Corporal William Anderson, VC, 2nd Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment, was born at Dallas, Elgin in December 1882. He was the second son of Alexander Anderson, a Labourer, and Bella Anderson, of 79 North Road, Forres, where he was educated at Forres Academy. After working as a Conductor at Glasgow Tramways Depot, he enlisted in the 2nd Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment in 1905 serving in India, Egypt and South Africa before being discharged to the Reserve in 1912 and working at Elder Hospital, Govan. He had been there only for a year before deciding to emigrate to South Africa. However, before he could leave war broke out and he was called up as a reservist. He was mobilised and sent to his old battalion in 1914. As a Corporal he travelled to Belgium to join the British Expeditionary Force. Between October and November 1914, he took part in the First Battle of Ypres, and he fought at Estaires in early 1915.

Corporal Anderson was awarded the VC for the part he played in the Battle of Neuve Chapelle on 12 March 1915. He was killed on 13 March 1915, age 30, his body was never found, and his name appears on Le Touret 'Memorial to the Missing' at Pas-de-Calais, some four miles to the north-east of Bethune in France. It is carved with those of 234 other members of the Yorkshire Regiment who have no known graves.

His citation read: "For most conspicuous bravery at Neuve-Chapelle on 12th March, 1915, when he led three men with bombs against a large party of the enemy who had entered our trenches, and by his prompt and determined action saved, what might otherwise have become, a serious situation. Cpl. Anderson first threw his own bombs, then those of his three wounded men, amongst the Germans."
After this he opened rapid rifle fire upon them with great effect."

**Lieutenant Colonel William Herbert (Bertie) Anderson**, VC, 12th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry, was born at Glasgow on 29 December 1881. He was the son of William James Anderson, CBE, a Chartered Accountant, and Nora Campbell Anderson, of Lansdowne Crescent, Glasgow, and Strathairly, Largo, Fife.

He died on 25 March 1918, age 36, and was awarded the VC for his actions on that date at Bois Favieres, near Maricourt, France, and is buried in Peronne Road Cemetery, Maricourt. His citation read: "For most conspicuous bravery, determination, and gallant leading of his command. The enemy attacked on the right of the battalion frontage and succeeded in penetrating the wood held by our men. Owing to successive lines of the enemy following on closely there was the greatest danger that the flank of the whole position would be turned. Grasping the seriousness of the situation, Colonel Anderson made his way across the open in full view of the enemy now holding the wood on the right, and after much effort succeeded in gathering the remainder of the two right companies. He personally led the counter-attack and drove the enemy from the wood, capturing twelve machine guns and seventy prisoners, and restoring the original line. His conduct in leading the charge was quite fearless and his most splendid example was the means of rallying and inspiring the men during the most critical hour. Later on the same day, in another position, the enemy had penetrated to within three hundred yards of the village and were holding a timber yard in force. Colonel Anderson reorganised his men after they had been driven in and brought them forward to a position of readiness for a counter-attack. He led the attack in person and throughout showed the utmost disregard for his own safety. The counter-attack drove the enemy from his position, but resulted in this very gallant officer losing his life. He died fighting within the enemy's lines, setting a magnificent example to all who were privileged to serve under him."

His three brothers also fell. Captain Charles Hamilton Anderson, 1st Battalion, Highland Light Infantry, died on 19 December 1914, Second Lieutenant Alexander Ronald Anderson, 1st Battalion, Highland Light Infantry, died on 8 October 1915, and Captain Edward Kerr Anderson, Royal Flying Corps and 5th Battalion, Highland Infantry, died on 16 March 1918.
Lance Corporal William Angus, Highland Light Infantry, was born on 28 February 1888 at Armadale. He was the first son of George Angus, a Coal Miner, and Margaret Angus, of Clyde Street, Carluke, and left school at the age of 14 to work in a Lanarkshire coal mine. While playing amateur football for Carluke Rovers in 1911, he played a trial for Glasgow Celtic at Dumfries in a friendly match. He failed to become a Celtic player and in 1914 signed for Wishaw Athletic.

On the outbreak of War, William joined the 8th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry. He was sent to the Western Front and was on the front-line at Givenchy in the summer of 1915. On 11 June, Lieutenant James Martin led a covert bombing raid on an embankment in front of the German trenches. The party was spotted and the enemy detonated a large mine hidden in the earth. Martin was one of the casualties of the explosion.

At first, he was thought to be dead, but he was seen to move as he pleaded for water from the Germans. They responded by throwing a grenade over the parapet.

As soon as he heard what had happened, Angus volunteered to attempt a rescue of the man who also came from Carluke. At first this was vetoed by senior officers who considered it a suicidal mission. Angus replied that it did not matter much whether death came now or later. Eventually, Brigadier General Lawford gave permission for Angus to try and save Martin.

A rope was tied around Angus so that he could be dragged back if killed or seriously wounded. Angus managed to reach Martin by crawling through No Man's Land without being detected. He gave him a drink of brandy before attaching the rope to Martin. Angus then
tried to carry Martin back to the safety of the British trench 70 yards away.

However, once upright, Angus was soon seen by the Germans and he came under heavy fire. Angus was hit and he fell to the ground. For the next few minutes he sheltered Martin with his own body. Angus then signalled to the British troops to pull Martin to safety. He then set off at right angles to the trench, drawing the enemy fire away from Martin. Despite being hit several times, he managed to drag himself back to the trenches. His injuries resulted in him losing his left eye and part of his right foot.

His commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel Gemmill later wrote that, "No braver deed was ever done in the history of the British Army".

For this act of bravery Angus became the first professional footballer to be awarded the Victoria Cross. His citation read: “For most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty at Givenchy, on 12 June 1915, in voluntarily leaving his trench under very heavy fire and rescuing an officer who was lying within a few yards of the enemy position. Lance Corporal Angus had no chance of escaping the enemy's fire when undertaking this very gallant action, and in effecting the rescue he sustained about forty wounds from bombs, some of them being very serious”.

William Angus served as a Justice of the Peace and President of the Carluke Rovers football club until his death in Carluke on 14 June 1959.

**Sapper Adam Archibald, Royal Engineers**, was born on 14 January 1879 at Leith. He was the son of Rennie Archibald, a Plasterer, and Christina Archibald, of 24 Shaws Street, Edinburgh. He lived at 53 Balfour Street with his wife and four children, and before he joined the Army in 1916 he had been Outside Foreman with Stewart's Granolithic Co Ltd of Duff Street. In his younger days he had been a keen footballer and had played a trial with St Bernard's FC. He was also a bowler and at the time of his enlistment he had been President of the Eastfield Bowling Club. Another of his hobbies was gardening and he had won prizes at local flower shows. He was a freemason belonging to the Elgin and Bruce Lodge at Limekilns in Fife.

He enlisted with the 7th Durham Light Infantry before transferring to the 218th Field Company, Royal Engineers during the second battle of the Sambre. At the age of 39, he was awarded the Victoria
Cross for action while his unit was attempting to bridge the Sambre–Oise Canal.

His citation said: **On 4 November 1918 near Ors, France, Sapper Archibald was with a party building a floating bridge across the canal. He was foremost in the work under a very heavy artillery barrage and machine-gun fire. The latter was directed at him from a few yards distance while he was working on the cork floats. Nevertheless he persevered in his task and his example and efforts were such that the bridge which was essential to the success of the operations was very quickly completed. Immediately afterwards Sapper Archibald collapsed from gas poisoning.**

After his discharge he returned to his job with Stuart’s Granolithic Works in Edinburgh. He passed away at his home in Leith at the age of 76.

**Sergeant Major Colin Fraser Barron, VC, 3rd (Toronto) Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force,** born at Baldavie Cottage, Boyndie, Banffshire, on 20 September 1893, was the only son of Margaret Walker Barron, a Domestic Servant. He was raised in a large household by his grandparents, Joseph Barron, a Wood Labourer, and Mary Barron, of Boyndie along with his half-siblings and aunts and uncles.

Emigrating from Glasgow on ss *Cassandra*, he arrived at St John, New Brunswick, Canada on 30 March 1912.

Employed on the railroad before enlisting in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in 1914, he recorded his grandparents as his parents.

He earned the VC on 6 November 1917 in Belgium, near Passchendaele.

The citation in the *London Gazette* on 11 January 1918, read, "For conspicuous bravery when in attack his unit was held up by three machine-guns. Corporal 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 NCO in rushing the guns produced far-reaching results, and enabled the advance to be continued".

He died on 15 August 1958 in Toronto and is buried in the Veterans’ Section at Prospect Cemetery, Toronto.
Major William Davidson Bissett, VC, Croix de Guerre avec Palme (France), was born at St Martin's, Perthshire on 7 August 1893. He was the elder son of John Bisset, a Plumber, and Helen Davidson Bisset, of 18 Strathmore Street, Bridgend, Perthshire.

His siblings were John and Jane.

During the First World War he was awarded the VC at the age of 25 years when he was a Lieutenant in the 1/6th Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (Princess Louise's).

The citation read, "On 25 October 1918 east of Maing, France, Lieutenant Bissett was commanding a platoon.

"Owing to casualties took command of the company and handled it with great skill when an enemy counter-attack turned his left flank. Realising the danger he withdrew to the railway, but the enemy continued to advance and when the ammunition was exhausted Lieutenant Bissett mounted the railway embankment under heavy fire and, calling for a bayonet charge, drove back the enemy with heavy loss and again charged forward, establishing the line and saving a critical situation."

He died on 12 May 1971 at Wrexham War Memorial Hospital, Wrexham, Denbighshire, Wales.

Major William Anderson Bloomfield, VC, Van Deventer's Scout Corps, 2nd South African Mounted Brigade, South African Forces, was born (Broomfield) in Edinburgh on 30 January 1873. He was the youngest son of James Broomfield, a Master Mason, and Jane Cargill Broomfield, of Garvald, East Lothian.

The family emigrated to South Africa in 1878.

His siblings were Mary, James, Jane, Alexander and Agnes.

The award of the Victoria Cross followed action at Mlali, German East Africa, in August 1916, in the course of one of the many unsuccessful attempts to corner the elusive Germans.
The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery. Finding that, after being heavily attacked in an advanced and isolated position, the enemy were working round his flanks, Captain Bloomfield evacuated his wounded, and subsequently withdrew his command to a new position, he himself being amongst the last to retire. On arrival at the new position he found that one of the wounded - No. 2475 Corporal D M P Bowker - had been left behind. Owing to very heavy fire he experienced difficulties in having the wounded Corporal brought in. Rescue meant passing over some 400 yards of open ground, swept by heavy fire, in full view of the enemy. This task Captain Bloomfield determined to face himself, and, unmindful of personal danger, he succeeded in reaching Corporal Bowker and carrying him back, subjected throughout the double journey to heavy machine-gun and rifle fire. This act showed the highest degree of valour and endurance."

He died on 12 May 1954 and is buried at Ermelo, South Africa.

**Lieutenant Colonel Walter Lorrain Brodie**, VC, MC, Highland Light Infantry, born at Edinburgh on 28 July 1884, was the second son of John Wilson Brodie, a Chartered Accountant and Stockbroker, and Grace Mary Brodie, of 23 Belgrave Crescent, Edinburgh.

Educated at Edinburgh Academy and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, he was gazetted Second Lieutenant, The Highland Light Infantry on 2 March 1904, promoted Lieutenant on 19 June, 1908, Captain on 10 September 1914, and Brevet-Major and Lieutenant Colonel in 1918.

He served with the Expeditionary Force in France and Flanders from August 1914, was killed in action on 23 August 1918, and is buried at Blenvillers-au-Bois.

He was awarded the Victoria Cross (*London Gazette*, 12 December 1914), for conspicuous bravery near Becelaere on 11 November 1914, "in clearing the enemy out of a portion of the British trenches..."
which they had succeeded in occupying. Heading the charge, he bayonetted several of the enemy, and thereby relieved a dangerous situation. As a result of Lieutenant Colonel Brodie's promptitude 80 of the enemy were killed and 51 taken prisoners."

Captain James Anson Otho Brooke, VC, 2nd Battalion, Gordon Highlanders, was born at Newhills on 3 February 1884. He was the eldest son of Sir Harry Vasey Brooke, KBE, a retired Army Captain, and Lady Patricia Moir Byres Brooke, of Fairley House, Newhills, Aberdeenshire.

His siblings were Arthur, Patrick Harry, Constance Geraldine, Henry Brian and Alice Irene.

At the Battle of Ypres on 29 October 1914, Brooke led two counter-attacks against the advancing enemy. Under enormous pressure, the British line was in danger of being broken. His swift reaction recovered the situation and the line held. Tragically, Brooke was killed during the action at the age of 30, and is buried in Zantvoorde British Cemetery.

The citation read, "For conspicuous bravery and great ability near Gheluvelt on the 29th October, in leading two attacks on the German trenches under heavy rifle and machine-gun fire, regaining a lost trench at a very critical moment. He was killed on that day. By his marked coolness and promptitude on this occasion Lieutenant Brooke prevented the enemy from breaking through our line, at a time when a general counter-attack could not have been organised."

Lieutenant William Arthur McCrae Bruce, Indian Army, was born on 15 June 1890 at Edinburgh. He was the only son of Colonel Andrew Murison McCrae Bruce, and Margaret McCrae Bruce, of La Fontaine, St Clement, Jersey

William entered Victoria College, Jersey, in September 1904. In 1908 he attended Sandhurst where he was a King's India Cadet. Following his passing out in 1909 he travelled to India where he had to serve for twelve months in a British regiment before taking up his Indian Army commission. He was attached to the Northumberland Fusilier while he
learnt Urdu and was educated in the customs and traditions of India.

In 1911 he was posted to the 59th Scinde Rifles where he served on the North West Frontier. When war broke out in 1914 he was on leave in Jersey. His regiment was ordered to France and he rejoined them in Cairo en route for the Western Front. The Victoria Cross was not awarded until nearly five years after Bruce was killed in action, as it was not until returning PoWs had been interrogated that the full facts of his action came to light.

The citation reads, "For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. On the 19th December, 1914, near Givenchy, during a night attack, Lt. Bruce was in command of a small party which captured one of the enemy's trenches. In spite of being severely wounded in the neck, he walked up and down the trench, encouraging his men to hold on against several counter-attacks for some hours until killed. The fire from rifles and bombs was very heavy all day, and it was due to the skilful disposition made, and the example and encouragement shown by Lt. Bruce that his men were able to hold out until dusk, when the trench was finally captured by the enemy".

Second Lieutenant John Crawford Buchan, VC, 7th Bn. attached 8th Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, was born 10 October 1892 at Alloa, Clackmannanshire. He was the third son of David Buchan, the editor and publisher of The Alloa Advertiser, and Margaret McGregor Crawford Buchan, of 5 Kellie Place, Alloa.

His siblings were Margaret Ann, David, Robert, Jessie, Norman William and Francis Hall.

He died on 22 March 1918, age 25, and is buried in Roisel Communal Cemetery Extension.

On 21 March 1918, John Crawford Buchan found himself on the outskirts of the village of Marteville on the Upper Somme where he and his men were about to bear the brunt of the ‘Kaiserschlacht’. Also known as Operation Michael or the Spring Offensive, this ‘Kaiser’s Battle’ was the brutal blitzkrieg launched by the Germans in a last desperate attempt to smash the Allies before the Americans arrived in force.

The citation reads, "For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. When fighting with his platoon in the forward position of the battle zone, 2nd Lt. Buchan, although wounded early in the day, insisted on remaining with his men, and
continually visited all his posts, encouraging and cheering his men in spite of most severe shell fire, from which his platoon was suffering heavy casualties. Later, when the enemy were creeping closer, and heavy machine-gun fire was raking his position, 2nd Lt. Buchan, with utter disregard of his personal safety, continued to visit his posts, and though still further injured accidentally, he continued to encourage his men and visit his posts. Eventually, when he saw the enemy had practically surrounded his command, he collected his platoon and prepared to fight his way back to the supporting line. At this point the enemy, who had crept round his right flank, rushed towards him, shouting out ‘Surrender.’ ‘To hell with surrender,’ he replied, and shooting the foremost of the enemy, he finally repelled this advance with his platoon. He then fought his way back to the supporting line of the forward position, where he held out till dusk. At dusk he fell back as ordered, but in spite of his injuries again refused to go to the aid post, saying his place was beside his men. Owing to the unexpected withdrawal of troops on the left flank it was impossible to send orders to 2nd Lt. Buchan to withdraw, as he was already cut off, and he was last seen holding out against overwhelming odds. The gallantry, self-sacrifice, and utter disregard of personal safety displayed by this officer during these two days of most severe fighting is in keeping with the highest traditions of the British Army."

His brothers, Lieutenant David Buchan, Gordon Highlanders, died on 9 April 1917, age 30, and Second Lieutenant Francis Hall Buchan, Rifle Brigade, died on 7 August 1918, age 20.

Company Sergeant Major Thomas Caldwell, VC, 12th (Ayr and Lanark Yeomanry) Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers, was born at Carluke on 10 February 1894. He was the son of George Caldwell, a Carter, and Margaret Caldwell, of Orchard Street, Carluke.

His siblings were Janet, Joseph and Helen.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery and initiative in attack near Audenarde on the 31st October 1918 near Audenarde, Belgium, when in command of a Lewis gun section engaged in clearing a farmhouse. When his section came under intense fire at close range from another farm, Sergeant Caldwell rushed towards the farm, and, in spite of very heavy fire, reached the enemy position, which he captured single-handed, together with 18 prisoners. This gallant and determined exploit removed a serious obstacle from the line of advance, saved many casualties, and led to the capture by his section of about 70 prisoners, eight machine guns and one trench mortar."
Sergeant John Carmichael, VC, MM, 9th Battalion, The North Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's), was born at Glenmavis, North Lanarkshire on 1 April 1893. He was the fifth son of Alexander Carmichael, a Quarry Hewer, and Janet Carmichael, of Glenmavis.

His siblings were William, James, Donal, Alexander, Sarah, Ann, Thomas and Janet.

The citation read, "At Zwarteleen, Belgium, on September 8, 1917, when excavating a trench, he saw that an unearthed grenade had started to burn. He immediately rushed to the spot shouting to his men to get clear, put his steel helmet over the grenade and stood on it. The grenade exploded and blew him out of the trench, seriously injuring him.

"He could have thrown the bomb out of the trench but by doing so, would have endangered the lives of the other men."

He died on 20 December 1977, age 84, at Glenmavis, and is buried in New Monkland (Landward) Cemetery.

Lance Corporal John (Jock) Alexander Christie, VC, 1/11th (County of London) Battalion, The London Regiment (Finsbury Rifles), was born at Edmonton, London on 14 May 1895 to Scottish parents. He was the elder son of John Andrew Christie, an Artist and Book Illustrator, and Margaret Baillie Christie, of 8 Booth Street, Manchester, born in Ayr and Glasgow respectively.

His siblings were Margaret, Jane, Catherine and George.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery when, on 21st December 1917 after a position had been captured, the enemy immediately made counter and bombing attacks up communication trenches. Lance-Corporal Christie, realising the position, took a supply of bombs over the top, proceeding alone about fifty yards in the open along the communication
trench and bombed the enemy. He continued to do this alone in spite of very heavy opposition until a block had been established. Returning towards our lines he heard voices behind him; he at once turned back and bombed another party moving up the trench, entirely breaking up a further bombing attack. By his prompt and effective action he undoubtedly cleared a difficult position at a most critical time and saved many lives. Throughout he was subjected to heavy machine-gun fire and shell fire. He showed the greatest coolness and a total disregard for his own safety."

He was a founder member of the VC Association and at the time of his death at Bramhall, Cheshire, on 10 September 1967, aged 72, he was Honorary Treasurer.

**Corporal William Clamp, VC, 6th Battalion, Yorkshire Regiment, was born at Motherwell, Lanarkshire, on 28 October 1891. He was the eldest son of Charles Henry Clamp, an Iron Worker, and Christina Dundas Clamp, of 13C Reid's Terrace, Flemington, Motherwell.**

His siblings were Hannah, Jessie, James, John, Alfred, Albert and Grace.

On 10 December 1917, The London Gazette announced the award of the posthumous VC to Corporal William Clamp. The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery when an advance was being checked by intense machine-gun fire from concrete blockhouses and by snipers in ruined buildings. Corporal Clamp dashed forward with two men and attempted to rush the largest blockhouse. His first attempt failed owing to the two men with him being knocked out, but he at once collected some bombs, and calling upon two men to follow him, again dashed forward. He was first to reach the blockhouse and hurled in bombs, killing many of the occupants. He then entered and brought out a machine-gun and about twenty prisoners, whom he brought back under heavy fire from neighbouring snipers. This non-commissioned officer then again went forward encouraging and cheering the men, and succeeded in rushing several snipers' posts. He continued to display the greatest heroism until he was killed by a sniper. His magnificent courage and self-sacrifice was of the greatest value and relieved what was undoubtedly a very critical situation."
Lieutenant Colonel William Hew Clark-Kennedy, VC, DSO, 24th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, born at Dunskey House, Kirkcudbrightshire, on 3 March 1879, was the son of Alexander William Maxwell Clark-Kennedy, a Landed Proprietor, formerly a Captain in the Coldstream Guards, and the Honourable Lettice-Lucy Hewitt Clark-Kennedy, of Dunskey House, Portpatrick, Kirkcudbrightshire.

His siblings were John, Lettice, Leopold, Alice, Alexander and Archibald.

The citation in the London Gazette on 14 December 1918, read, "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."
He died on 25 October 1961, age 81. He is buried at Mount Royal Cemetery, Montreal.

His brothers, Captain Alexander Kenelm Clark-Kennedy, King’s Own Scottish Borderers, was killed in action on 19 April 1917, age 33, and is buried in Gaza War Cemetery, Palestine, and Captain Archibald Douglas Hewitt Clark Kennedy, 1/5th Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers was killed in action on 18 September 1918, age 30, and is buried in Queant Road Cemetery, Buissy. They are commemorated on the Carsphairn Parish War Memorial near the family home in Kirkcudbrightshire which was unveiled by William Hew Clark-Kennedy.

Lieutenant Robert Grierson Combe, VC, 27th Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, born at Aberdeen on 5 August 1880, was the younger son of James Combe, a Waiter, and Elizabeth Combe, of 2 Millburn Street, Aberdeen.

His siblings were Elizabeth, Mabel, Jessie and George.

The citation read, "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."
Second Lieutenant John (Jack) Manson Craig, VC, 1/4th Battalion, The Royal Scots Fusiliers, was born at Comrie, Perthshire on 5 March 1896. He was the second son of John Craig, a Farmer, and Margaret Eleanora McCosh Craig, of Glencairn, Broch Terrace, Crieff.

His siblings were James, Margaret, William and Quentin.

The citation read, "On 5 June 1917 in Egypt, an advanced post having been rushed by the enemy, Second Lieutenant Craig immediately organised a rescue party and after tracking the enemy back to his trenches, set his party to work removing the dead and wounded under heavy rifle and machine-gun fire. An NCO was wounded and a medical officer who went to his aid was also wounded. Second Lieutenant Craig went out at once and got the NCO under cover, but while taking the medical officer to shelter was himself wounded. Nevertheless the rescue was effected, and he then scooped cover for the wounded, thus saving their lives."

He died on 19 February 1970, age 73, at Crieff, Perthshire.

Corporal James Lennox Dawson, VC, Royal Engineers, was born at Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire on 25 December 1891. He was the second son of John Dawson, a Mechanic, and Janet Lennox Dawson, of 1 Hill Street, Tillicoultry.

His siblings were John and Peter.

The citation read, "On 13 October 1915 at Hohenzollern Redoubt, France, during a gas attack, when the trenches were full of men, Corporal Dawson exposed himself fearlessly to the enemy's fire in order to give directions to his sappers and to clear the infantry out of sections of the trench which were full of gas. Finding three leaking cylinders, he rolled them well away from the trench, again under heavy fire, and then fired rifle bullets into them to let the gas escape. His gallantry undoubtedly saved many men from being gassed."
He retired to Eastbourne, Sussex, where he died on 15 February 1967.

**Sergeant John Brunton Daykins**, VC, MM, The York and Lancaster Regiment, was born at Ormiston Farm, Hawick in the Scottish Borders on 26 March 1883.

He was the eldest son of John Daykins, a Farmer, and Elizabeth (Betty) Daykins, of Howden Fram House, Jedburgh.

His siblings were Samuel, James and Elizabeth.

The citation read, "On 20 October 1918 at Solesmes, France, Sergeant Daykins, with 12 remaining men of his platoon, rushed a machine-gun and during subsequent severe hand-to-hand fighting he himself disposed of many of the enemy and secured his objective. He then located another machine-gun which was holding up an operation of his company. Under heavy fire he worked his way alone to the post and shortly afterwards returned with 25 prisoners and an enemy machine-gun, which he mounted at his post. His magnificent fighting spirit and example inspired his men, saved many casualties and contributed largely to the success of the attack."

He died at Edinburgh on 24 January 1933 and is buried at Castlewood Cemetery, Jedburgh.

**Sergeant Robert Downie**, VC, MM, 2nd Battalion, The Royal Dublin Fusiliers, was born at Glasgow on 12 January 1894. He was the third son of Francis Downie, an Iron Plainer, and Elizabeth Downie, of 19 Centre Street, Springburn, Glasgow. His father was born in Laurencetown, County Down.

His siblings were David, John, Mary, Catherine, Richard, Elizabeth, Francis, Ann, Thomas, Ellen, Isabella and Amelia.

He was educated at St Aloysius School, Springburn, Glasgow.

The citation read, "On 23 October 1916 east of Lesboeufs, France, when most of the officers had become casualties, Sergeant Downie, utterly regardless of personal danger and under very heavy fire, organised the attack which had been temporarily checked. "At the critical
moment he rushed forward shouting 'Come on the Dubs!' which had an immediate response and the line rushed forward at this call. Sergeant Downie accounted for several of the enemy and in addition captured a machine-gun, killing the team. "Although wounded early in the fight, he remained with his company, giving valuable assistance while the position was being consolidated."

He died at Glasgow on 18 April 1968, age 74, and is buried in St Kentigern's Cemetery, Glasgow.

Private Robert Anderson Dunsire, VC, 13th Battalion, Royal Scots, was born at Buckhaven, Fife, on 24 November 1891. He was the fourth son of Thomas Dunsire, a Contractor, and Elizabeth Anderson Dunsire, of 19 Overton Road, Dysart, Fife.

His siblings were Thomas, Alexander, Catherine, Peter, Elizabeth Jemima, Isabella, Grace, Margaret, John, William and Marshall.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery on Hill 70 on 26th Sept., 1915. Pte. Dunsire went out under very heavy fire and rescued a wounded man from between the firing lines. Later, when another man considerably nearer the German lines was heard shouting for help, he crawled out again with utter disregard to the enemy's fire and carried him in also. Shortly afterwards the Germans attacked over this ground."

At age 24 in 46th Field Ambulance, he died of wounds received in action at Mazingarbe on 30 January 1916 and is buried in Mazingarbe Communal Cemetery.
Sergeant Alexander Flemming Edwards, VC, 6th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, was born at Drainie, Stotfield, Lossiemouth, Morayshire, on 4 November 1885. He was the second son of Alexander Edwards, a Fisherman of Stotfield, Lossiemouth, Morayshire.

His siblings were Jessie, Jemima and John.

He joined the 1/6th (Morayshire) Battalion, the Seaforth Highlanders, at Elgin in July 1914.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery in attack, when, having located a hostile machine gun in wood, he, with great dash and courage, led some men against it, killed all the team and captured the gun. Later, when a sniper was causing casualties, he crawled out to stalk him, and although badly wounded in the arm, went on and killed him. One officer only was now left with the company, and, realising that the success of the operation depended on the capture of the furthest objective, Sergeant. Edwards, regardless of his wound, led his men on till this objective was captured. He subsequently showed great skill in consolidating his position, and very great daring in personal reconnaissance. Although again twice wounded on the following day, this very gallant NCO maintained throughout a complete disregard for personal safety, and his high example of coolness and determination engendered a fine fighting spirit in his men".

He died on 24 March 1918, age 32, and is commemorated on the Arras Memorial.
Sergeant John MacLaren Erskine, VC, "D" Coy, 5th/6th Battalion, Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), was born at Dunfermline, Fife, on 13 January 1894. He was the eldest son of William Erskine, a Draper, and Elizabeth Erskine, of 32 Bridge Street, Dunfermilne. After her husband's death, Elizabeth Erskine, who had been a teacher at Bathgate Academy before her marriage, lived at 1 East Savile Road, Edinburgh.

John was the eldest of six brothers and had one sister.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery. Whilst the near lip of a crater, caused by the explosion of a large enemy mine, was being consolidated, Acting Sergeant Erskine rushed out under continuous fire with utter disregard of danger and rescued a wounded sergeant and a private. Later, seeing his officer, who was believed to be dead, show signs of movement, he ran out to him, bandaged his head, and remained with him for fully an hour, though repeatedly fired at, whilst a shallow trench was being dug to them. He then assisted in bringing in his officer, shielding him with his own body in order to lessen the chance of his being hit again."

John Erskine was twenty-three years of age when he was killed in action at Arras, France on Saturday 14 April 1917.
Colonel George de Cardonnel Elmsall Findlay, VC, MC & Bar, DL, Royal Engineers, was born at Balloch, Dunbartonshire on 20 August 1889. He was the third son of Major Robert Elmsall Findlay, a JP, and Director of the firm of Messrs Findlay, Richardson & Co. Ltd., East India Merchants, of 34 West George Street, Glasgow, and Jane Cecilia Louise Scott Findlay, of Boturich Castle near Balloch.

His siblings were Charles, Robert and Jane.

The citation read, "For conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during the forcing of the Sambre-Oise canal at the Lock, two miles from Catillon, on November 4 1918, when in charge of the bridging operations at this crossing. Major Findlay was with the leading bridging and assaulting parties which came under heavy fire while trying to cross the dyke between the forming-up line and the Lock. The casualties were severe and the advance was stopped. Nevertheless, under heavy and incessant fire, he collected what men he could and repaired the bridges, in spite of heavy casualties in officers and other ranks. Although wounded, Major Findlay continued his task and after two unsuccessful efforts, owing to his men being swept down, he eventually placed the bridge in position across the Lock, and was the first man across, subsequently remaining at this post of danger till further work was completed. His cool and gallant behaviour inspired volunteers from different units at a critical time when men became casualties almost as soon as they joined him in the fire-swept zone, and it was due to Major Findlay's gallantry and devotion to duty that this most important crossing was effected."

He died on 26 June 1967, age 78, and is buried in the family plot at Kilmaronock Churchyard near Gartocharn.
Sergeant David Finlay, VC, 2nd Battalion, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), was born at Guardbridge, Fife, on 20 January 1893. He was the eldest son of George Finlay, a Shepherd, and Susan Small Finlay, of Cameron Farm House, Cameron, Fife.

His siblings were James, Susan, George, John, William, Elizabeth, Georgina, Helen, Albert and Anne.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on 9th May, 1915, near Rue du Bois, when he led a bombing party of twelve men with the greatest gallantry. Ten of them fell in the attack, then Lance-Corporal Finlay ordered the two survivors to crawl back, and he himself went to the assistance of a wounded man and carried him over a distance of 100 yards of fire-swept ground into cover, quite regardless of his own personal safety."

He was killed in action in Mesopotamia on 21 January 1916, age 23, and is commemorated on the Basra Memorial, and the war memorial in Moonzie Kirkyard Fife.

Sergeant Samuel Frickleton, VC, 3rd Battalion, New Zealand Rifle Brigade, was born at Slamannan, Stirlingshire, on 1 April 1891. He was the son of Samuel Frickleton, a Coal Miner, and Elizabeth Logan Frickleton, of 23 and 24 Miners Row, Bannockburn.

His siblings were John, Marion, Henry, Jean, Mary, Samuel, William, James, Thomas and Robert.

He emigrated to New Zealand in 1913 and lived on the West Coast, working alongside four of his brothers in a coal mine in Blackball.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery and determination when with attacking troops, which came under heavy fire and were checked. Although slightly wounded, Lance Corporal
Frickleton dashed forward at the head of his section, rushed through a barrage and personally destroyed with bombs an enemy machine gun and crew, which were causing heavy casualties. He then attacked the second gun, killing the whole of the crew of twelve. By the destruction of these two guns he undoubtedly saved his own and other units from very severe casualties and his magnificent courage and gallantry ensured the capture of the objective. During the consolidation of the position he suffered a second severe wound. He set, throughout, a great example of heroism.

Samuel died on 6 August 1971, age 80, in Wellington after a long illness.

Lieutenant Colonel Sir John Reginald Noble Graham, VC, OBE, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders attached Machine Gun Corps, was born at Calcutta, India, on 17 September 1892. He was the eldest son of Sir Frederick Graham, 2nd Baronet, of Larbert, and Lady Irene Maud Campbell, of Darleith, Cardross.

His siblings were Glenda Victoria Maud, Bevis Royal and Frederick Clarence Campbell.

The citation read, "Lieutenant Graham accompanied his guns across open ground, under very heavy rifle and machine gun fire, and when his men became casualties, he assisted in carrying the ammunition. Although twice wounded he continued during the advance to control his guns and was able, with one gun, to open an accurate fire on the enemy, who were massing for a counter-attack. This gun was put out of action by the enemy's rifle fire, and he was again wounded. The advancing enemy forced him to retire, but before doing so he further disabled his gun, rendering it useless. He then brought a Lewis gun into action with excellent effect till all the ammunition was expended. He was again severely wounded, and forced through loss of blood to retire. His valour and skilful handling of his guns held up a strong counter-attack which threatened to roll up the left flank of the Brigade, and thus averted what might have been a very critical situation."

He died in Edinburgh at the age of 88 on 6 December 1980.
Lance Corporal John Brown Hamilton, VC, Highland Light Infantry, was born at Dumbarton, West Dunbartonshire on 26 August 1896. He was the son of Thomas Hamilton, a Moulder, and Agnes Brown Hamilton, of 90 High Street, Dumbarton.

His siblings were Agnes, James, William, Thomas and Alexander.

The citation read, "At a time when small arms ammo was at a seriously low ebb, Lance Cpl Hamilton, on several occasions on his own initiative carried bandoleers of ammo through the enemy belt of fire to the front line, and then, passing along these lines in full view of the enemy's snipers and machine-guns, who were lying out in front of our lines at close range, distributed ammunition. In so doing, he not only ensured the steady continuance of the defence by rifle fire, but, by his splendid example, fearlessness, and devotion to duty, inspired all who saw him with fresh confidence to hold at all costs."

On 18 July 1973, age 76, he died in Hairmyres Hospital of cancer after a long illness.

Captain Arthur Henderson, VC, MC, 4th Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, was born at Paisley, Renfrewshire on 6 May 1893. He was the only son of George Henderson, OBE, a Contractor, Builder and Magistrate, and Elizabeth Purdie Henderson, of 18 Greenhill Road, Egnal.

His siblings were Agnes, Elizabeth and Ellen.

On 23 April 1917 near Fontaine-les-Croisilles, France, he performed the deed for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery. During an attack on the enemy trenches this officer, although almost immediately wounded in the left arm, led his Company through the front enemy
line until he gained his final objective. He then proceeded to consolidate his position, which, owing to heavy gun and machine gun fire and bombing attacks, was in danger of being isolated. By his cheerful courage and coolness he was enabled to maintain the spirit of his men under most trying conditions. Captain Henderson was killed after he had successfully accomplished his task."

He died the following day, 24 April, 1917, age 23, and is buried in Cojeul British Cemetery, St. Martin-Sur-Cojeul.  

**Captain George Stuart Henderson, VC, DSO and Bar, MC, five times Mentioned in Despatches 2nd Battalion, Manchester Regiment,** was born at East Gordon in the Scottish Borders on 5 December 1893. He was the only son of Robert Henderson, a Farmer and Auctioneer, and Mary Henderson, of Mount Hooly, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire.

His siblings were Elspeth and Jessie.

Towards evening on the July 24, 1920, near Hillah - Al-Hillah, the site of ancient Babylon, 50 miles south of Baghdad - the Manchesters company he was commanding was ordered to retire from the positions they had been guarding.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice. On the evening of the 24th July, 1920, when about fifteen miles from Hillah (Mesopotamia), the Company under his command was ordered to retire. After proceeding about 500 yards a large party of Arabs suddenly opened fire from the flank, causing the Company to split up and waver. Regardless of all danger, Capt. Henderson at once reorganised the Company, led them gallantly to the attack and drove off the enemy. On two further occasions this officer led his men to charge the Arabs with the bayonet and forced them to retire. At one time, when the situation was extremely critical and the troops and transport were getting out of hand, Capt. Henderson by sheer pluck and coolness, steadied his command, prevented the Company from being cut up, and saved the situation. During the second charge he fell wounded, but refused to leave his command, and just as the Company reached the trench they were making for he was again wounded. Realising that he could do no more, he asked one of his N.C.Os to hold him up on the embankment, saying 'I'm done now, don't let them beat you'. He died fighting."
Major James Palmer Huffam, VC, 5th Battalion, The Duke of Wellington's (West Riding) Regiment, was born at Dunblane on 31 March 1897. He was the fourth son of Edward Valentine Huffam, an Army Pensioner (Royal Highlanders) and High Bailiff, and Dorothy Roughead Huffam, of 2 West Street, Spittal, Berwick-on-Tweed.

His siblings were Alfred Meek, John Henry, Elizabeth Clara Margery, Dorothy Francis, Henry Harold and Dorothy Gertrude Beatrice.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the 31 August 1918. With three men he rushed an enemy machine gun post and put it out of action. His post was then heavily attacked and he withdrew fighting, carrying back a wounded comrade. Again on the night of 31 August 1918 at St Servin’s Farm, accompanied by two men only, he rushed an enemy machine gun, capturing eight prisoners and enabling the advance to continue. Throughout the whole fighting from 29 August to 1 September he showed the utmost bravery."

He died in 1968 at Stanmore in Middlesex.

Corporal David Ferguson Hunter, VC, 1/5th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry, was born at Dunfermline, Fife, on 28 November 1891. He was the third son of Peter Hunter, a Coal Miner, and Maria Hunter, of Main Street, Dunfermline.

His siblings were Robert, Thomas, James and Janet.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery, determination and devotion to duty (NW of Moeuvres). When the battalion to which he belonged relieved another unit in the front line, Corporal Hunter was detailed to take on an advanced post which was established in shell holes close to the enemy. Relief was carried out in darkness, and there was no opportunity of reconnoitring the adjacent ground. On the following afternoon the enemy drove back the posts on Corporal Hunter's flanks and
established posts in close proximity to and around him, thus completely isolating his command. Despite the fact that he was exceedingly short of rations and of water this gallant NCO was determined to hold on to his post to the last. On the evening of the second day he endeavoured to communicate with the company without result. Nevertheless, he maintained his position, and repelled frequent attacks until the evening of the third day, when a counter-attack relieved him. Without food and water he had held on to his post for over forty-eight hours. Not only did he have to withstand constant attacks, but he had also to undergo the barrage fire of the enemy and of our own attacks, which came right across his post. The outstanding bravery, coupled with the determination, fortitude and endurance, displayed by Corporal Hunter is beyond all praise, and is a magnificent example to all.

He died on 14 February 1965, at the age of seventy-three, and was buried in Dunfermline Cemetery. John Carmichael, VC and John Hamilton, VC both attended his funeral.

Corporal Charles Alfred Jarvis, VC, 57th Field Company, Royal Engineers, was born at Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire on 29 March 1881. He was the elder son of Charles Alfred Jarvis, a Coastguard, and Mary Jane Jarvis, of Admiralty Buildings, Saltoun Place, Fraserburgh, then Rattray Coastguard Station, and subsequently Carnoustie.

His siblings were Evelina, Mary, James and Elizabeth.

The citation read, "Lance-Corporal Jarvis worked for 1½ hours under heavy fire, in full view of the enemy and finally succeeded in firing charges for the demolition of a bridge. He was wounded in the process."

Charles died in Dundee Royal Infirmary on 19 November 1948, and is buried in Cupar.
Major William Henry Johnston, Royal Engineers, was born at Leith on 21 December 1879. He was the second son of William Johnston, Royal Artillery Riding Master, and Mary Johnston, 2 Madeira Place, Leith.

His siblings were Alice, Robert, Francis, Adelaide, Maud, Helen, Katherine, Mary and John.

His citation read, "At Missy on 14 September, under a heavy fire all day until 7 pm worked with his own hands two rafts, bringing back wounded and returning with ammunition, thus enabling advanced Brigade to maintain its position across the river."

He was killed by a sniper on 8 June 1915 near Zwarteleen in the Ypres Salient and is buried in Perth Cemetery (China Wall), West-Vlaanderen, Belgium.
Major Allan Ebenezer Ker, Gordon Highlanders attached 61st Battalion, Machine Gun Corps, was born at Leith on 5 March 1883. He was the first son of Robert Darling Ker, WS, a Solicitor, and Joanna Ker, of 4 Wardie Road, Leith.

His siblings were Hilda, Gertrude and John.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. On the 21st March, 1918, near St. Quentin, after a very heavy bombardment, the enemy penetrated our line, and the flank of the 61st Division became exposed. Lieutenant Ker with one Vickers gun succeeded in engaging the enemy’s infantry, approaching under cover of dead ground, and held up the attack, inflicting many casualties. He then sent back word to his Battalion Headquarters that he had determined to stop with his Sergeant and several men who had been badly wounded and fight until a counter-attack could be launched to relieve him. Just as ammunition failed his party were attacked from behind by the enemy with bombs, machine guns, and with the bayonet. Several bayonet attacks were delivered, but each time they were repulsed by Lieutenant Ker and his companions with their revolvers, the Vickers’ gun having by this time been destroyed. The wounded were collected into a small shelter, and it was decided to defend them to the last and to hold up the enemy as long as possible. In one of the many hand-to-hand encounters a German rifle and bayonet and a small supply of ammunition was secured, and subsequently used with good effect against the enemy. Although Lieutenant Ker was very exhausted from want of food and gas poisoning and from the supreme exertions he had made during ten hours of the most severe bombardment, fighting, and attending to the wounded, he refused to surrender until all his ammunition was exhausted and his position was rushed by large numbers of the enemy. His behaviour throughout the day was absolutely cool and fearless, and by his determination he was materially instrumental in engaging and holding up for three hours more than 500 of the enemy."

Lieutenant Ker died, age 75, on 12 September 1958 in Hampstead, North London, where he is buried.
Sergeant-Piper Daniel Logan Laidlaw, VC, The King's Own Scottish Borderers, was born at Little Swinton, near Berwick-upon-Tweed on 26 July 1875. He was the son of Robert Laidlaw, an Enginemen, and Margaret Laidlaw, of Coldingham, Berwickshire.

His siblings were William, Isabella, Alice, Mary, James, George and Margaret.

The citation read, "On 25 September 1915 during the Battle of Loos at Hill 70, prior to an assault on enemy trenches and during the worst of the bombardment, Piper Laidlaw, seeing that his company was shaken with the effects of gas, with complete disregard for danger, mounted the parapet and, marching up and down, played his pipes even after he was wounded and until the position was won."

He died at Shoresdean, near Berwick-upon-Tweed, on 2 June 1950, age 74, and was buried in St Cuthbert's churchyard, Norham, Northumberland, where a memorial headstone, organized by the King's Own Scottish Borderers Museum and members of the Laidlaw family, was placed over his grave on 2 June 2002.
Private David Ross Lauder, VC, Royal Scots Fusiliers, was born at Easter Glentore, Airdrie, Lanarkshire on 31 January 1894. He was the elder son of Angus Lauder, a Tailor, and Marion Lauder, of 61 G Chapel Street, Airdrie.

His siblings were Angus and Elspeth.

The citation read, "On 13 August 1915 at Cape Helles, Gallipoli, Turkey, Private Lauder was with a bombing party retaking a sap when he threw a bomb which failed to clear the parapet and fell amongst the bombing party. There was no time to smother the bomb and Private Lauder at once put his foot on it, thereby localizing the explosion. His foot was blown off, but the remainder of the party escaped unhurt."

He passed away at his home in Glasgow on 4 June 1972 at the age of 78.

Captain John MacGregor, VC, MC & Bar, DCM, ED, 2nd Regiment, Canadian Mounted Rifles, Canadian Expeditionary Force, born on 11 February 1889 at Cawdor in the County of Nairnshire, he was the third child of William MacGregor, and Hanna MacGregor, of Newlands of Urchany. He was baptised at Cawdor Free Church and attended Geddes School, Cawdor School and Nairn Academy, leaving full time education in 1907.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery, leadership, and self sacrificing devotion to duty. 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 the face of enemy 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 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 Captain MacGregor displayed magnificent bravery and heroic leadership”.

He died on 9 June 1952.

Captain David Lowe MacIntyre, VC, CB, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, attached to the 1/6th Battalion, Highland Light Infantry, was born at Portnahaven, Islay, Argyll on 18 June 1895. He was the second son of Archibald MacIntyre, a United Free Church Minister, and Elizabeth MacIntyre, of 25 Downie Terrace, Corstorphine.

His siblings were Alexander, George and Robert.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery in attack when, acting as Adjutant of his battalion, he was constantly in evidence in the firing line, and by his coolness under most heavy shell and machine-gun fire inspired the confidence of all ranks. Three days later he was in command of the firing line during an attack, and showed throughout most courageous and skilful leading in face of heavy machine-gun fire. When barbed wire was encountered, he personally reconnoitred it before leading his men forward. On one occasion, when extra strong entanglements were reached, he organised and took forward a party of men, and under heavy machine-gun fire supervised the making of gaps. Later, when the greater part of our line was definitely held up, Lt. MacIntyre rallied a small party, pushed forward through the enemy barrage in pursuit of an enemy machine-gun detachment, and ran them to earth in a pill-box a short distance ahead, killing three and capturing an officer, ten other ranks and five machine guns. In this redoubt he and his party raided three pill-boxes and disposed of the occupants, thus enabling the battalion to capture the redoubt. When the battalion was ordered to take up a defensive position, Lt. MacIntyre, after he had been relieved of command of the firing line, reconnoitred the right flank which was exposed. When doing this an enemy machine gun opened fire close to him. Without any hesitation he rushed it singlehanded, put the team to flight and brought in the gun. On returning to the redoubt he continued to show splendid spirit while supervising consolidation. The
success of the advance was largely due to Lt. Maclntyre’s fine leadership and initiative, and his gallantry and leading was an inspiring example to all.*

He died in Edinburgh on 31 July 1967, age 72, and his grave is at Warriston Crematorium in Edinburgh.

Private James MacKenzie, VC, 2nd Battalion, Scots Guards, was born at New Abbey, Dumfries on 2 April 1889. He was the son of Alexander MacKednzie, a Mason, and Marion MacKenzie, of 22 Terregles Street, Maxwelltown, Dumfries.

His siblings were Marion, Isabella and Agnes.

He won the Victoria Cross for rescuing a severely wounded comrade under heavy fire.

He was killed by a sniper the next day while attempting a similar rescue, and is commemorated on the Ploegsteert Memorial.

The citation read, “For conspicuous bravery at Rouges Bancs on the 19th December, in rescuing a severely wounded man from in front of the German trenches, under a very heavy fire and after a stretcher-bearer party had been compelled to abandon the attempt. Private MacKenzie was subsequently killed on that day whilst in the performance of a similar act of gallant conduct.”
Lieutenant Donald MacKintosh, VC, 3rd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, was born at Partick in Glasgow on 7 February 1896. He was the only son of Colonel Donald J MacKintosh, CB, MVO, MB, LLD, Medical Superintendent of the Western Infirmary, and Margaret F MacKintosh, of Western Infirmary House, Glasgow.

His sibling was Anna.

At the age of 21 years, the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery and resolution in the face of intense machine gun fire. During the initial advance he was shot through the right leg, but though crippled he continued to lead his men and captured the trench. In the captured trench Lt. Mackintosh collected men of another company who had lost their leader, and drove back a counter-attack. He was again wounded, and although unable to stand, he continued, nevertheless, to control the situation. With only fifteen men left, he ordered his party to be ready to advance to the final objective, and with great difficulty got out of the trench and encouraged his men to advance. He was again wounded and fell. The gallantry and devotion to duty of this officer were beyond all praise."

He died on 11 April 1917, age 21, and is buried in Brown's Copse Cemetery, Roeux.

Lieutenant Henry May, VC, 1st Battalion, The Cameronians (Scottish Rifles), Army Service Corps, was born at Bridgeton, Glasgow on 29 July 1885. He was the second son of Henry May, a Gas Stoker, and Margaret May, of 262 London Road, Glasgow.

His siblings were Daniel, James, Sarah, Joseph and Smollet.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery near La Boutillerie, on 22nd October, 1914, in voluntarily endeavouring to rescue, under very heavy fire, a wounded man, who was killed before he could save him, and subsequently, on the same day, in
carrying a wounded Officer a distance of 300 yards into safety whilst exposed to very severe fire."

He was taken ill at his home and died in the Glasgow Infirmary on 26th July 1942, just before his fifty-sixth birthday. He left a widow, Christina and four children.

Sergeant John McAulay, VC, DCM, Scots Guards, as born at Kinghorn in Fife on 27 December 1888. He was the eldest son of John McAulay, a Coal Miner, and Isabella McAulay, of 4 Gillespie Terrace, Plean, Stirlingshire.

His siblings were Elizabeth, Mary, David, Isabella, Agnes, Margaret and James.

The citation read, "On 27 November 1917 at Fontaine Notre Dame, France, when all his officers had become casualties, Sergeant McAulay assumed command of the company and under shell and machine-gun fire successfully held and consolidated the objectives gained. He reorganised the company and noticing a counter-attack developing, repulsed it by the skilful and bold use of machine-guns, causing heavy enemy casualties. The sergeant also carried his company commander, who was mortally wounded, to a place of safety."

John died at his home at 915 Aitkenhead Road, Glasgow on 14 January 1956 aged 67 and was buried in New Eastwood Cemetery, Glasgow.
Lance Corporal Robert Gordon McBeath, VC, 1/5th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, was born at Rosehearty, Aberdeenshire, in 1898. At a young age he was adopted by Robert MacKenzie and his sister Barbara MacIntosh, and grew up in Kinlochbervie.

Aged just sixteen, Robert lied about his age and was accepted into the Seaforth Highlanders.

The citation read, “For most conspicuous bravery west of Cambrai, France, on 20th November 1917, when with his company in attack and approaching the final objective, a nest of enemy machine guns in the western outskirts of a village opened fire both on his own unit and on the unit on his right. The advance was checked and heavy casualties resulted. When a Lewis gun was called for to deal with these machine guns, Lance Corporal McBeath volunteered for the duty and immediately moved off alone with a Lewis gun and revolver. He found however, several other hostile machine guns in action and, with the assistance of a tank, attacked them and drove the gunners to ground in a deep dug-out. Lance Corporal McBeath, regardless of danger, rushed in after them, shot an enemy who opposed him on the steps, and drove the remainder of the garrison out of the dug-out, capturing 3 officers and 30 men. There were in all five machine guns mounted round the dug-out and by putting them out of action, he cleared the way for the advance of both units. The conduct of Lance Corporal McBeath throughout three days of severe fighting was beyond all praise”.

He joined the British Columbia Provincial Police. On 12 August 1921, he joined the Vancouver Police Department. On 9 October 1922, while walking the beat on Granville and Davie Streets with his partner, Detective R Quirk, he stopped and arrested a man named Fred Deal for impaired driving. While escorting the prisoner to the nearest call-box, the man pulled a handgun from his pocket and shot both officers; McBeath’s partner survived, but McBeath died almost instantly. He was 23 years old.
Lieutenant David Stuart McGregor, VC, 6th Royal Scots attached 29th Battalion, Machine Gun Corps, was born at Edinburgh on 16 October 1895. He was the second son of David McGregor, a Tailor and Clothier, and Annie McGregor, of "Ferragon", Craigs Road, Corstorphine, then 125 Warrender Park Road, Edinburgh.

His siblings were James, Marjorie and Ronald.

The citation read, "For the most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty near Hoogmolen on 22 October 1918, when in command of a section of machine guns attached to the right flank platoon of the assaulting battalion. In the assembly position he concealed his guns on a limber under the bank of a sunken road. Immediately the troops advanced at zero they were subjected to intense enfilade machine-gun fire from Hill 66 on the right flank. Lieutenant McGregor fearlessly went forward into the open to locate the enemy guns, and having done so, realized that it was impossible to get his guns carried forward either by pack or by hand without great delay, as the ground was absolutely bare and swept by a hail of bullets. Ordering the teams to follow by a more covered route, he went to the limber, got on to it, and, lying flat, told the driver to leave cover and gallop forward. This the driver did, galloping down about six hundred yards of absolutely open road under the heaviest machine-gun fire into cover beyond. The driver, horses and limber were all hit, but Lieutenant McGregor succeeded in getting the guns into action, effectively engaging the enemy, subduing their fire and enabling the advance to be resumed. With the utmost gallantry he continued to expose himself in order to direct and control the fire of his guns, until, about an hour later, this very gallant officer was killed whilst observing fire effect for the Trench Mortar Battery. His great gallantry and supreme devotion to duty were the admiration of all ranks, and especially the officers and men of the 1st Border Regiment, who witnessed this extraordinary action."

He was killed in action on 22 October 1918, aged 23, and was buried in Stasegem Communal Cemetery, Harelbeke, West-Vlaanderen, Belgium
Sergeant Louis McGuffie, VC, 1st/5th Battalion, King’s Own Scottish Borderers, was born at Wigtown, Wigtownshire on 15 March 1893. He was the second son of Edward McGuffie, a General Labourer, and Catherine Gilmour McGuffie, of 1 North Main Street, Wigtown, Wigtownshire.

His siblings were Edward John, Thomas, Robert and James.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery and resourceful leadership under heavy fire near Wytschaete on 28th September, 1918. During the advance to Piccadilly Farm, he, single-handed, entered several enemy dugouts. He took many prisoners, and during subsequent operations dealt similarly with dugout after dugout, forcing one officer and twenty-five other ranks to surrender. During the consolidation of the first objective he pursued and brought back several of the enemy who were slipping away, and he was also instrumental in rescuing some British soldiers who were being led off as prisoners. Later in the day, when in command of a platoon, he led it with the utmost dash and resource, capturing many prisoners. This very gallant soldier was subsequently killed by a shell."

McGuffie was killed on 4 October 1918, age 24, by a stray shell, and is buried in Zantvoorde British Cemetery.

Private George Imlach McIntosh, VC, 1/6th Battalion, Gordon Highlanders, was born at Buckie, Banffshire, on 24 April 1897.

He was the youngest son of John McIntosh, a Fisherman, and Margaret McIntosh, of 107a Main Street, Buckie.

His siblings were John and James.

He was 20 years old when the deed took place at the Battle of Passchendaele for which he was awarded the VC.
McIntosh immediately rushed forward under heavy fire and reaching the emplacement, threw a Mills grenade into it, killing two of the enemy and wounding a third. Subsequently entering the dug-out he found two light machine-guns which he carried back with him. His quick grasp of the situation and the rapidity with which he acted undoubtedly saved many of his comrades and enabled the consolidation to proceed unhindered by machine-gun fire."

On 23 June 1960, the Buckie Advertiser reported, "Death of G I McIntosh, VC - Mr George Imlach McIntosh, VC a hero of two world wars is dead. ‘Mac’ who had been ill for the past month and had undergone two operations died on Monday night in Woodend Hospital, Aberdeen. He was 63."

Private Hugh McIver, VC, MM and Bar, "B" Company, 2nd Battalion, Royal Scots, was born at Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire, on 21 June 1890. He was the eldest son of Hugh McIver, a Coal Miner, and Mary McIver, of 34 Dunlop Street, Newton, Cambuslang, Glasgow.

He was 28 years old when the deed took place for which he was awarded the VC.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty when employed as a company runner. In spite of heavy artillery and machine-gun fire he carried messages regardless of his own safety. Single-handed he pursued an enemy scout into a machine gun post and having killed six of the garrison captured twenty prisoners with two machine guns. This gallant action enabled the company to advance unchecked. Later he succeeded at great personal risk in stopping the fire of a British Tank which was directed in error against our own troops at close range. By this very gallant action Pte. McIver undoubtedly saved many lives."

He was killed in action 10 days later on 2 September 1918, age 28, before he knew he had been recommended for the Victoria Cross, and is buried in Vraucourt Copse Cemetery, Vaulx-Vraucourt.
Lieutenant Hugh McDonald McKenzie, VC, DCM, 7th Canadian Machine Gun Corps, born at Liverpool on 5 December 1885 but moved to Inverness at the age of six weeks, he was the third son of James McKenzie, a Sugar Boiler to trade, and Jane McKenzie.

(As his parents were both Scottish and he only had a brief stay in England, we have decided to include him here. He regarded himself as Scottish.)

On 30 October 1917 McKenzie, while leading the charge was shot through the head by a sniper, and killed.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery and leading when in charge of a section of four machine guns accompanying the infantry in 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 his guns to an NCO, rallied the infantry, organised an attack, and capture 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, Lieutenant McKenzie 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."
Corporal James McPhie, VC, 416th (Edinburgh) Field Company, Royal Engineers (TF) attached to the 56th (1st London) Division, was born at Edinburgh on 18 December 1894. He was the third son of Allan McPhie, a Turf Commission Agent, and Elizabeth McPhie, of 21 Salisbury Street, Edinburgh.

His siblings were William, Adam, Mary, John and Elizabeth.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery on the 14th October, 1918, when with a party of sappers maintaining a cork float bridge across the Canal de la Sensee near Aubencheul au Bac. The further end of the bridge was under close machine-gun fire and within reach of hand grenades. When Infantry, just before dawn, were crossing it, closing up resulted and the bridge began to sink and break. Accompanied by a sapper, he jumped into the water and endeavoured to hold the cork and timbers together, but this they failed to do. Cpl. McPhie then swam back, and, having reported the broken bridge, immediately started to collect material for repair. It was now daylight. Fully aware that the bridge was under close fire and that the far bank was almost entirely in the hands of the enemy, with the inspiring words 'It is death or glory work which must be done for the sake of our patrol on the other side', he led the way, axe in hand, on to the bridge and was at once severely wounded, falling partly into the water, and died after receiving several further wounds. It was due to the magnificent example set by Cpl. McPhie that touch was maintained with the patrol on the enemy bank at a most critical period."

James is buried in the Naves Communal Cemetery Extension, near Cambrai, close to where he fell in action.
Sergeant John Meikle, VC, MM, 4th Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders, was born at Kirkintilloch, Dunbartonshire, on 11 September 1898. He was the fifth of 12 children, four of whom died in infancy, and four of whom died before they were 30 years old. His parents were John Meikle and Anna Hollywood Meikle, of 42 Freeland Place, Kirkintilloch.

In July 1918, still under 20 years of age, and now a Sergeant, he led an attack on a German machine-gun post, armed only with a pistol and a branch of wood. Though he was killed in the action, his men, inspired by his example were able to complete the destruction of the post. This brave young man was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery and initiative when his company, having been held up by machine-gun fire, he rushed single-handed a machine-gun nest. He emptied his revolver into the crews of the two guns and put the remainder out of action with a heavy stick. Then, standing up, he waved his comrades on. Very shortly afterward another hostile machine-gun checked progress, and threatened also the success of the company on the right. Most of his platoon having become casualties, Serjt. Meikle seized the rifle and bayonet of a fallen comrade, and again rushed forward against the gun crew, but was killed almost on the gun position. His bravery allowed two other men who followed him to put this gun out of action. This gallant non-commissioned officer's valour, devotion to duty, and utter disregard for his personal safety was an inspiring example to all."
Private Charles Melvin, VC, 2nd Battalion, Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), was born at Barns of Craig, Montrose, Angus, on 2 May 1885. He was the second son of James Melvin, a Ploughman, and Ann Melvin of Buckmetty Village, Kirriemuir.

His siblings were Ann, James, Rachel and David.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery, coolness and resource in action. Pte. Melvin's company had advanced to within fifty yards of the front-line trench of a redoubt, where, owing to the intensity of the enemy's fire, the men were obliged to lie down and wait for reinforcements. Pte. Melvin, however, rushed on by himself, over ground swept from end to end by rifle and machine-gun fire. On reaching the enemy trench, he halted and fired two or three shots into it, killing one or two enemy, but as the others in the trench continued to fire at him, he jumped into it, and attacked them with his bayonet in his hand, as, owing to his rifle being damaged, it was not “fixed.” On being attacked in this resolute manner most of the enemy fled to their second line, but not before Pte. Melvin had killed two more and succeeded in disarming eight unwounded and one wounded. Pte. Melvin bound up the wounds of the wounded man, and then driving his eight unwounded prisoners before him, and supporting the wounded one, he hustled them out of the trench, marched them in and delivered them over to an officer. He then provided himself with a load of ammunition and returned to the firing line where he reported himself to his platoon sergeant. All this was done, not only under intense rifle and machine-gun fire, but the whole way back Pte. Melvin and his party were exposed to a very heavy artillery barrage fire. Throughout the day Pte. Melvin greatly inspired those near him with confidence and courage."

He joined the Home guard in 1940 but he was suffering from ill health, died in 1941 at the age of 56, and is buried in Kirriemuir Cemetery with a Commonwealth Graves Commission headstone.
Private William Johnstone Milne, VC, 16th (The Canadian Scottish) Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, born at Cambusnethan on 21 December 1892, was the second son of David Milne, a Carting Contractor, and Agnes Milne, of 10 Anderson Street, Cambusnethan.

His siblings were Alexander, Jane, Margaret, Agnes and Helen.

On 9 April 1917 at the age of 24 years old his actions near Thelus, France, during the Battle of Vimy Ridge led to the award of the Victoria Cross.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty in attack. On approaching the first objective, Private 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 this 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. Private Milne was killed shortly after capturing the second gun."

His body was never found and he is commemorated on the Vimy Memorial.
Lieutenant John O'Neill, VC, MM, Prince of Wales's Leinster Regiment, was born at Airdrie, Lanarkshire, on 10 February 1897. He was the third son of Samuel O'Neill, a Coal Miner, and Agnes Devan O'Neill, of 19 Moore Street, Cadzow, Hamilton, Lanarkshire.

His siblings were Charles, James, Arthur, Mary, Ann, Agnes and Samuel.

He was 21 years old, and a Sergeant when the deed took place for which he was awarded the VC.

He died on 16 October 1942, at the comparatively young age of 45, he had been serving with the Pioneer Corps in Hoylake, Cheshire, defending Liverpool's docklands from air attack.

Captain George Henry Tatham Paton, VC, MC, 4th Battalion, Grenadier Guards, was born at Innellan, Argyllshire on 3 October 1895. He was the only son of George William Paton, Deputy Chairman and Managing Director of Messrs Bryant and May Ltd, and Henrietta Tatham Paton, of Wolviston House, Whyteleafe, Surrey.

His sibling was Agnes.

When he was 22 years old, the deed took place for which he was awarded the VC.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice. When a unit on his left was driven back, thus leaving, his flank in the air and his company practically surrounded, he fearlessly exposed himself to re-adjust the line, walking up and down within fifty yards of the enemy under a withering fire. He personally removed several wounded men, and was the last to leave the village. Later, he again re-adjusted the line, exposing himself regardless of all danger the whole time, and when the enemy four times counter-attacked he sprang each time upon the parapet,
deliberately risking his life, and being eventually mortally wounded, in order to stimulate his command. After the enemy had broken through on his left, he again mounted the parapet, and with a few men, who were inspired by his great example, forced them once more to withdraw, thereby undoubtedly saving the left flank."

He died on 1 December 1917, age 22, and is buried in Metz-en-Couture Communal Cemetery, British Extension.

Captain James Dalglish Pollock, VC, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, was born at Tillicoultry, Clackmannanshire on 3 June 1890. He was the son of Hugh Pollock, a Foreman Dyer, and Margaret Helen Pollock, of 28 Ochil Street, Tillicoultry.

His siblings were Richard, Mary, Hugh, Jessie, George and Margaret.

The VC citation read, "On 27 September 1915 near the Hohenzollern Redoubt, France, at about noon the enemy's bombers in superior numbers were successfully working up "Little Willie" Trench towards the Redoubt. Corporal Pollock, after obtaining permission, got out of the trench alone and walked along the top edge with complete disregard for danger, and compelled the enemy bombers to retire by bombing them from above. He was under heavy machine-gun fire the whole time, but contrived to hold up the progress of the Germans for an hour before he was at length wounded."

He was still working at the age of 67 when, shortly after one of his frequent business trips to Canada, he died on 10 May 1958 at Ballochmyle, Ayrshire, and is buried in Ayr Cemetery in his wife’s family grave in Ayr Cemetery.
Captain Henry (Harry) Sherwood Ranken, VC, Royal Army Medical Corps, was born at Glasgow on 3 September 1883. He was the elder son of the Reverend Henry Ranken, Minister of Irvine Parish Church, and Helen Morton Ranken, of The Manse, Irvine, Ayrshire.

His sibling was Alan.

He was awarded the VC, and the Croix de Chevalier of the Legion of Honour (France), for gallant conduct during the operations from 21 to 30 August 1914.

The citation read "For tending wounded in the trenches under rifle and shrapnel fire at Hautevesnes on 19th September and on 20th September continuing to attend to wounded after his thigh and leg had been shattered. (He has since died of wounds.)"

Piper James Cleland Richardson, VC, 72nd Seaforth Highlanders of Canada, 16th (Canadian Scottish) Battalion, Canadian Expeditionary Force, was born at Bellshill, Lanarkshire, on 25 November 1895. He was the eldest son of David Richardson, a Police Sergeant, and Mary Dall Prosser Richardson, of Blantyre Police Station, Blantyre.

His siblings were Mary, Alice, David, Alexandra, Isabella, Robert and Janet.

Jimmy, as he was known, Richardson was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross on 22 October 1918 for his action at Regina Trench.

The citation read, "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 owing to lapse of time."

His remains were found in 1920 and he is buried at Adanac Military Cemetery.

Sergeant John Ripley, VC, 1st Battalion, The Black Watch (Royal Highlanders), was born at Keith, Banffshire, on 20 August 1867. He was the third son of Joseph Ripley, a General Labourer, and Margaret Ripley, of 225 Cross Street, Keith.

His siblings were sisters Isabella, Margaret, Jessie Fordyce, Mary Ann and Alice, brothers Joseph, James Cassels, John and William Stuart), and one half-sibling James.

For his bravery in France, Jock was granted the Victoria Cross, and on 4 September 1915 was presented to the King to receive it. This medal joined his earlier long service and good conduct medal and would later be joined by the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal (1914-20) and the Victory Medal (1914-19). He was both one of the first and certainly one of the oldest men to receive the Victoria Cross in the First World War as well as one of the few recipients of both the long service and Victoria Cross medals.

The citation read, "On 9 May 1915 at Rue du Bois, France, Corporal Ripley led his section on the right of the platoon in the assault and was the first man of the battalion to climb the enemy's parapet. From there he directed those following him to the gaps in the German wire entanglements. He then led his section through a breach in the parapet to a second line of trench. With seven or eight men he established himself, blocking other flanks, and continued to hold the position until all his men had fallen and he himself was badly wounded in the head."

Some years later on 14 August 1933, while climbing a ladder to test the drains of Castlecliff House in St Andrews, he slipped and fell 18 feet. He died several hours later in the St Andrews Memorial Cottage Hospital. It was an inauspicious end to the life of a hero.
Commander Henry Peel Ritchie, VC, Royal Navy, was born at Edinburgh on 29 January 1876. He was the elder son of Robert Peel Ritchie, MD, FRCP (Ed), LRCS (Ed), a Physician, and Mary Ritchie, of 1 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh.

His sibling was Lionel Charles Peel Ritchie.

His Victoria Cross was presented by King George V at Buckingham Palace in April 1915. Promoted acting Captain, he retired in 1917 having been deemed unfit for further service as a legacy of the wounds he had received.

Ritchie received the first VC awarded to naval personnel during the First World War.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery on the 28th November 1914 when in command of the searching and demolition operations at Dar-es-Salaam East Africa Though severely wounded several times his fortitude and resolution enabled him to continue to do his duty inspiring all by his example until at his eighth wound he became unconscious The interval between his first and last severe wound was between twenty and twenty-five minutes."

He died at his home Craigroyston House, Davidson's Mains, Edinburgh, in 1958.
Drum-Major Walter Potter Ritchie, VC, 2nd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs, Duke of Albany's), was born at Hopehill Road, Glasgow on 27 March 1892. He was the second son Walter Ritchie, an Ornamental Iron Fitter, and Helen Monteith Ritchie, of 35 Raglan Street, Glasgow.

His siblings were Janet, Arthur, Elizabeth and Thomas.

The citation read, "On 1 July 1916 north of Beaumont Hamel, France, Drummer Ritchie, on his own initiative, stood on the parapet of an enemy trench and, under heavy machine-gun fire and bomb attacks, repeatedly sounded the ‘Charge’ thereby rallying many men of various units who, having lost their leaders were wavering and beginning to retire. He also, during the day, carried messages over fire-swept ground."

Walter Potter Ritchie died on 17 March 1965 in Edinburgh, age 73, and his funeral service was held at Warriston Crematorium in the city.

Seaman George McKenzie Samson, VC, Royal Naval Reserve, was born at Carnoustie, Angus, on 7 January 1889. He was the second son of David Samson, a Shoemaker, and Helen Lawson Samson, of Charles Street, Barry.

His siblings were Davis, Lily, Mary Ann, Roland, Violet May, Sarah and Mabel.

On 25 April 1915 during the landings at V Beach, Cape Helles, George was assisting the commander (Edward Unwin) of ss River Clyde, at the work of securing the lighters. He worked all day under very heavy fire, attending wounded and getting out lines.

He was eventually dangerously wounded by Maxim fire.
The citation read, "At Gallipoli, on 25 April 1915 Samson was on board River Clyde, a tramp steamer that was attempting to land 2000 troops onto V Beach, when lighters forming the bridge between the steamer and the shore began to drift apart. Under fierce machine gun fire, he busied himself among the wounded and offered assistance to those repairing the bridge. He was hit over and over again, and when he returned to England, his body still contained a dozen pieces of shrapnel."

**Lieutenant Robert Shankland, VC, DCM, 43rd Battalion (Cameron Highlanders of Canada), Canadian Expeditionary Force, born at Ayr on 10 October 1887, was the only son of William Shankland, a Passenger Railway Train Guard, and Jane Russell McCririck Shankland, of 68 Church Street, Ayr.**

His sibling was Janet.

The citation for the award of the Distinguished Conduct Medal for his actions at Sanctuary Wood in 1916 as a Sergeant (in charge of a stretcher bearer party), read, "For conspicuous gallantry for volunteering to lead a party of stretcher-bearers, under very heavy shell fire, and bringing in some wounded and partially buried men. His courage and devotion were most marked".

He died on 20 January 1968, age 80, at Shaughnessy, Vancouver, his body was cremated and his ashes scattered in the grounds of Mountain View Cemetery.
Company Sergeant Major John Kendrick Skinner, VC, DCM, Croix de Guerre (France), 1st Battalion, King's Own Scottish Borderers, was born at Glasgow on 5 February 1883. He was the youngest son of Walter C Skinner, a Master Tailor, and Mary Kendrick Skinner, of 263 Maxwell Road, Glasgow.

His siblings were Peter, Elizabeth, and Walter.

On 18 August 1917, at Wijdendrift when his company was held up by machine-gun fire, although wounded in the head, he collected six men and worked round the left flank of three block-houses from which machine-gun fire was coming. He succeeded in bombing and taking the first block-house single-handedly. Then leading his men towards the other two block-houses he cleared them, taking 60 prisoners, three machine-guns and two trench mortars. He was 34 years old and received the Victoria Cross for "most conspicuous bravery and good leading" during the Battle of Passchendaele.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery and good leading. Whilst his company was attacking, machine gun fire opened on the left flank, delaying the advance. Although C.S.M. Skinner was wounded in the head, he collected six men, and with great courage and determination worked round the left flank of three blockhouses from which the machine gun fire was coming, and succeeded in bombing and taking the first blockhouse single-handed; then, leading his six men towards the other two blockhouses, he skilfully cleared them, taking sixty prisoners, three machine guns, and two trench mortars. The dash and gallantry displayed by this warrant officer enabled the objective to be reached and consolidated."

He was killed in action at Vlamertinghe, Belgium, on 17 March 1918, age 35, by a sniper's bullet as he was trying to recover a wounded man from No Man's Land, and is buried at Vlamertinghe New British Cemetery, Belgium.
Lieutenant Archibald Bisset Smith, VC, Royal Naval Reserve, was born at Cosie Brae, Cults, Aberdeenshire, on 19 December 1878. He was the second son of William Smith, an Accountant, Wholesale Tea and Dry Goods Merchant, and Annie Smith, of 65 Loanhead Terrace, Aberdeen.

His siblings were Mary, Alexander, William and Alice.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in command of the ss Otaki, on the 10th March, 1917. At about 2.30 pm on 10th March, 1917, the ss Otaki, whose armament consisted of one 4.7 inch gun for defensive purposes, sighted the disguised German raider Moewe, which was armed with four 5.9 inch, one 4.1 inch and two 22 pounder guns, and two torpedo tubes. The Moewe kept the Otaki under observation for some time and finally called upon her to stop. This Lieutenant Smith refused to do, and a duel ensued at ranges of 1,900 - 2,000 yards, and lasted for about 20 minutes. During this action the Otaki scored several hits on the Moewe, causing considerable damage, and starting a fire which lasted for three days. She sustained several casualties and received much damage herself, and was heavily on fire. Lieutenant Smith, therefore, gave orders for the boats to be lowered to allow the crew to be rescued. He remained on the ship himself and went down with her when she sank with the British colours still flying, after what was described in an enemy account as 'a duel as gallant as naval history can relate'."

Archibald Bisset Smith is remembered on the Tower Hill Memorial dedicated to all those Merchant Navy officers and men who lost their lives in the war.
Lieutenant Harcus Strachan, VC, MC, The Fort Garry Horse, Canadian Cavalry Brigade, born at Bo'ness on 7 November 1884, was the third son of William Strachan, a Solicitor and Sheriff's Clerk, and Isabella Thomson Strachan, of Graham's Dyke Road, Holywood, West Lothian.

His siblings were Howard, Alexander, Grace Mary, Norman Philip and May Isabella.

He earned the Victoria Cross in Masnières, France, on 20 November 1917.

The citation in the London Gazette on 18 December 1917 read, "For most conspicuous bravery and leadership during operations. He took command of the mounted squadron of his regiment when the squadron leader, approaching the enemy front line at a gallop, was killed. Lieutenant 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".

He died in Vancouver, British Columbia, on 1 May 1982, and his ashes were scattered near the Rose Garden Columbarium at Boal Chapel Memorial Gardens in North Vancouver, BC on 5 May 1982.
Lieutenant James Edward Tait, VC, MC, 78th (Winnipeg Grenadiers) Battalion, Canadian Infantry, was born at Briar Bank, Greenbrae, Dumfries on 27 March 1888. He was the second son of James Bryden Tait, a Stonemason, and Mary Johnstone Tait, of 4 Geddes Place, Maxwelltown, Dumfries.

His siblings were William, Mary, Frank, Robert and Margaret.

James won his VC over a period of three days between 8 and 11 August.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery and initiative in attack. The advance having been checked by intense machine gun fire, Lieutenant 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, Lieutenant 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."

He died in action at Hallu on 11 August 1918 and was probably first buried in the village prior to being moved to Fouquescourt British Cemetery.
Sergeant Ross Anderson Tollerton, VC, Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, was born in the Constabulary Office at Hurfford, Ayrshire on 6 May 1890. He was the son of James Tollerton, a Police Constable, a Sergeant, then a Sherriff Officer, and Janet Anderson Tollerton, of 61 East Road, Irvine.

His siblings were Thomas, James, Eleanor Louisa, Alexander, Janet and Margaret.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on 14th September 1914 at the battle of the Aisne. He carried a wounded officer under heavy fire, as far as he was able to a place of safety, then, although himself wounded in the head and hand, he struggled back to the firing line, where he remained till his battalion retired, when he returned to the wounded officer and lay beside him for three days until they were both rescued."

Ross Tollerton never fully recovered from his injuries and died of stomach cancer on 7 May 1931.

Sergeant James Youll Turnbull, VC, 17th Battalion (Glasgow Commercials), Highland Light Infantry, was born at Glasgow on 24 December 1883. He was the youngest son of James Turnbull, a Joiner, and Elizabeth Turnbull, of 7 Kenmure Street, Glasgow.

His siblings were John, Thomas, Gavin, Amelia and Elizabeth.

Late in the afternoon a sniper picked James off, killing him instantly.

He was 32 years old and is buried in Lonsdale Cemetery, Authuille.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty, when, having with his party captured a post apparently of great importance to the enemy, he was subjected to severe counter-attacks, which were continuous throughout the whole day. Although his party was wiped out and replaced several times during the
day, Sergeant Turnbull never wavered in his determination to hold the post, the loss of which would have been very serious. Almost, single-handed, he maintained his position, and displayed the highest degree of valour and skill in the performance of his duties. Later in the day this very gallant soldier was killed whilst bombing a counter-attack from the parados of our trench.

Captain Samuel Thomas Dickson Wallace, VC, 'C' Battery 63rd Brigade, Royal Field Artillery, was born at Moffat on 7 March 1892. He was the elder son of John William Wallace, a Farmer, and Catherine Wallace, of Wallace Hall, Glencairn, Dumfries.

His siblings were Quintin and Katherine.

He was 25 years old, when the deed took place for which he was awarded the VC.

The citation read, "On 20 November 1917 at Gonnelieu, France, when the personnel of Lieutenant Wallace's battery were reduced to five, having lost their Commander and five Sergeants, and were surrounded by enemy infantry, he maintained the firing of the guns by swinging the trails close together, the men running and loading from gun to gun. He was in action for eight hours firing the whole time and inflicting severe casualties on the enemy. Then, owing to the exhausted state of his men, he withdrew when the infantry supports arrived, taking with him all essential gun parts and all wounded."

He died at Thornhill on 2 February 1968, age 75, and is buried in Moffat Cemetery.
Captain Joseph (Joe) Watt, VC, Royal Navy, was born at Gardenstown, Banffshire, on 25 June 1887. He was the son of Joseph Watt, a Fisherman, and Margaret Anderson Watt, of 63 Main Street, Gardenstown.

His siblings were Elizabeth, William, Margaret, Helen, Barbara, Ann, Georgina, Joseph, George and James Alexander.

On 15 May 1917 Skipper Watt and his crew of eight men and a dog were patrolling peacefully in the Otranto Strait on the lookout for any suspicious activity following an increase in submarine sightings. Unknown to the allied line, the Austrians had planned a major operation against the barrage, utilising the Rapidkreuzers SMS Saida, Helgoland and SMS Novara under Admiral Miklós Horthy with two destroyers and three submarines. These ships fell upon the drifter line during the night and sank 14 trawlers and drifters which were helpless to reply, as well as two destroyers.

One Victoria Cross; two Distinguished Service Orders; six Distinguished Service Crosses; five Conspicuous Gallantry Medals; eighteen Distinguished Service Medals; and 31 Mentioned-in-Despatches were awarded for the action. Deckhand Frederick Lamb of the Gowanlea received the CGM for continuing to fire her gun despite being wounded. Two other crew members were awarded the DSM.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous gallantry when the Allied Drifter Line in the straits of Otranto was attacked by Austrian light cruisers on the morning of the 15 May 1917. When hailed by an Austrian cruiser at about 100 yards range and ordered to stop and abandon his drifter Gowanlea, Skipper Watt ordered full speed ahead and called upon his crew to give three cheers and fight to the finish. The cruiser was then engaged, but after one round had been fired, a shot from the enemy disabled the breech of the drifter's gun. The gun's crew, however, stuck to the gun, endeavouring to make it work, being under heavy fire all the time. After the cruiser had passed on Skipper Watt took the Gowanlea alongside the badly damaged drifter Floandi and assisted to remove the dead and wounded."

Joe Watt died of cancer at home in Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, on 13 February 1955, age 67 and was buried alongside his wife and in-laws at Kirktown Cemetery in Fraserburgh.
Private George Wilson, Highland Light Infantry, was born at Edinburgh on 29 April 1886. He was the son of James Wilson, a Merchant Seaman, and Mary Wilson, of 1 Wilkie's Court, Edinburgh.

The citation read, "On 14 September 1914, Private Wilson went with a rifleman to try to locate a machine-gun which was holding up the advance of the 2nd Battalion, Highland Light Infantry. When the rifleman was killed, Private Wilson went on alone and, when he reached his target shot six of the enemy, bayoneted the officer and then captured the gun."

He died of tuberculosis at Craigleith Hospital on 22 April 1926 aged only 39, and is buried in Piershill Cemetery in Edinburgh.
Private William Young, VC, 8th Battalion, East Lancashire Regiment, was born at Maryhill, Glasgow on 1 January 1876

On 22 December 1915, he was 39 years old when the deed took place for which he was awarded the VC.

The citation read, "For most conspicuous bravery. On seeing that his Serjeant had been wounded he left his trench to attend to him under very heavy fire. The wounded Non-Commissioned Officer requested Private Young to get under cover, but he refused, and was almost immediately very seriously wounded by having both jaws shattered.

After a series of operations he did not react well to the anaesthetic and died at 8.55 am on Sunday 27 August 1916 of heart failure at the Cambridge Military Hospital in Aldershot.