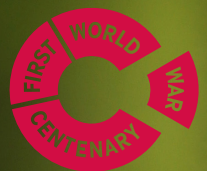




**Commemorating the  
overseas-born Victoria  
Cross heroes**

*A First World War Centenary event*

National Memorial Arboretum  
5 March 2015





## Foreword

### The Prime Minister, David Cameron

*The First World War saw unprecedented sacrifice that changed – and claimed – the lives of millions of people.*

Even during the darkest of days, Britain was not alone. Our soldiers stood shoulder-to-shoulder with allies from around the Commonwealth and beyond.

Today's event marks the extraordinary sacrifices made by 145 soldiers from around the globe who received the Victoria Cross in recognition of their remarkable valour and devotion to duty fighting with the British forces.

These soldiers came from every corner of the globe and all walks of life but were bound together by their courage and determination.

The laying of these memorial stones at the National Memorial Arboretum will create a lasting, peaceful and moving monument to these men, who were united in their valiant fight for liberty and civilization.

Their sacrifice shall never be forgotten.

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## Foreword

### Communities Secretary, Eric Pickles

*The Centenary of the First World War allows us an opportunity to reflect on and remember a generation which sacrificed so much.*

Men and boys went off to war for Britain and in every town and village across our country cenotaphs are testimony to the heavy price that so many paid for the freedoms we enjoy today. And Britain did not stand alone, millions came forward to be counted and volunteered from countries around the globe, some of which now make up the Commonwealth.

These men fought for a country and a society which spanned continents and places that in many ways could not have been more different. But these servicemen did not allow themselves to be separated by their differences, instead they were bound by their shared values and experiences, united by common ground. They fought together, shoulder-to-shoulder, for liberty and their legacy forms the fabric of our society as we know it.

Today Britain pays tribute to these men and boys. 145 extraordinary soldiers from across the world who demonstrated the utmost bravery “in the face of the enemy” and received the Victoria Cross – Britain’s highest award for valour – during the First World War.

The laying of these paving stones is a heartfelt token of our gratitude and they will serve as a permanent reminder of their incredible courage.

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*“...for most conspicuous bravery, or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice, or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy.”*



*The Victoria Cross was introduced on 29 January 1856 by Queen Victoria to honour acts of valour during the Crimean War.*

*The bronze Cross, which bears the inscription “For Valour”, is cast from the metal of Russian guns captured at Sevastopol during the Crimean campaign.*

# The First World War 1914-1918

On 28 June 1914 Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, was assassinated by a Slav nationalist, Gavrilo Princip.

This set off a chain reaction which due to a series of diplomatic alliances – the Central Powers of Austria-Hungary, Germany and Italy, and the Triple Entente or Allied forces of Britain, France and Russia - escalated into full-scale war.

The war in Europe was the main focus but later the USA and Japan allied to the Entente forces and the Ottoman Empire joined the Central Powers. Conflict between these forces in Africa and South America meant that no corner of the globe was left untouched.

Over the next four years, over 4.5 million Britons served alongside three million troops who came from the countries which made up the British Empire. Over the course of the war millions of young men fought and died - 947,000 of them from the British Empire.

On 11 November 1918, at 11am in the Forest of Compiègne, an armistice between the Allied forces and Germany was signed and fighting stopped. Each year to mark those that lost their lives, at 11am on the 11th of November British communities come together as one to remember.



# Victoria Cross Commemorative Paving Stones



**In August 2013, Communities Secretary Eric Pickles announced a campaign to honour Victoria Cross recipients from the First World War as part of the Government's centenary programme.**

Over the next 3 years, commemorative paving stones are being laid in the place of birth of all British-born Victoria Cross recipients to:

- honour their bravery
- provide a lasting legacy of local heroes within communities
- enable residents to gain a greater understanding of how their area and people from across the world contributed to the war

A total of 628 Victoria Crosses were awarded during the First World War:

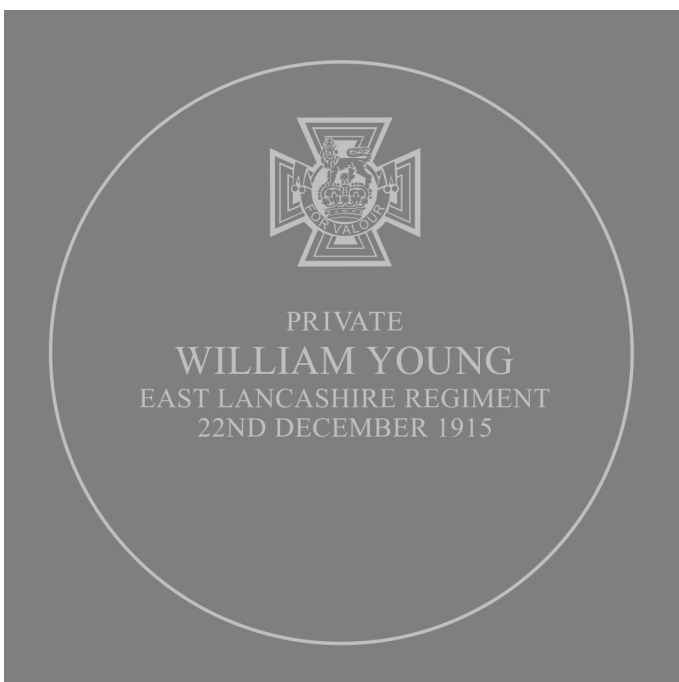
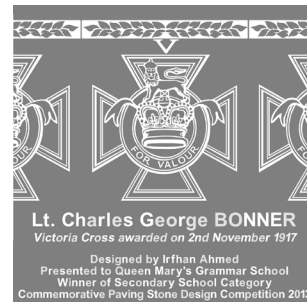
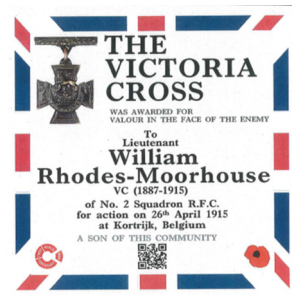
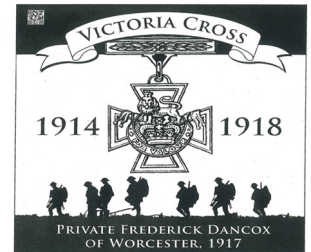
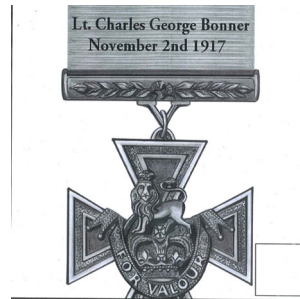
- 482 Victoria Crosses were awarded to UK and Ireland born recipients
- 145 were awarded to servicemen who fought for Britain, but were born overseas
- 1 person was awarded the Victoria Cross twice during the war

Today the Government is paying tribute to the 145 servicemen born overseas, across 19 different countries, by establishing a permanent memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum.

# Engaging Across The Generations

A national competition was held to design the commemorative paving stones. More than 200 entries were received from school children as young as 6 to retired veterans of previous conflicts.

A 7-person judging panel including members of the government's First World War Centenary Advisory Board, Professor of Modern History Michael Burleigh and novelist Sebastian Faulks, helped whittle down the shortlist in November 2013.



On 4 November 2013, Charlie MacKeith, a London-based architect, was declared the winner by the Communities Secretary Eric Pickles. His circular design seeks to 'make one pause and remember' and uses the material, form and lettering of the family of memorials used by the War Graves Commission.

His winning design will feature on all the paving stones that will be laid in communities across the country and at the National Memorial Arboretum.

# Overseas-Born First World War Victoria Cross Recipients

## Australia

**Lance Corporal** Thomas Axford  
**Lieutenant** Arthur Blackburn  
**Corporal** Walter Browen  
**Corporal** Alexander Buckley  
**Sergeant** Maurice Buckley  
**Private** Patrick Bugden  
**Corporal** Alexander Burton  
**Private** John Carroll  
**Captain** Percy Cherry  
**Private** William Currey  
**Private** Henry Dalziel  
**Lieutenant** Wilbur Dartnell  
**Corporal** Philip Davey  
**Corporal** William Dunstan  
**Sergeant** John Dwyer  
**Lieutenant** Alfred Gaby  
**Lance Corporal** Bernard Gordon  
**Captain** Robert Grieve  
**Corporal** Arthur Hall  
**Private** John Hamilton  
**Corporal** George Howell  
**2nd Lieutenant** George Ingram  
**Private** Reginald Inwood  
**Lance-Corporal** Albert Jacka  
**Private** John Jackson  
**Captain** Clarence Jeffries  
**Lieutenant** William Joynt  
**Private** Thomas Kenny  
**Sergeant** Albert Lowerson  
**Private** Robert Mactier  
**Lieutenant** Joseph Maxwell  
**Lieutenant** Lawrence McCarthy  
**Sergeant** Stanley McDougall  
**Sergeant** Lewis McGee  
**Lieutenant** Frank McNamara  
**Lieutenant** Rupert Moon  
**2nd Lieutenant** George Moor

**Captain** Henry Murray  
**Captain** James Newland  
**Lance Corporal** Walter Peeler  
**Sergeant** William Ruthven  
**Private** Edward Ryan  
**Lieutenant** Clifford Sadlier  
**Sergeant** Percy Statton  
**Lieutenant** William Symons  
**2nd Lieutenant** Hugo Throssell  
**Lieutenant** Edgar Towner  
**Captain** Frederick Tubb  
**Major** Blair Wark  
**Sergeant** John Whittle  
**Private** James Woods

## Belgium

**Lieutenant** Colonel Adrian  
Carton De Wiart

## Canada

**Lieutenant** Wallace Algie  
**Major** William Barker  
**Lieutenant Colonel** Philip Bent  
**Captain** William Bishop  
**Corporal** Alexander Brereton  
**Lieutenant** Jean Brilliant  
**Private** Harry Brown  
**Lieutenant** Frederick Campbell  
**Corporal** Lionel Clarke  
**Private** John Croak  
**Private** Robert Cruickshank  
**Lance Corporal** Frederick Fisher  
**Corporal** Herman Good  
**Lieutenant** Milton Gregg  
**Private** Thomas Holmes  
**Lieutenant** Samuel Honey

**Corporal** Joseph Kaeble  
**Private** John Kerr  
**Lieutenant** George Kerr  
**Major** Okill Learmonth  
**Captain** Thain MacDowell  
**2nd Lieutenant** Alan McLeod  
**Corporal** Harry Miner  
**Captain** Coulson Mitchell  
**Major** Christopher O'Kelly  
**Lieutenant** Colonel Cyrus Peck  
**Private** Thomas Ricketts  
**Private** James Robertson  
**Lieutenant** Charles Rutherford  
**Captain** Francis Scrimger  
**Lance Sergeant** Ellis Sifton  
**Captain** John Sinton

## China

**Lieutenant** Cyril Martin

## Denmark

**Private** Thomas Dinesen  
**Private** Jørgen Jensen

## Egypt

**Corporal** Issy Smith

## France

**2nd Lieutenant** Gilbert Insall





## Germany

**Captain** Percy Hansen  
**Major** Charles Yate

## India

**Ressaider** Badlu Singh  
**Lieutenant** Edward Bellew  
**Sepoy** Chatta Singh  
**Naik** Darwan Sing Negi  
**Rifleman** Gobar Sing Negi  
**Lance Dafadar** Gobind Singh  
**Lieutenant** Reginald Graham  
**Lieutenant** Frederick Hedges  
**Lieutenant** Colonel Edward Henderson  
**Lance Naik** Lala  
**Major** Frederick Lumsden  
**Midshipman** Wilfred Malleson  
**Lieutenant** Eric McNair  
**Lieutenant** William Robinson  
**Sub Lieutenant** Arthur Tisdall  
**Flight Sub Lieutenant** Reginald Warneford  
**Major** George Wheeler

## Iraq

**Lieutenant Commander** Charles Cowley

## Japan

**Captain** Charles Foss  
**Major** George Wheeler

## Nepal

**Rifleman** Karanbahadur Rana  
**Rifleman** Kulbir Thapa

## Netherlands

**Captain** Thomas Pryce

## New Zealand

**Corporal** Leslie Andrew  
**Corporal** Cyril Bassett  
**Sergeant** Donald Brown  
**Private** Thomas Cooke  
**Sergeant** Samuel Forsyth  
**Sergeant** John Grant  
**Sergeant** Reginald Judson  
**Sergeant** Harry Laurent  
**Private** Henry Nicholas  
**Lieutenant** William Sanders  
**Captain** Alfred Shout  
**Lieutenant** Percy Storkey  
**Sergeant** Richard Travis  
**Corporal** Lawrence Weathers

## Pakistan

**Sepoy** Khudadad Khan  
**2nd Lieutenant** Frank Young  
**Jemader** Mir Dast  
**Naik** Shahamad Khan

## Sri Lanka

**2nd Lieutenant** Basil Horsfall  
**Major** Stewart Loudon-Shand

## South Africa

**Captain** Andrew Beauchamp-Proctor  
**Private** William Faulds  
**Captain** Reginald Hayward  
**Captain** Oswald Reid  
**Lieutenant Colonel** John Sherwood-Kelly

## Ukraine

**Corporal** Filip Konowal

## USA

**Captain** Bellenden Hutcheson  
**Lance Corporal** William Metcalf  
**Sergeant** George Mullin  
**Sergeant** Raphael Zengel

Recipients are listed under the country in which they were born. This does not necessarily indicate nationality.



**Alexander Burton was working as an ironmonger when he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force and joined the 7th Battalion. He was one of three Australian soldiers awarded the Victoria Cross for a particular act of bravery during the fighting against the Turks at Lone Pine, Gallipoli, which saw his death on 9 August 1915 aged 22.**

His citation reads: *"In the early morning of 9th August the enemy made a determined counter-attack on a newly-captured trench held by Lieutenant Tubb, Corporals Burton, Dunstan and a few men. They advanced up a trench and blew in a sandbag barricade, but Tubb and the two corporals repulsed the enemy and rebuilt the barricade. Strong enemy bombing parties twice again succeeded in blowing in the barricade, but on each occasion the enemy were repulsed and the barricade rebuilt, although Tubb was wounded and Corporal Burton killed while most gallantly building up the parapet under a hail of bombs."*

Burton has no known grave, but his name is commemorated on the Lone Pine Memorial at Gallipoli.



**Adrian Carton de Wiart was born in 1880 in Brussels and was of Belgian and Irish descent. In the First World War, Carton de Wiart served with the British Army, and in early 1915 he was moved to the Western Front where he commanded three infantry battalions and a brigade during the war.**

Carton de Wiart was awarded the Victoria Cross during the fierce fighting at La Boisselle on 2-3 July 1916 during the Battle of the Somme.

His citation states: *"For most conspicuous bravery, coolness and determination during severe operations of a prolonged nature. It was owing in a great measure to his dauntless courage and inspiring example that a serious reverse was averted. He displayed the utmost energy and courage in forcing our attack home. After three other battalion Commanders had become casualties, he controlled their commands, and ensured that the ground won was maintained at all costs....His gallantry was inspiring to all."*



**Thain MacDowell was born in 1890 in Quebec, Canada. After graduating from university, he enlisted and served with the 38th Infantry Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. In 1916, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his actions during the Battle of the Somme.**

Captain MacDowell was one of four Canadians awarded the Victoria Cross during the attack on Vimy Ridge in France on 9 April 1917.

His citation reads: *“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.”*



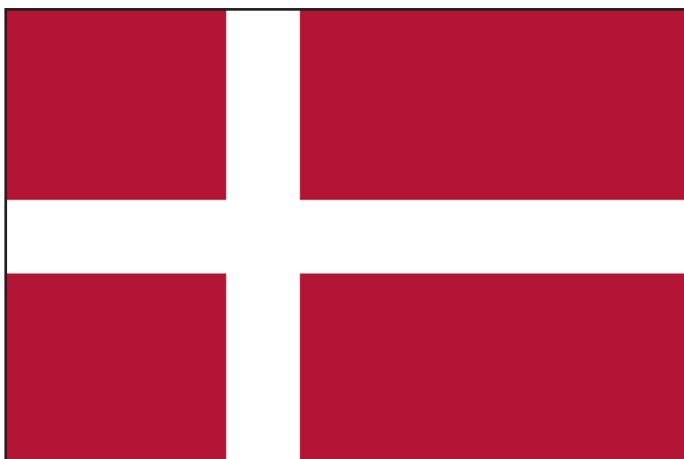
**Cyril Martin was born in 1891 in Fuzhou, China. The son of a Reverend who was the principal of a Church Missionary Society College in Fuzhou he was sent to school in Bath, England before joining the army in 1911.**

He was a Lieutenant in the Field Company, Corps of Royal Engineers, British Army during the First World War when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC.

On 12 March 1915 at Spanbroek Molen, Belgium, Lieutenant Martin volunteered to lead a small bombing party against a section of the enemy trenches which was holding up the advance. Before setting off he was wounded, but, taking no notice, he carried on with the attack which was a success. He and his small party held the trench valiantly against all counter-attacks for more than two and a half hours until a general withdrawal was ordered.

He later achieved the rank of Brigadier and served during World War II. He died aged 88 in the Royal Herbert Hospital, Woolwich on 14 August 1980.





**Thomas Dinesen was born in Rungsted, Denmark in 1892. During the First World War, he tried unsuccessfully to join the French, British and American armies. Eventually, he was able to enlist in the Royal Highlanders of Canada.**

Private Dinesen was awarded his Victoria Cross for his bravery on 12 August 1918 at the start of the Battle of Amiens, where his actions helped to capture over a mile of heavily-defended German trenches during a 10 hour period.

His citation explains: *“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.”*

Dinesen died in Denmark in 1979.

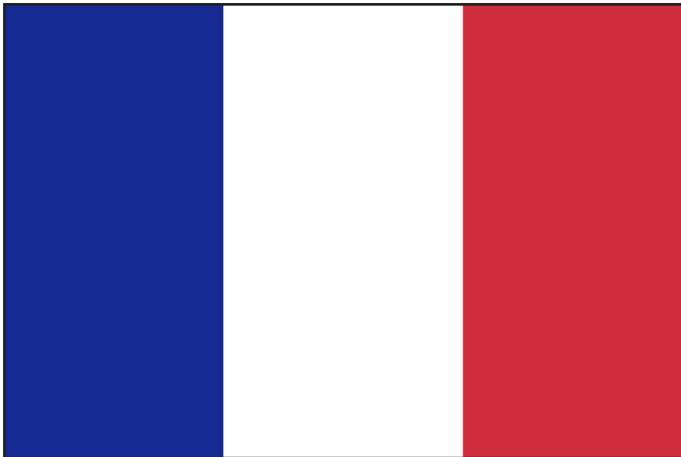


**Issy Smith was born, Ishroulch Shmeilowitz in 1890 in Alexandria, Egypt, although some records say he was born in London. The son of French citizens Moses and Eva Shmeilowitz, his father was employed by the French Consular Service.**

Aged 11, Smith became a stowaway on a boat headed for London and finished his schooling at the Berner Street School in London’s East End. He joined the British Army in 1904 and won the British Army middleweight boxing championship before being discharged in 1912. Retained as a reservist he was called up to serve in the 1st Manchester Regiment in August 1914. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions on 26 April 1915.

His citation reads: *“For most conspicuous bravery on 26th April, 1915, near Ypres, when he left his Company on his own initiative and went well forward towards the enemy’s position to assist a severely wounded man, whom he carried a distance of 250 yards into safety, whilst exposed the whole time to heavy machine-gun and rifle fire. Subsequently Corporal Smith displayed great gallantry, when the casualties were very heavy, in voluntarily assisting to bring in many more wounded men throughout the day, and attending to them with the greatest devotion to duty regardless of personal risk.”*

He died in September 1940 in Melbourne, Australia.



**Gilbert Insall was born in 1894 in Paris, France. He was a Second Lieutenant in 11 Squadron, Royal Flying Corps when on 7 November 1915 near Achiet-le-Grand, France he performed the deed for which he was awarded the VC.**

His citation reads: *"He was patrolling in a Vickers Fighting Machine, with First Class Air Mechanic T. H. Donald as gunner, when a German machine was sighted, pursued, and attacked near Achiet... Lieutenant Insall dived and got to close range, when Donald fired a drum of cartridges into the German machine, stopping its engine... the German machine was brought down heavily in a ploughed field 4 miles south-east of Arras.*

*On seeing the Germans scramble out of their machine and prepare to fire, Lieutenant Insall dived to 500 feet, thus enabling Donald to open heavy fire on them. The Germans then fled, one helping the other, who was apparently wounded. Other Germans then commenced heavy fire, but in spite of this, Lieutenant Insall turned again, and an incendiary bomb was dropped on the German machine, which was last seen wreathed in smoke. Lieutenant Insall then headed west in order to get back over the German trenches, but as he was at only 2,000 feet altitude he dived across them for greater speed, Donald firing into the trenches as he passed over. The German fire, however, damaged the petrol tank, and, with great coolness, Lieutenant Insall landed under cover of a wood 500 yards inside our lines... at dawn Lieutenant Insall flew his machine home with First Class Air Mechanic T. H. Donald as a passenger."*



**Charles Yate was born in 1872 in Germany. His father was British and his mother was German. Educated at Weymouth College until 1890, Yate graduated from Sandhurst with top honours and joined the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in 1882.**

Fluent in French, German and Japanese he saw service across the world in British India, Mauritius as well as South Africa during the Second Boer War.

He was awarded the VC for his actions at the Battle of Le Cateau on 26 August 1914.

His citation reads: *"Major Yate (deceased), 2nd Battalion The King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, commanded one of the two companies that remained to the end in the trenches at Le Cateau on August 26, and when all the other officers were killed or wounded and ammunition exhausted, led his 19 survivors against the enemy in a bayonet charge in which he was severely wounded. He was picked up by the enemy and he subsequently died as a prisoner of war."*



**Lala was born in 1876 in Himachal Pradesh, India, and served as a Lance Naik (Lance Corporal) in the 41st Dogras, Indian Army, during World War One. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for most conspicuous bravery on 21 January 1916 during the First Battle of Hanna in Mesopotamia.**

His citation reads: *"Finding a British officer of an other regiment lying close to the enemy, he dragged him into a temporary shelter, which he himself had made, and in which he had already bandaged four wounded men. After bandaging his wounds he heard calls from the Adjutant of his own regiment who was lying in the open severely wounded. The enemy were not more than one hundred yards distant, and it seemed certain death to go out in that direction, but Lance Naik Lala insisted on going out to his adjutant, and offered to crawl back with him on his back at once. When this was not permitted, he stripped off his own clothing to keep the wounded officer warmer, and stayed with him till just before dark, when he returned to the shelter. After dark he carried the first wounded officer back to the main trenches, and then, returning with a stretcher, carried back his Adjutant. He set a magnificent example of courage and devotion to his officers."*

Lala died in India of polio in 1927, and his last words were said to be: "We fought true."

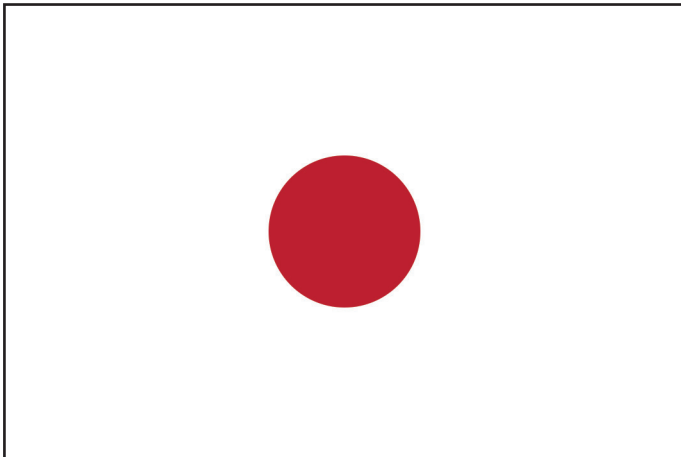


**Charles Cowley was born in 1872 in Baghdad, Iraq. His mother was half Armenian but brought up in Iraq, and his father was a captain in a steamship company.**

A Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve he was dubbed the "Pirate of Baghdad" as he became an infuriating thorn in the side of the Ottoman Empire. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions on 24 and 25 April in 1916 in an attempt to re-provision the force besieged in Kut-elAmara.

His citation reads: *"At 8 p.m. on April 24th, 1916, with a crew from the Royal Navy under Lieut. Firman, R.N., assisted by Lieut. Comdr. Cowley, R.N.V.R., the "Julnar", carrying 270 tons of supplies, left Falahiyah in an attempt to reach Kut. Her departure was covered by all artillery and machine gun fire that could be brought to bear, in the hope of distracting the enemy's attention. She was, however, discovered and shelled on her passage up the river....There could be but little doubt that the enterprise had failed, and the next day the Air Service reported the "Julnar" in the hands of the Turks at Magasis. The leaders of this brave attempt, Lieut. H.O.B. Firman, R.N., and his assistant, Lieut. Comdr. C.H. Cowley, R.N.V.R. - the latter of whom throughout the campaign in Mesopotamia performed magnificent service in command of the "Mejidieh", - have been reported by the Turks to have been killed; the remainder of the gallant crew, including five wounded, are prisoners of war. Knowing well the chances against them, all the gallant officers and men who manned the 'Julnar' for the occasion were volunteers."*



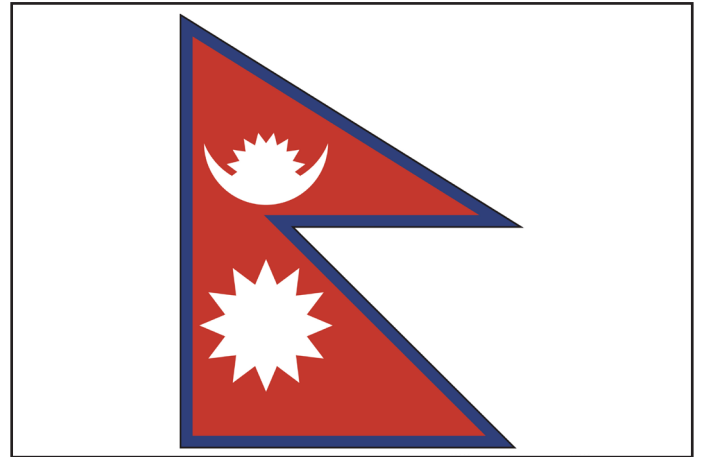


**Charles Foss was born in 1885 in Kobe, Japan. The son of the Bishop of Osaka, he was commissioned as Second Lieutenant in 2nd Battalion, the Bedfordshire Regiment in 1904.**

He was promoted to Captain during the War and was awarded the VC for his deeds on the 12 March 1915 at Neuve Chapelle, France.

His citation reads: *"For most conspicuous bravery . . . After the enemy had captured a part of one of our trenches, and our counter-attack made with one officer and twenty men having failed (all but two of the party being killed or wounded in the attempt), Capt. Foss, on his own initiative, dashed forward with eight men, and under heavy fire attacked the enemy with bombs, and captured the position, including the fifty-two Germans occupying it. The capture of this position from the enemy was of the greatest importance, and the utmost bravery was displayed in essaying the task with so very few men."*

Charles Foss later achieved the rank of Brigadier. He died in hospital in London in April aged 68.

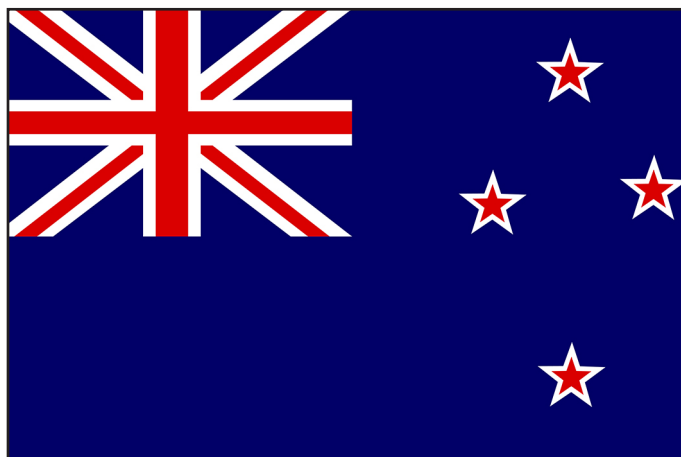


**Born in Palpa, Nepal in 1889, Kulbir Thapa was a Rifleman in the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Gurkha Rifles of the Indian Army and was the first Nepalese recipient of the Victoria Cross.**

Thapa won his Victoria Cross for his bravery on 25-26 September 1915 at Fauquissart in France, where he found himself stranded on the German side of the line during an attack.

His citation reads: *"When himself wounded on September 25, 1915, he found a badly wounded soldier of the 2nd Battalion, the Leicestershire Regiment behind the first-line German trench and although urged by the British soldier to save himself he remained with him all day and night. In the early morning of September 26, in misty weather, he brought him out through the German wire and, leaving him in a place of comparative safety, returned and brought in two wounded Gurkhas one after the other. He then went back in broad daylight for the British soldier and brought him in also, carrying him most of the way and being at most points under the enemy's fire."*

He was personally awarded his Victoria Cross by King George V at Buckingham Palace and is still remembered by the Royal Leicestershire Regiment at their regimental museum.



**Thomas Pryce was born in 1886 in The Hague, Netherlands. Brought up in Shrewsbury, Pryce was an acting captain in the 4th Battalion, Grenadier Guards during the First World War. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions on 11 April 1918 at Vieux-Berquin France.**

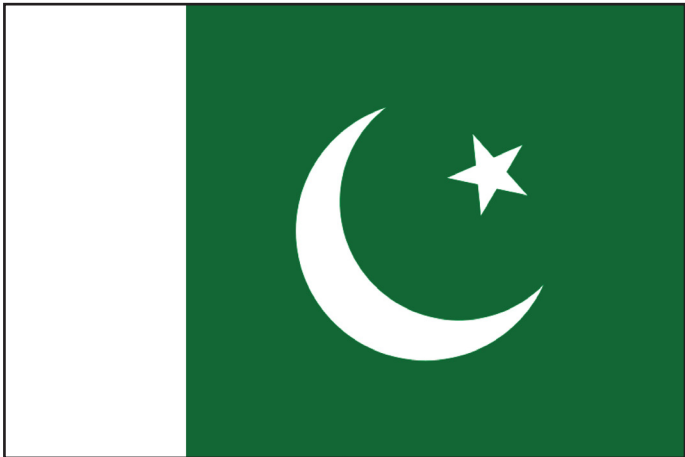
*His citation reads: "For most conspicuous bravery, devotion to duty, and self-sacrifice when in command of a flank on the left of the Grenadier Guards... He was occupying a position with some thirty to forty men, the remainder of his company having become casualties. As early as 8.15 a.m., his left flank was surrounded and the enemy was enfilading him. He was attacked no less than four times during the day, and each time beat off the hostile attack...Meanwhile the enemy brought three field guns to within 300 yards of his line, and were firing over open sights and knocking his trench in. At 6.15 p.m., the enemy had worked to within sixty yards of his trench. He then called on his men, telling them to cheer and charge the enemy and fight to the last. Led by Captain Pryce, they left their trench and drove back the enemy with the bayonet some 100 yards. Half an hour later the enemy had again approached in stronger force.*

*"By this time Captain Pryce had only 17 men left, and every round of his ammunition had been fired. Determined that there should be no surrender, he once again led his men forward in a bayonet charge, and was last seen engaged in a fierce hand-to-hand struggle with overwhelming numbers of the enemy. With some forty men he had held back at least one enemy battalion for over ten hours. His company undoubtedly stopped the advance through the British line, and thus had great influence on the battle."*

**Henry Nicholas was born in 1891 in Lincoln, New Zealand. He worked as a carpenter before enlisting in 1916. He joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force in France as a Private with the 1st Battalion of the Canterbury Infantry Regiment. Private Nicholas was awarded his Victoria Cross in an attack on Polderhoek Château in Belgium on 3 December 1917.**

*His citation reads: "Private Nicholas, who was one of a Lewis gun section, had orders to form a defensive flank to the right of the advance, which was checked by heavy machine-gun and rifle fire from an enemy strong-point. Whereupon, followed by the remainder of his section at an interval of about 25 yards, Private Nicholas rushed forward alone, shot the officer in command of the strong-point, and overcame the remainder of the garrison of sixteen with bombs and bayonets, capturing four wounded prisoners and a machine-gun. He captured this strongpoint practically single-handed, and thereby saved many casualties. Subsequently, when the advance reached its limit, Private Nicholas collected ammunition under heavy machine-gun and rifle fire. His exceptional valour and coolness throughout the operations afforded an inspiring example to all."*

Nicholas was presented with his VC by King George V at Buckingham Palace. He was killed in action just three weeks before the end of the war.



**Shahamad Khan was a Punjabi Muslim who was born in 1879 in Rawalpindi (now part of Pakistan). He served as a Naik (the equivalent to a Corporal) in the 89th Punjabis of the British Indian Army during the First World War.**

Khan was awarded the Victoria Cross for most conspicuous bravery in Mesopotamia (now present-day Iraq) on 12-13 April 1916. He was in charge of a machine gun covering a gap in the line very close to the enemy's trench.

His citation states: *“He beat off three counter attacks and worked his gun single-handed after all his men, except two belt-fillers, had become casualties. For three hours he held the gap under very heavy fire while it was being made secure. When his gun was knocked out by hostile fire he and his two belt-fillers held their ground with rifles till ordered to withdraw. With three men sent to assist him he then brought back his gun, ammunition, and one severely wounded man unable to walk. Finally, he himself returned and removed all remaining arms and equipment except two shovels. But for his great gallantry and determination our line must have been penetrated by the enemy.”*



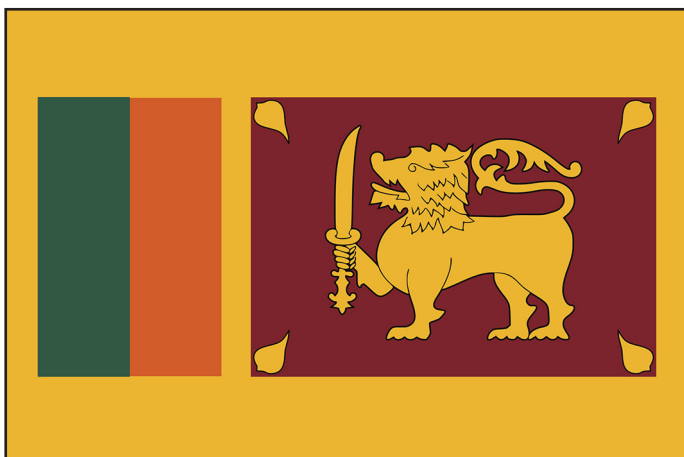
**William Faulds was born in 1895 in the Eastern Cape and served in the 1st Battalion (Cape) of the South African Infantry Brigade.**

Private Faulds was awarded the Victoria Cross for most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on 16 and 18 July 1916 at Delville Wood, where South African troops suffered appalling casualties, during the Battle of the Somme.

His citation reads: *“A bombing party under Lieut Craig attempted to rush over 40 yards (37 m) of ground which lay between the British and enemy trenches. Coming under very heavy rifle and machine gun fire the officer and the majority of the party were killed and wounded. Unable to move, Lieut Craig lay midway between the two lines of trench, the ground being quite open. In full daylight, Pte Faulds, accompanied by two other men, climbed over the parapet, ran out, picked up the officer, and carried him back... Two days later Private Faulds again showed most conspicuous bravery in going out alone to bring in a wounded man, and carried him nearly half a mile to a dressing-station... The artillery fire was at the time so intense that stretcher bearers and others considered that any attempt to bring in the wounded man meant certain death.”*

During his military career, Faulds was awarded 11 medals including the Military Cross in 1918. He died in 1950 and is buried in Harare, Zimbabwe.





**Basil Horsfall was born in 1887 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. After schooling, both in Sri Lanka and England, he worked in banking in London before returning to Sri Lanka. During the First World War, he served as 2nd Lieutenant with the 1st Battalion, attached to the 11th Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment.**

*His citation reads: "On the 21st March 1918 between Moyenneville and Ablainzeville, France, the enemy attacked Second Lieutenant Horsfall's centre platoon, his three forward sections were driven back and he was wounded in the head by enemy fire. Ignoring the wound, he immediately reorganised what remained of his troops and counter attacked to regain his original position.*

*"Despite the severity of his head wound, he refused to go to the dressing station, as the three other officers in his company had been killed. Later, he made another counter attack, but was ordered to withdraw. The last to leave his position, he was shot soon afterwards."*

Horsfall's name is on the Arras Memorial in France. It is not known where he is buried.



**Bellenden Hutcheson was born in Mount Carmel in the United States in 1883. He graduated from medical school and spent several years practising as a doctor in the American West. After the outbreak of World War One, Hutcheson joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps as a Medical Officer.**

Captain Hutcheson was awarded his Victoria Cross for his bravery and devotion to duty on 2 September 1918 on the Drocourt-Quéant Line near Cagnicourt, France.

*His citation reads: "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 sergeant, and, having placed him in a shellhole, dressed his wounds. Captain Hutcheson performed many similar gallant acts, and, by his coolness and devotion to duty, many lives were saved."*



**Filip Konowal was born in present-day Ukraine but emigrated to Canada around 1913. He enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force where he served with the 47th Infantry Battalion. Konowal was a Corporal when he won his Victoria Cross for his actions on 22-24 August 1917 when leading his section against German resistance on Hill 70, near Lens in France.**

*As his citation explains: "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 bayoneted 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."*

Konowal was personally presented with his Victoria Cross by King George V.

**2014 marked 100 years since the start of the First World War. To honour and remember the lives of those who served in and were affected by the war the government is leading a national centenary programme of ceremonial events, cultural activity and education.**

**For more information on how the government is building a fitting commemoration of this milestone in world history visit [Gov.uk](http://Gov.uk) and search **First World War Centenary**.**



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