

Grenadier Guards Enlisted Men. V.C - Medal Awards: 1st World War – Sergeant's



The Victoria Cross – V.C

The first British medal to be created for bravery, the "Victoria Cross" was instituted in January 1856 by Queen Victoria, with the first recipients being honoured for their gallantry during the Crimean War. The bronze cross, which bears the inscription "For Valour", is cast from the metal of Russian guns captured at Sevastopol during the Crimean campaign. It is awarded: *"for most conspicuous bravery, or some daring or pre-eminent act of valour or self-sacrifice, or extreme devotion to duty in the presence of the enemy."*

Ribbon: Crimson with miniature of the cross, when ribbons are worn alone (Since 1916).



(Naval awards had "Blue" ribbon until 1918).

Sergeant: John Harold **Rhodes**, V.C., D.C.M and bar, 15122. 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards. Died 27th November 1917, Aged 26. Husband of Lizzie Rhodes, of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire. At Rest: Rocquigny-Equancourt Road, British Cemetery, Manancourt, Somme, France. Buried: Plot III, Row E, Grave 1.

An extract from: "The London Gazette," No. 30400, dated 23rd November 1917, records the following: For most conspicuous bravery when in charge of a Lewis gun section covering the consolidation of the right front company. He accounted for several enemy with his rifle as well as by Lewis gun fire, and, upon seeing three enemy leave a "pill-box," he went out single-handed through our own barrage and hostile machine-gun fire, and effected an entry into the "pill-box." He there captured nine enemy men including a forward observation officer, connected by telephone with his battery. These prisoners he brought back with him, together with valuable information.