

Remembering the cavalry's sacrifice

Brough Scott describes vividly the unenviable lot of the cavalry charger in the First World War and the last great charge at Moreuil Wood in 1918 led by Lt Gordon Muriel Flowerdew (News Review, March 23). Flowerdew had enlisted as a private in 1914, was commissioned in 1916 and commanded a squadron at Moreuil Wood. He ordered one troop, under Lt Fred Harvey (who was, as Mr Brough says, already a VC from 1917) to dismount and deploy in a special movement, while Flowerdew led the other three troops.

The enemy had two rows of machine guns 200 yards apart and a massive amount of carnage followed. It was, however, the turning point in halting the German Spring Offensive.

Harvey, following up with much hand-to-hand skirmishing, came across the mortally wounded Flowerdew, shot through both thighs. Flowerdew was promoted to captain in the field and posthumously awarded a VC.

Flowerdew and his nine brothers were educated at Framlingham College and in the space of 19 months two other former Framlingham pupils won VCs.

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