

Company.

At the request of the Master the Lord Mayor then presented a Gold Watch to Drummer Ritchie on behalf of the Company and congratulated him in the name of the Company and on behalf of the Citizens of London

The members of the Court together with Drummer Ritchie, Mr J. C. Fenwick the Clerk and Colonel Somerville the Commandant of the Royal Military School of Music were subsequently entertained at lunch by the Lord Mayor.

The following is the notice from the London Gazette of Drummer Ritchie's exploit in winning the 'Victoria Cross:-

For most conspicuous bravery and resource, when on his own initiative he stood on the parapet of an enemy trench, and, under heavy machine-gun fire and bomb attacks, he repeatedly sounded the "charge", thereby rallying many men of various units who, having lost their leaders, were wavering and beginning to retire. This action showed the highest type of courage and personal initiative. Throughout the day Drummer Ritchie carried messages over fire-swept ground, showing the greatest devotion to duty.

and the following is a copy of the inscription engraved inside the watch:

Presented to Drummer Walter Ritchie V.C. 2nd Seaforth Highlanders by
The Worshipful Company of Musicians upon gaining the honor of the
'Victoria Cross. Beaumont Hamel. 1st July 1916.

Signed

Ernest Mansell
Master