

Awarded the D.S.O

On Tuesday July 16th 1944 "C" Squadron 23rd Hussars were in the area of Tours south east of Caen.

They were heavily attacked by Panthers. The Squadron Commander was knocked out and the second Captains tank had been hit and the turret jammed. Captain Walters tank was then hit and destroyed. He got out and first assisted the crew of another tank which had also been hit and was burning; this in spite of the fact that his own hand was shattered.

He then took over a tank the Commander of which had been killed and rallied the remainder of the Squadron, six tanks to a near covered position from which he repulsed the enemy. He then handed over his command temporarily to a subaltern and he himself set about collecting the wounded and tending them in spite of the fact that they were still being fired at. When he had organized all the wounded and sent them back, he again took command. Another attack developed which was repelled. At 22.45 hours the Squadron was ordered to close leaguer. Just before leaving their position Captain Walter destroyed a Panther himself.

The next morning Captain Walter insisted on continuing to command the Squadron, which had been rebuilt to ten tanks as there was only one Subaltern. The Squadron went back to the same position and knocked out one more Panther.

At 12.15 hours the Unit was relieved on that position by a Unit of the 7th Armoured Division : and was moved round to the North flank to attack Bras and Hubert Folies from the north. Captain Walter would not relinquish command until this attack was over.

Their attack succeeded without the Regiment being required to participate. Then and only then at approximately 21.00 hours would he consent to be evacuated.

He had a compound fracture of the metacarpal bones of the left hand. His right hand was badly burned he also had injuries to his face. I consider this only very little short of being worthy of an even Higher Award.