

MILITARY AWARDS

The following details are available of four of the military awards appearing in a supplement to tonight's London Gazette:-

FOUR HEROES

D.S.O.

Captain Douglas John PENWILL, The East Yorkshire Regiment.

On the 14th June, 1942, Captain D.J. Penwill was commanding a Company of The East Yorkshire Regiment, during the break-out south-east of Mersa Matruh.

His Company led the way and forced a gap wide enough for the remaining of the Battalion and the rest of the Brigade and Divisional Headquarters to get through.

At quarter-past nine in the evening Captain Penwill led his Company up the escarpment and immediately came under the most intense fire. The Company continued to advance. Soon Captain Penwill was wounded in the head but he continued to lead his men. Then came a second wound, this time in the thigh, but quite undaunted he carried on leading his Company. Enemy attacks were launched and during one Captain Penwill was captured with his batman, but wounded though he was, he succeeded in shooting his escort and escaping. After this he was wounded yet again - for the third time. With his batman beside him he continued on his way in an abandoned truck. Captain Penwill himself was now too weak to drive, but he managed to instruct his batman in the working of the gears. In spite of all he had gone through he set about the job of rejoining his Company, but on his way there he collapsed and had to be put into a passing ambulance. Captain Penwill's bravery and leadership were largely responsible for the gap through which many of our troops were able to make their way. Captain Penwill comes from Oxford.

MILITARY CROSS

Major Paul PARBURY, R.A.

On the evening of 14th June, 1942 Major Parbury was in command of a battery of a Field Regiment, R.A., during the action that resulted in the break-out from the Gazala Box.

Just before dark, in the words of the citation describing Major Penwill's deed, "A subaltern of the East Yorkshire Regiment, thinking Major Parbury and his carrier to be one of the Battalion's carriers, shouted to him to d--- well go and silence a machine-gun post which was holding up his platoon's advance. Without hesitation, he charged the post in his carrier and silenced the M.G.: on returning to where the subaltern was, Major Parbury said 'I have done that' but the subaltern, not recognising Major Parbury, told him to b--- well silence another post which had opened up on them. Major Parbury, without hesitation, and in spite of the artillery fire and M.G. fire, promptly charged the post and silenced the gun." The comment made at the time, when it was known that Major Parbury was to be recommended for a decoration, was "Jolly well earned by Major Parbury for being ordered about by a subaltern! Will he get the M.C. or the M.M. do you think?"

Major Parbury's hometown is Tenby.

/Sergeant Lorimer

D.C.M.

Sergeant Lorimer Lane ROBINSON, The 12th Royal Lancers.

On May 30, 1942, in the Knightsbridge area a number of men were seen walking between the enemy and our own positions; they were identified as our own escaped prisoners stumbling along in an exhausted condition, most of them unable to walk. Sergeant Robinson was given the job of going out to bring them into our lines. Under continuous shell-fire he made twenty journeys by armoured car through the afternoon, bringing in at least two hundred of our men. At times he was shot at by the enemy over open sights.

On the following day Sergeant Robinson was again in the thick of the action. He located an Italian column south of Bir Harnat, which was subsequently shelled by us. The enemy lorries were then pursued and seventy-eight Italians surrendered to Sergeant Robinson and another armoured car.

Sergeant Robinson comes from Kilmarnock.

MILITARY MEDAL

Private Albert Edward ROBINSON, The East Yorkshire Regiment.

Private Robinson's Company on the evening of 14th June, 1942, took part in an attack on a strongly held position to the south of a Brigade perimeter, on the Gazala line. The object of the attack was to cover the closing of a gap in the minefield. The area gave very little cover and throughout the action the attackers were under heavy artillery, Breda and M.M.G. fire. On his own initiative Private Robinson crawled forward two hundred yards in front of his own platoon Headquarters to a position between two enemy M.M.G. posts, where neither could fire on him without hitting the other. Once through he settled himself comfortably, and then with great deliberation proceeded to pick off the crews of the posts.

Sheffield has the honour of claiming this gallant Private as one of her sons.