to his bravery that the platoon was saved.”

*(London Gazette, no.30975, 26 October 1918)*

Military Rank: Sergeant

Killed in Duty on August 13th, 1918

**Strachan, Harcus. Scottish**

Born: November 7th, 1887 in Borrowstounness, Scotland

Pre-War Occupation: Rancher

Marital Status: Single

Reason for Award: “For most conspicuous bravery and leadership during operations.

He took command of the squadron of his regiment when the squadron leader, approaching the enemy front line at a gallop, was killed. Lt. Strachan led the squadron through the enemy line of machine-gun posts, and then, with the surviving men, led the charge on the enemy battery, killing seven of the gunners with his sword. All the gunners having been killed and the battery silenced, he rallied his men and fought his way back at night through the enemy’s line, bringing all unwounded men safely in, together with 15 prisoners.

The operation – which resulted in the silencing of an enemy battery, the killing of the whole battery personnel and many infantry, and the cutting of three main lines of telephone communication two miles in rear of the enemy’s front line – was only rendered possible by the outstanding gallantry and fearless leading of this officer.”

*(London Gazette, no.30433, 18 December 1917)*

Military Rank: Lieutenant

Survived the First World War and died on May 1st, 1982

**Tait, James. Scottish**

Born: May 27th, 1888 in Maxwelltown, Scotland

Pre-War Occupation: Civil Engineer

Marital Status: Unsure

Reason for Award: “For most conspicuous bravery and initiative in attack. The advance having been checked by intense machine-gun fire, Lt. Tait rallied his company and led it forward with consummate skill and dash under a hail of bullets. A concealed machine-gun, however, continued to cause many casualties. Taking a rifle and bayonet, Lt. Tait dashed forward alone and killed the enemy gunner. Inspired by his example his men rushed the position, capturing twelve machine-guns and twenty prisoners. His valorous action cleared the way for his battalion to advance.

Later when the enemy counter-attacked our positions under intense artillery bombardment, this gallant officer displayed outstanding courage and leadership, and though mortally wounded by a shell, continued to direct and aid his men until his death.”

*(London Gazette, no.30922, 27 September 1918)*

Military Rank: Lieutenant

Killed in Duty on August 11th, 1918

**Wilkinson, Thomas. British**

Born: June 29th, 1894 in Bridgenorsalof, England

Pre-War Occupation: Surveyor

Marital Status: Single

Reason for Award: An extract from "The London Gazette," dated September 26, 1916, records the following:

For most conspicuous bravery. During an attack, when a party of another unit was retiring without their machine-gun, Lieut. Wilkinson rushed forward, and, with two of his men, got the gun into action, and held up the enemy till they were relieved. Later, when the advance was checked during a bombing attack, he forced his way forward and found four or five men of different units stopped by a solid block of earth, over which the enemy was throwing bombs. With great pluck and promptness he mounted a machine-gun on the top of the parapet and dispersed the enemy bombers. Subsequently he made two most gallant attempts to bring in a wounded man, but at the second attempt he was shot through the heart just before reaching the man. Throughout the day he set a magnificent example of courage and self-sacrifice.

Military Rank: Lieutenant

Killed in Duty on July 5th, 1916

**Young, John. British**

Born: January 14th, 1893 in Kidderminster, England

Pre-War Occupation: Tobacco Packer

Marital Status: Single

Reason for Award: “For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in attack at Dury-Arras sector on the 2nd September, 1918, when acting as a stretcher-bearer attached to ‘D’ Company of the 87th Bn., Quebec Regiment.

This company in the advance over the ridge suffered heavy casualties from shell and machine-gun fire.

Pte. Young, in spite of the complete absence of cover, without the least hesitation went out, and in the open fire-swept ground dressed the wounded. Having exhausted his stock of dressings, on more than one occasion he returned, under intense fire, to his company headquarters for a further supply. This work he continued for over an hour, displaying throughout the most absolute fearlessness.

To his courageous conduct must be ascribed the saving of the lives of many of his comrades.

Later, when the fire had somewhat slackened, he organised and led stretcher parties to bring in the wounded whom he had dressed.

All through the operations of 2nd, 3rd, and 4th September Pte. Young continued to show the greatest valour and devotion to duty.”

*(London Gazette, no.31067, 14 December 1918)*

Military Rank: Private

Survived the First World War and died on November 7th, 1929

**Zengel, Raphael. American**

Born: November 11th, 1894 in Fairbault, Minnesota

Pre-War Occupation: Laborer

Marital Status: Single

Reason for Award: “For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when protecting the battalion right flank. He was leading his platoon gallantly forward to the attack, but had not gone far when he realised that a gap had occurred on his flank, and then an enemy machine gun was firing at close range into the advancing line. Grasping the situation, he rushed forward some 200 yards ahead of the platoon, tacked the machine-gun emplacement, killed the officer and operator of the gun, and dispersed the crew. By his boldness and prompt action he undoubtedly saved the lives of many of his comrades.

Later, when the battalion was held up by very heavy machine-gun fire, he displayed much tactical skill and directed his fire with destructive results. Shortly afterwards he was rendered unconscious for a few minutes by an enemy shell, but on recovering consciousness he at once continued to direct harassing fire on the enemy.

Sjt. Zengel’s work throughout the attack was excellent, and his utter disregard for personal safety, and the confidence he inspired in all ranks, greatly assisted in bringing the attack to a successful end.”

*(London Gazette, no.30922, 27 September 1918)*

Military Rank: Sergeant

Survived the First World War and died on February 27th, 1977