

List of Masonic VCs of WW2

Name	Date of Action	Rank/ Unit	Place of action/ Gazetted	Born	Died	Const	Lodge	Notes etc
EDMONDSON, John Hurst, VC	14/4/1941	Corporal, 2/17thBn., Australian Military Force	Killed at Tobruk, North Africa Gazetted 4/7/1941	8/10/1914	14/4/1941	GLNSW	Liverpool Lodge No. 197, Liverpool, Sydney, Australia	Well known to us
ELLIOTT, Keith, VC	15 July 1942	Sergeant, 22ndBn, New Zealand Expeditionary Force	First Battle of Alamein. Ruweisat Ridge. North Africa Gazetted 21/9/1942	25/4/1916	7/10/1989	GLE	Lodge of Renown No. 218	Elliott led his platoon, under heavy tank, machine-gun and shell fire, first to the cover of a ridge 300 yards away,(sustaining a chest wound), then after reforming to a dominating ridge a further 500 yds away. Having located enemy machine-gun posts to his front and right, while one section attacked on the right, Elliott charged with seven men across 500 yds of open ground capturing 4 enemy machine-gun posts and an anti-tank gun, taking 50 prisoners. Now under fire from a MG post on the left he charged this single-handed and captured it, taking 15 more prisoners. During these assaults he sustained 3 more wounds but refused to leave his men until he had reformed them, handed over his prisoners (130 including those the other sections had taken), and rejoined the Bttn.
FRASER, Ian Edward VC, DSC, RD+Bar, , JP	31st July, 1945	Lieutenant (Lt. Commander) Royal Naval Reserve	Johore Strait, Singapore, Gazetted 13/11/1945	18/12/1920		GLE	Mersey Lodge No. 5199, Liverpool; Croxteth United Service Lodge No. 786 Liverpool	Commanding midget submarine, HMS XE-3, slid his boat under the almost aground Jap heavy cruiser Takao. His diver A ^{ct} L ^{dg} S ^{man} Magennis (also awarded VC, other crewmembers given lesser honours) went out to fix limpet mines to the bottom of the ship. Then the starboard side charge failed to release and Magennis again dived to release it. . After retiring Fraser set up a commercial diving Co using frogman and SCUBA-type diving equipment, early on assisting police recover the body of a little girl who had drowned in a pond in Denton, Greater Manchester.
GORDON, James Heather, VC	10 July 1941	Private (Warrant Officer Class II) 2/11thBn., 25th Brigade, 7th Division, Australian Military Forces	Battle of Jezzine, Syria-Lebanon campaign Gazetted 28/10/1941	7/3/1909	19/7/1986	GLWA	Lodge: United Services Lodge No. 307, Western Australian Constitution	Subject of a previous LVC bio.
GOULD, Thomas William VC	16 February 1942	Petty Officer, H. M. Submarine Thrasher, Royal Navy	North of Crete, in the Mediterranean Gazetted 9/6/1942	28/12/1914	6 December 2001 (aged 86) Peterborough, Cambridgeshire	GLE	Lodge: Lord Charles Beresford Lodge No. 2404, Chatham; Aspiration Lodge No. 6086, London; Royal Naval Lodge No. 59 London; Chilton MMM No. 1538, Bedford.	After sinking a supply ship HM Submarine Thrasher was subjected to a 3 hour depth charge and aerial bombing attack. On surfacing two UXBs were found in the gun-casing. PO Gould and Lt Roberts (also awarded VC) removed 1 st without much difficulty, but the 2 nd 50kg bomb was wedged in the deck casing above the pressure hull. Crawling into the pitch black confined space (just 2ft high in places), Gould laid on his back with the ticking UXB in his arms while Roberts dragged him out. If Thrasher had crash-dived, both men would drown. It took 50 minutes to clear the bomb and drop it over the side. Gould went became a founder of the 43 Group, a group of Jewish ex-servicemen who fought the Fascists after World War II. His VC is held by The Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women, in The Jewish Museum London in Camden.

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HINTON, John Daniel, VC	28th–29th April, 1941	Sergeant, 20 th Bn, (2nd) The Canterbury Regiment, New Zealand Expeditionary Force.	Kalamata, Greece; Gazetted 17/10/1941	17/10/1908	28 June 1997 (aged 87)	GLNZ	Lodge: Hawera Lodge No. 136 Greymouth	When German armoured forces (armoured cars, 6"and 2" guns, and 3" mortars) entered Kalamata rapidly converging on retreating British and New Zealand troops awaiting embarkation on the beach and the order to retreat to cover was given, Serjeant Hinton, shouted "to Hell with this, who'll come with me," ran to the nearest gun and he hurled two grenades which wiped out the crew. He, followed by a crowd of New Zealanders, then came on with the bayonet capturing the first 6" gun, and two houses into which the Germans had retreated. When overwhelming German forces arrived Sgt Hinton took a bullet in the lower abdomen and was taken prisoner. While a POW at Stalag IX-C, Hinton made several escape attempts. His VC was gazetted while he was in solitary for one such attempt, and he was paraded before his fellow POWs and presented with a VC ribbon by the camp's commandant, then returned to his cell to complete his punishment! (He was MID for his escape attempts). When the camp was evacuated by the Germans in April 1945 as the allies approached, he feigned illness and escaped into US lines. After convincing the Americans of his identity, he borrowed a US uniform and assisted the US 44th Infantry Divn in the capture of three villages and rounding up of German POWs until the military authorities found him and he was evacuated to the UK there to be presented (with Charles Upham) with his VC by KGVI
NEWMAN, Augustas Charles, VC, OBE, TD	28/03/1942	Lieutenant Colonel, The Essex Regiment, attached No. 2 Commando	St. Nazaire, France,(Operation Chariot) Gazetted 19/6/1945	19/8/1904	26/4/1972	GLE	Lodge: West Essex Lodge No. 2651 , ; Chigwell Old Bancroftians Lodge No. 5619, London; London Holy Royal Arch Marquis of Dalhousie Chapter No. 1159, London.	In the attack on St. Nazaire, Lt C ^{pl} Newman was in charge of the military forces and was one of the first ashore, inspiring & leading his men and directing operations quite regardless of his own safety. The troops held back vastly superior enemy numbers of while the demolition parties did their work. Newman then attempted to fight through into open country. He and his men were only overwhelmed and taken prisoner when all their ammunition was spent. 89 Decorations were awarded to Operation Chariot participants; 51 MID; 4 Croix de Guerre, 15 MM, 24 DSM, 11 MC, 17 DSC, 5 DCM, 4 CGM, 4 DSO, and 5 VC (VCs to Lt Cmdr Beattie, Lt Col Newman, Cmdr Ryder, and posthumously to Sgt Durrant and A Smn Savage) .
REID, William, VC,	3/11/1943	Flight Lieutenant, 61 Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve	Over Dusseldorf Germany Gazetted 14/12/1943	21/12/1921		GLS	Lodge: Robert Burns Lodge No. 440 (Scottish Constitution); Rhinsdale Chapter No. 690, Lanarkshire;	On the way to the target the windscreen of Reid's Lancaster (LM360) was shattered by fire from a Bf 110 and the gun turrets and cockpit badly damaged. Saying nothing of his multiple injuries, he continued the mission and was attacked again by a Focke-Wulf Fw 190 further damaging the a/c. His navigator was killed, the wireless operator fatally wounded (died after landing), and Reid wounded again, as was the flight engineer. Carrying on, rather than turning back so as not to have to fly through or across the following bomber stream, with its danger of mid-air collision, he reached the target and released the bombs, then set course for home. On seeing RAF Shipdham, a USAAF-operated base in Norfolk, Reid, despite his wounds and loss of blood, succeeded in landing his plane – though the undercarriage collapsed.

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STANNARD, Richard Been, VC, DSO, RD	28 April to 2 May 1940	Lieutenant (Captain) Royal Naval reserve HMS Arab	Namsos, Norway, Gazetted 16/8/1940	21/8/1902	22/7/1977	GLE	Lodge: Knighton Lodge No. 5899, Essex	<p>HMT Arab (an armed trawler part of the Royal Naval Patrol Service; aka "Harry Tate's Navy" or "Churchill's Pirates") survived 31 bombing attacks in 5 days. Having ran Arab's bows against the wharf L' Stannard and two of his crew tackled a fire on the jetty caused by a bomb igniting ammunition (hand grenades) for two hours with Arab's hoses. Part of the jetty was saved. (Later invaluable in the subsequent evacuation).</p> <p>After helping other ships against air attacks, he placed his own damaged vessel under shelter of a cliff, landed his crew and those of two other trawlers, and established an armed camp. Here those off duty could rest while in the day they attacked enemy aircraft and by night kept anti-submarine watch. When a near-by trawler was hit and set afire he and two others used Arab to move her 100 yards away before she exploded.</p> <p>On leaving the fjord, Arab was attacked by a German Heinkel He 115 bomber which ordered him to steer east into captivity or be sunk, he held on his course, opening fire when the enemy was within 800 yards, bringing the aircraft down. Arab return to England for repair and during 26 May and 4 June 1940 with Stannard in command, served at the Dunkirk evacuation.</p> <p>Promoted to L' C^{dr} (29 June 1940) Stannard went on to command destroyers, earning a DSO while captain of HMS Vimy, and was MID while commanding HMS Peacock protecting convoys from U-boat attack off North Russia.</p> <p>Arab was returned to her owners after the war, in 1947 she was bought by Loch Fishing Co., Ltd., of Hull, and operated, renamed Loch Seaforth, until she was scrapped in Ghent, Belgium on 6 April 1963.</p>

W J Nash 15th Aug 2020