

Village Heroes

Men of Kimpton who were awarded Military Honours in WW2 as recorded by their citations

89513 Lt. (T/Capt) Patrick Angus Turner MC

86th (Herts Yeomanry) Field Regt Royal Artillery

On 12 Apr 45 the Coldstream Guards advanced up to TRENTLAGER Canal SOUTH OF BOEN. The bridge was found to be blown and the enemy infantry were on the far bank. Enemy snipers were very active, causing casualties to our own troops, and it was vitally necessary to engage them by artillery fire though they were very close to our forward infantry. Capt TURNER was ordered to establish an Observation Post on the canal bank for this purpose. Despite enemy small arms fire from very short range which killed an officer beside him Capt TURNER crawled to a position from which he could see the enemy and under continuous small arms fire at very short range brought down a most effective fire on the enemy. He remained in this exposed position directing fire which neutralised the enemy in the area until the crossing of the canal had been effected. This officer's coolness in the face of direct fire and total disregard for his own safety showed a very high example of devotion to duty which was an inspiration to all who witnessed it. Gazetted 11 November 1945



5953442 Cpl. Stanley Lawter Brydges MM

8 Battalion Durham Light Infantry

Corporal Brydges was Battalion Medical Orderly working in the Regimental Aid Post during the action at St.Pierre between 9th June and 13th June. During this action the post was constantly under fire from enemy artillery, and was twice surrounded, and under fire from enemy tanks and infantry. Although the house in which the post was located was hit by mortar and shell fire, and was subject to a hail of machine gun fire, Corporal Brydges carried on with his work and the care of the wounded with outstanding gallantry and disregard for his own safety. By his coolness and courage this NCO was instrumental in saving the lives of many of his own comrades." Gazetted 31 August 1944

6022777 L/Cpl Gordon Cowell BEM

Royal West Kent Regt

On the morning of the 7th August, 1941 a Spitfire made a forced-landing near the beach south of Deal. The pilot, while attempting a landing, hit a line of scaffolding and touched ground inside a land minefield. One mine was set off by the impact. The explosion from this set light to the wingtips of the plane.

The pilot, who had been injured previously, could not move from the cockpit. Lance Corporal Cowell, in company with a Sergeant, thereupon walked into the minefield, released the pilot from the plane, which was still smouldering, and carried him to safety. In view of the fact that he had already seen one mine explode, Lance-Corporal Cowell's action required great courage as there was considerable risk that he would tread on a mine hidden under the shingle.

Gazetted 17 February 1942



7655720 Pte (A/L/Cpl.) Donald Oswald Desborough Croix-de-Guerre (1940) with Palm, Class 6 [Belgium]

Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers

Lance Corporal DESBOROUGH was NCO IC HQ REME Transport and Wireless Equipment during the advance through BELGIUM. He acquitted himself with zeal and purposefulness and it was due to his efforts, day and night, often without sleep that transport and wireless communications were maintained throughout the advance.

By reason of the rapidity with which the advance through BELGIUM was made, communications were extended and 'step up' stations became out of touch. Lance Corporal DESBOROUGH never hesitated, all night searches were made and immediate repairs carried out by him.

During the operations at GHEEL he was untiring in his efforts, maintaining communications with forward Report Centres night and day, carrying out repairs to equipments in a quiet, determined manner regardless of danger.

The manner in which this NCO carried out his duties during the advance through BELGIUM was an outstanding inspiration to personnel with whom he worked. His determination was an example which invoked co-operation and resulted in the equipments in his charge being maintained in first class condition at all times. Recorded 14 February 1946

