



Press Release

Railway Heritage Trust sponsors plaque to honour railway Victoria Cross holder

On 28th March a plaque to honour Lance Corporal John Alexander 'Jock' Christie, VC, was unveiled at Euston Station by his son, Ken Christie.



Jock Christie was a parcels clerk employed by the London & North Western Railway at Euston Station. On the outbreak of the Great War he joined the 1/11th battalion of the London Regiment (The Finsbury Rifles). In 1915 he fought, and was wounded, at Gallipoli, and later in the War he served in Palestine. On 22nd December 1917 he was involved in an action at Feija, when his courage enabled the repulse of an enemy attack, and was reckoned to have saved many lives. For his bravery he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Jock is one of only seven railwaymen known to have won the VC, but has had no memorial on the railway.

This omission was only recently recognised, and Barry Kitchener, Station Manager at Euston, approached the Trust to ask it to help in rectifying this.

The Trust was delighted to fund a plaque to honour Jock Christie. The plaque was designed by Railway Heritage Trust Company Secretary Malcolm Wood, and is coloured black (the colour of the L&NWR locomotives), with the edge coloured in the purple of the VC medal ribbon. At the top is a casting of the Victoria Cross, and the text describes Jock's heroic action. The plaque is now mounted on the concourse of Euston Station, where Jock worked. His son, Ken Christie, unveiled the plaque at a small ceremony on the morning of Friday 28th March. Also present were Robin Gisby, Managing Director (Operations) of Network Rail, Andy Savage, Executive Director of the Railway Heritage Trust, and Field Marshal Sir John Chapple, GCB, CBE.

Note to editors

Railway Heritage Trust

The Railway Heritage Trust is a Company Limited by Guarantee, which aims to:

- encourage the conservation and enhancement of railway buildings and structures which are listed or scheduled and are of special architectural or historic interest, and;
- act as a catalyst between outside parties and owners in the conservation and alternative use of non-operational property, including the possible transfer of responsibility to local trusts or other interested organisations.

The Trust awards grants to a value of some £2 million a year to achieve these objectives.

RAILWAY HERITAGE TRUST

1 Eversholt Street
LONDON
NW1 2DN

Phone: 020 7904 7354

E-mail: rht@railwayheritagetrust.co.uk

www.railwayheritagetrust.co.uk