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London Gazette of 2 May 1879

*012
975 r 977*

War Office, May 2, 1879.

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to signify Her intention to confer the decoration of the Victoria Cross on the undermentioned Officers and Soldiers of Her Majesty's Army, whose claims have been submitted for Her Majesty's approval, for their gallant conduct in the defence of Rorke's Drift, on the occasion of the attack by the Zulus, as recorded against their names, viz. :—

Regiment.	Names.	Acts of Courage for which recommended.
Royal Engineers ... 2nd Battalion 24th Regiment	Lieutenant (now Captain and Brevet Major) J. R. M. Chard Lieutenant (now Captain and Brevet Major) G. Bromhead	For their gallant conduct at the defence of Rorke's Drift, on the occasion of the attack by the Zulus on the 22nd and 23rd January, 1879. The Lieutenant-General commanding the troops reports that, had it not been for the fine example and excellent behaviour of these two Officers under the most trying circumstances, the defence of Rorke's Drift post would not have been conducted with that intelligence and tenacity which so essentially characterised it. The Lieutenant-General adds, that its success must, in a great degree, be attributable to the two young Officers who exercised the Chief Command on the occasion in question.
2nd Battalion 24th Regiment	Private John Williams ...	Private John Williams was posted with Private Joseph Williams, and Private William Horrigan, 1st Battalion 24th Regiment, in a distant room of the hospital, which they held for more than an hour, so long as they had a round of ammunition left: as communication was for the time cut off, the Zulus were enabled to advance and burst open the door; they dragged out Private Joseph Williams and two of the patients, and assaiged them. Whilst the Zulus were occupied with the slaughter of these men a lull took place, during which Private John Williams, who, with two patients, were the only men now left alive in this ward, succeeded in knocking a hole in the partition, and in taking the two patients into the next ward, where he found Private Hook.
2nd Battalion 24th Regiment	Private Henry Hook ...	These two men together, one man working whilst the other fought and held the enemy at bay with his bayonet, broke through three more partitions, and were thus enabled to bring eight patients through a small window into the inner line of defence.
2nd Battalion 24th Regiment	Private William Jones and Private Robert Jones	In another ward, facing the hill, Private William Jones and Private Robert Jones defended the post to the last, until six out of the seven patients it contained had been removed. The seventh, Sergeant Maxfield, 2nd Battalion 24th Regiment, was delirious from fever. Although they had previously dressed him, they were unable to induce him to move. When Private Robert Jones returned to endeavour to carry him away, he found him being stabbed by the Zulus as he lay on his bed.
2nd Battalion 24th Regiment	Corporal William Allen and Private Frederick Hitch	It was chiefly due to the courageous conduct of these men that communication with the hospital was kept up at all. Holding together at all costs a most dangerous post, raked in reverse by the enemy's fire from the hill, they were both severely wounded, but their determined conduct enabled the patients to be withdrawn from the hospital, and when incapacitated by their wounds from fighting, they continued, as soon as their wounds had been dressed, to serve out ammunition to their comrades during the night.

*Sent Gen Post office
8/5/79*

*3/1/14 7/24/11257-2.5/1/14.
See T.F. Association
of Monmouthshire
applied for increase
of K.C. Pension.
See 012
1638
as a matter of
to persons
Williams
Feb. 97.*

*See 012 as to
1988
Case of his V.C.
Oct 1901.
This refers to Hitch
(See below)
Cross replaced
22 Sept 1888
on pay in ent
declaration that
the duplicate one
will be returned
this Dept. should the
original be received
See 012 h.a. 7/1757
Claim to
Allen V.C.
April 79.
not substantiated
by Mrs. S. Allen*

*Presented by Col Gub
in 28 Feb 1880 012
1068
Died 25/11/32*

*Presented by HM
at Osborne on
13/1/80 - W. Jones
died 15/4/18
409 Gen. No. 1783
1789
Presented by
HM to Pa
Hitch & Hitch
13/5/79
9/12/79*

MEMORANDUM.

Lieutenant Melville, of the 1st Battalion 24th Foot, on account of the gallant efforts made by him to save the Queen's Colour of his Regiment after the disaster at Isandlwana, and also Lieutenant Coghill, 1st Battalion 24th Foot, on account of his heroic conduct in endeavouring to save his brother officer's life, would have been recommended to Her Majesty for the Victoria Cross had they survived.

*012
3293.
See attempt
to impersonate
Pvt Williams

Served in
local wars
1914-20*

*SEE
GAZETTE
15/1/1907*

*1 Copy Army List
1 " in Albert Woods*

*Prosser sub Lt Chelmsford
Receipt acknowledged by Lt Chelmsford
11/6/79 012
986*