

Press release: End of road for road haulage company director

Longcross went into Liquidation on 27 January 2015 owing at least £200,864 to creditors including £175,423 in respect of unpaid tax.

An investigation by the Insolvency Service found that Mr Davies had failed in his duty as a director to either maintain, preserve or alternatively deliver-up adequate accounting records. As a result, It was not possible to ascertain whether Mr Davies was a creditor of Longcross for £220,000, or alternatively whether he owed Longcross at least £796,479.

However, the Insolvency Service's investigation did conclude that Mr Davies purposefully withheld VAT from HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) in order to keep the company trading between September 2012 and the date of Liquidation. In particular, VAT returns were not submitted to HMRC between March 2013 and October 2014. Longcross did produce a number of VAT returns, but these declared larger liabilities than assessed for the same period by HMRC, and had not been submitted.

The Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy accepted an eight year Disqualification Undertaking from Mr Davies, which bars him from acting as a company director or from managing, or in any way controlling, a limited company from 10 April 2017 until 2025.

Aldona O'Hara, Chief Investigator of Insolvent Investigations Midlands & West at the Insolvency Service, said:

Company directors have a duty to ensure businesses meet their legal obligations, including paying taxes and must not benefit themselves at the expense of creditors. Neglect of tax affairs is not a victimless action as it deprives the taxpayer of the funds needed to operate public services.

She added:

Directors have a duty to ensure that their companies maintain proper accounting records, and, following insolvency, deliver them to the office-holder in the interests of fairness and transparency. Without a full account of transactions it is impossible to determine whether a director has discharged his duties properly, or is using a lack of documentation as a cloak for impropriety.

Notes to editors

Gary Thomas Davies' date of birth is July 1968 and he resides in Virginia

Water, Surrey.

Longcross Transport Limited (CRO No. 07153034) was incorporated on 10 February 2010 and traded from Trumps Farm, Kitsmead Lane, Longcross, Chertsey, Surrey, KT16 0EF.

Mr Davies was the sole director from 10 February 2010 to 27 January 2015 (the date of liquidation).

The matters of unfitness, which Mr Davies did not dispute in the Disqualification Undertaking, were that;

Between 28 February 2013 and 27 January 2015 he failed to ensure that Longcross maintained and/ or preserved adequate accounting records. Or in the alternative he failed to deliver up to the Liquidator such records as were maintained. Mr Davies further failed to ensure that Longcross complied with its statutory obligations to HMRC with regards to VAT and caused Longcross to trade to the detriment of HMRC from 07 September 2012 to 27 January 2015.

A disqualification order has the effect that without specific permission of a court, a person with a disqualification cannot:

- act as a director of a company
- take part, directly or indirectly, in the promotion, formation or management of a company or limited liability partnership
- be a receiver of a company's property
- act as an insolvency practitioner

Disqualification undertakings are the administrative equivalent of a disqualification order but do not involve court proceedings. Persons subject to a disqualification order are bound by a range of other restrictions.

Further information about the work of the Insolvency Service, and how to complain about financial misconduct, is available

Contact Press Office

You can also follow the Insolvency Service on:

[Press release: First World War heroes commemorated as Britain remembers the Battle of Arras](#)

Throughout April, 17 brave British soldiers will be remembered in special ceremonies, one hundred years to the day they were awarded the Victoria Cross (VC) – the nation's highest military honour.

From Glasgow to Wandsworth in London, communities will come together to pay their own special tributes with a commemorative paving stone laid in honour of their hometown heroes.

British soldiers did not fight alone. They were joined by men from all corners of the Commonwealth who fought alongside their British comrades. A further 8 VCs were awarded to soldiers from Australia and Canada who fought alongside soldiers from Newfoundland, New Zealand, and South Africa.

During the battle which ran from 9 April 1917 to 16 May 1917 in the trenches of Northern France, some 158,000 British, Commonwealth and Allied soldiers lost their lives.

Lord Bourne, Minister for Integration and Faith, said:

As we continue to commemorate the centenary of the First World War, we should remember the exceptional sacrifices made by those from across both the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. They lost their lives in the fight for liberty.

Each recipient of the Victoria Cross displayed an incredible level of bravery into the face of unimaginable danger. Often they risked their own life to save the lives of their comrades. They remain an inspiration to this day.

I hope that the laying of these commemorative paving stones across the country will ensure these remarkable stories are remembered. I would encourage people in communities across the country to find out more about their local heroes.

Those overseas-born soldiers awarded the Victoria Cross, including at the Battle of Arras, are honoured with a permanent memorial at the [National Memorial Arboretum](#) in Staffordshire, which was unveiled in 2015.

As part of the government's First World War Centenary Programme, the Department for Communities and Local Government launched the campaign to remember and honour all those awarded the Victoria Cross during the First World War with a commemorative paving stone.

The design of the stones was selected from a public competition and includes the name of the soldier and regiment, along with the marking of the Victoria Cross. They are made of Scoutmoor Yorkstone, a hard-wearing British stone that is quarried near Ramsbottom and are sited in locations visible to the public to inspire viewers to 'pause and remember'.

Further information

Wandsworth paving stones

In Wandsworth, south London, commemorative paving stones will be laid on 22

April 2017 for three locally born recipients of the VC. Two of those, Edward Foster and Reginald Haine, were both awarded for their brave actions during the second phase of the Battle of Arras.

Edward Foster had been employed as a local dustman before the outset of the First World War when he volunteered to join his local regiment, the East Surrey Regiment. Now a Corporal, after a short period of training, he found himself at the front during the Battle of the Somme and again at Arras. During an attack to capture the village of Villiers-Plouich, he engaged two enemy machine guns, even after losing one of his own and succeeding in capturing the enemies' weapons.

Reginald Haine, at the age of 20, vulnerable to opposition fire led an attack on an enemy stronghold in the village of Gavrelle on 28 April 1917. Along with a comrade from the 1st Battalion, Honourable Artillery Company, using bombs launched by hand, they repelled a trench full of the enemy, captured the town for the British forces, disabled two machine gun posts and captured 50 prisoners. Despite the risk of their position being completely surrounded by the enemy, Haine held his position for the night.

Lieutenant Colonel Reginald Haine went on to receive the Military Cross for action in India in 1919, served in the Home Guard in WW2 and returned to civilian life as an accountant after his military career.

The third being honoured in Wandsworth is Captain Arthur Lascelles VC. He was born locally in Streatham and served with the Durham Light Infantry. He was awarded the VC for bravery in December 1917 at Masnieres in northern France.

British-Canadian VC awards

Two soldiers due to be remembered in Britain this April – William Milne and John Pattison – although born in Britain, emigrated to Canada, enlisted and then fought with the Canadian Expeditionary Force. Both took part in the Battle of Vimy Ridge, itself a part of the larger Arras offensive.

Private William Milne aged just 24, crawled across the sleet-covered ground on the front line close to the enemy to throw hand grenades at two enemy machine gun posts ensuring a safer advance. His actions saved lives of many of his colleagues but sadly William Milne died in action shortly afterwards.

Lieutenant Colonel Simon Rushen, chief of staff of the Canadian Defence Liaison Staff will attend the memorial for William Milne in Cambusnethan Old & Morningside Parish Church, in North Lanarkshire, on Friday 7 April 2017.

Private John Pattison also displayed extreme bravery on the battlefield. He crawled across no-man's land, using craters for shelter from heavy machine-gun fire to approach enemy machine gun posts. From a covered position, he threw grenades at close quarters disarming the enemy and saving the lives of his comrades. Although aware he was recommended for the VC, he died two months later in battle so did not receive his VC in person.

John Pattison will be honoured with a memorial service in General Gordon

Square in Woolwich, South London on 10 April 2017.

Two Canadian-born soldiers were also awarded the VC for their bravery in the battle. Lieutenant Colonel Thain Macdowell, single-handedly captured 77 enemy soldiers after finding them hidden in an underground fortress. Lance-Sergeant Ellis Sifton eliminated a particularly deadly machine gun post in hand to hand combat, but died in the struggle.

Ceremonies taking place throughout April for VCs awarded at Arras include:

| Name | Ceremony |
|---|--|
| Major William Gosling VC | 2 April 2017, 10.30am, Parish Church of St John the Baptist & St Helen, Wroughton, Wiltshire |
| Private William Milne VC | 7 April 2017, 11am, Cambusnethan Old & Morningside Parish Church, North Lanarkshire |
| Lance Corporal Thomas Bryan VC | 9 April 2017, 2pm, War memorial in Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge, Worcestershire |
| Captain Harry Cator VC | 9 April 2017, 3pm, St Margaret's Church, Drayton, Norfolk |
| Private John Pattison VC | 10 April 2017, 11am, General Gordon Square, Woolwich, London |
| Company Sergeant-Major Edward Brooks VC | 10 April 2017, 10am, Aylesbury Vale District Council, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire |
| Lieutenant Donald MacKintosh VC | 11 April 2017, 11.30am, Glasgow Academy, The Saunders Centre, Glasgow |
| Lance-Corporal Harold Mugford VC | 11 April 2017, 11.30am, Bermondsey and Rotherhithe War Memorial, London |
| Lieutenant Charles Pope VC | 21 April 2017, 12.30pm, Sidney Square, Whitechapel, London |
| Corporal Edward Foster VC | 22 April 2017, 11am, Wandsworth Town Hall, Wandsworth, London |
| Lieutenant Colonel Reginald Haine VC | 22 April 2017, 11am, Wandsworth Town Hall, Wandsworth, London |
| Captain Arthur Henderson VC | 24 April 2017, 11am, Renfrewshire House, Paisely, Renfrewshire |
| Captain David Hirsch VC | 27 April 2017, 11.30am, St Chad's Church, Headingley, West Yorkshire |
| Private Horace Waller VC | 29 April 2017, 11am, Dewsbury Town Hall, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire |
| Sergeant John Ormsby VC | 29 April 2017, 11am, Dewsbury Town Hall, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire |
| Captain Alfred Pollard VC | 29 April 2017, Wallington Library Gardens, Sutton, London |
| Sergeant James Welch VC | 29 April 2017, 10.15am, New Street, Stratfield Saye, Hampshire |

Ceremonies taking place in April for VC recipients from other

campaigns

| Name | Ceremony |
|---|--|
| Private Charles Melvin VC (Battle of Istabulat) | 21 April 2017, 11am, Kirriemuir Town Square, Kirriemuir, Angus |
| Captain Arthur Lascelles VC (Battle of Cambrai) | 22 April 2017, 11am, Wandsworth Town Hall, Wandsworth, London |

Background information

A total of 25 Victoria Crosses were awarded to soldiers from Britain, Australia and Canada for their gallant actions at Arras.

There were 627 individuals who received the VC during the First World War, although in total 628 VCs were awarded. This is because one individual, Noel Chavasse, was awarded the VC twice during the First World War. Of these individuals, 361 were born in England, 70 were born in Scotland and 16 were born in Wales. Thirty-five were born in pre-partition Ireland and 145 were born in other countries overseas. The first stones were laid on the 23 August 2014, 100 years from the first actions during the Battle of Mons.

The design of the stones was selected from a public competition won by Charlie MacKeith from London. The selected design uses a circular shape, created to inspire viewers to 'pause and remember'. The stones also use the material, form and lettering of the family memorials used by the War Graves Commission.

You can follow the laying of the commemorative stones on Twitter, [#VCPavingStones](#).

[News story: SME wins first campaign through Campaign Solutions framework](#)

An SME has become the first agency to secure a major campaign through the Campaign Solutions framework.

23red has developed the Department of Communities and Local Government's mayoral elections campaign.

Voters go to the polls on 4 May to elect combined authority mayors for six of England's regions: Greater Manchester, Liverpool City Region, the West Midlands, the Tees Valley, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, and the West of England.

To support this, 23red were tasked with developing the creative for a

digital, social, radio and out-of-home campaign tailored to each area to raise awareness and increase engagement in the elections.

How the framework works

Campaign Solutions is an innovative marketing and communications framework covering the services public bodies need for end-to-end campaigns.

It aims to shift public bodies from traditionally prescriptive campaign buying to a solutions-focussed approach, encouraging innovative approaches to campaigns.

The framework is complemented by [Communication Services](#), designed for tactical requirements, helping public bodies tap into the very best expertise and talent in the communications industry.

23red was one of 27 agencies who successfully secured places on the Campaign Solutions framework, with over half of them SMEs. The company also secured a place on Communication Services.

Government aims to spend £1 out of every £3 through SMEs by 2020.

Find out more

To find out more about Campaign Solutions, [visit the CCS pipeline pages](#)

[News story: Prime Minister appoints new Tate Trustee](#)

Michael Lynton is the Chairman of Snap Inc and the CEO of Sony Entertainment, where he has overseen Sony's global entertainment businesses, including Sony Music Entertainment, Sony/ATV Music Publishing and Sony Pictures Entertainment. As Chairman and CEO of Sony Pictures Entertainment (SPE) he has managed the studio's overall global operations, which include motion picture, television and digital content production and distribution, home entertainment acquisition and distribution, operation of studio facilities, and the development of new entertainment products, services and technologies. Prior to joining Sony Pictures, Michael worked for Time Warner and served as CEO of AOL Europe, President of AOL International and President of Time Warner International. From 1996 to 2000, he served as Chairman and CEO of Pearson plc's Penguin Group, where he oversaw the acquisition of Putnam, Inc. and extended the Penguin brand to music and the Internet. Michael joined The Walt Disney Company in 1987 and started Disney Publishing, serving as its President. From 1992 to 1996, he served as President of Disney's Hollywood Pictures. Michael is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and serves

on the boards of the American Film Institute, the Smithsonian Board of Regents, the Harvard Board of Overseers, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, J. Paul Getty Trust, USC School of Cinematic Arts and the RAND Corporation. In addition, he sits on the board of directors of Snapchat and Ares Management, L.P

The role is not remunerated and this appointment has been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Under the Code, any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years must be declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation, or candidature for election. Michael Lynton has declared no political activity.

[News story: Prime Minister appoints National Gallery Trustee](#)

Sir John Kingman has been appointed by the Prime Minister as Trustee of the National Gallery, for four years until 2 April 2021.

Sir John Kingman is Group Chairman of Legal and General plc. He is also the first non-executive Chair of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), a UK government body established to oversee the strategic direction of science and innovation funding in the UK. He was previously Second Permanent Secretary to the Treasury, with particular responsibility for its economics ministry functions; for policy relating to business, financial services and infrastructure. Prior to that, he was Global Co-Head of the Financial Institutions Group at Rothschild. Sir John previously held a number of senior roles at the Treasury, and was very involved with the first phase of the response to the global financial crisis: he led the resolution process following the run on Northern Rock in 2007; he led negotiations with RBS, Lloyds and HBOS on their £37bn recapitalisation in 2008; and he was the first Chief Executive of UK Financial Investments (UKFI). He was also Director of the Enterprise & Growth Unit and Press Secretary to the Chancellor. Prior to that he spent two years as a 'Lex' columnist for the Financial Times and worked in the Group Chief Executive's office at BP. Sir John is a Trustee of the Royal Opera House and is a member of the Global Advisory Board of the Centre for Corporate Reputation, Oxford University". He is also a World Fellow of Yale University. From 2003-6 he was a main board Director of the European Investment Bank.

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political activity.