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GRESHAM'S TRIBUTE TO MILITARY HEROES

A retired teacher at Gresham's School has produced two books as part of the school's First World War centenary project. Richard Peaver has compiled 'Gresham's Military Roll of Honour', a limited-edition, hand-produced volume printed by a specialist firm in London, containing the names of all former pupils of the Holt school who have received military decorations. The second book is a 'History of Gresham's School CCF', describing the development of the school cadet force since its establishment by Royal Warrant in 1901.

Richard, who spent forty years in the Army Reserve and CCF, said, "Old Greshamians who have received civil honours are commemorated on the school's honours boards, but until now there has been no public recognition for those who were awarded military decorations. Copies of this book will be placed in appropriate places around the school and will serve as a tribute to the bravery of our predecessors."

Although for much of the last century Gresham's was a small school, there were a mere 150 boys in 1905, former pupils have won a large number of military decorations, including 23 Distinguished Service Orders, 75 Military Crosses, 19 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 7 Distinguished Service Crosses, 5 Air Force Crosses and 83 mentions in despatches, a distinction just short of a gallantry award.

In addition, 23 Old Greshamians have received foreign decorations, such as the Imperial Russian Orders of St Stanislas and St Anne, the Egyptian Order of the Nile, the Italian Croci di Guerra, the Star of Romania and the Dutch Order of Orange-Nassau.

The 'History of Gresham's School CCF' deals with the transformation of the school's original Officers Training Corps into the modern Combined Cadet Force, with its balance of military and adventurous activities.



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