



# Wiltshire Recipients Of the Victoria Cross



**Addison, William Robert Fountains (VC)** - William Addison was born on the 18th September 1883 in Cranbrook, Kent. He attended the Sarum College and was ordained 12 1913 and became curate at St. Edmund's Church, Salisbury (this is now a combined parish with St. Thomas). He served as a Chaplain 4th Class with the Army Chaplains Division of the British Army during World War I.

Whilst serving in Mesopotamia in 1916 on the 9th April, he carried a wounded man to the cover of a trench, and assisted several others to the same cover, after binding up their wounds under heavy rifle and machine gun fire. In addition to these unaided efforts, by his splendid example and utter disregard of personal danger, he encouraged the stretcher-bearers to go forward under heavy fire and collect the wounded.

For this act of bravery William was awarded the VC. He was Gazetted on 26 September 1916. He was invested with his Victoria Cross by King George V at Buckingham Palace on the 3rd August 1917.

After the war Addison continued as an army chaplain and served at Malta, Khartoum and Shanghai and at army bases in England. He was Senior Chaplain to the Forces from 1934 to 1938 when he left the army and became a parish priest. He was Rector of Coltishall with Great Hautbois in Norfolk from 1938 to 1958. However, on the outbreak of World War II he returned to the army and again served as Senior Chaplain to the Forces and deputy assistant chaplain-general in South Wales.

William died on 7th January 1962 aged 78 at St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex. On 11th January his funeral took place at St Barnabas's Church, Bexhill-on-Sea, and was buried in Brookwood Cemetery on the same day.

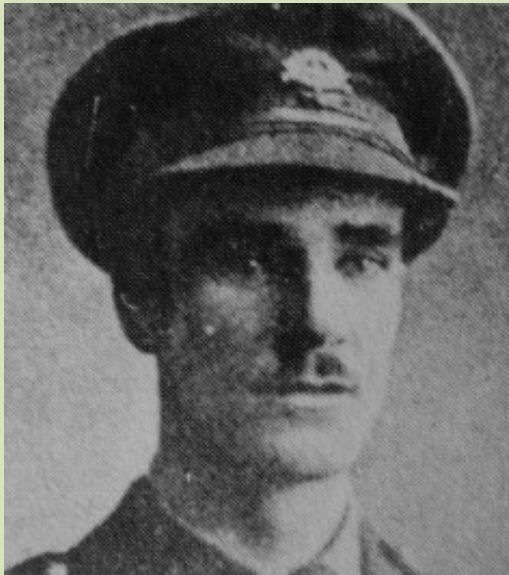
During his Army Chaplaincy he was awarded the following medals

- Victoria Cross
- 1914-15 Star
- British War Medal ( 1914-20 )
- Victory Medal ( 1914-19 ) + MiD Oakleaf
- War Medal ( 1939-45 )
- King George VI Coronation Medal ( 1937 )
- Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal ( 1953 )
- Order of St George ( 4th Class ) ( Russia )



A replica set of Addison's medals is on display at the Museum of Army Chaplaincy.

**Adlam, Thomas Edwin (VC)** - Lieutenant-Colonel 7th Battalion Bedfordshire Regiment (now the Royal



Anglian Regiment). Tom as he is known in most records was born on 21st October 1893 at Waterloo Gardens, Salisbury. He was a schoolmaster in civilian life. He died whilst on a family holiday to Hayling Island in Hampshire on 28th May 1975. He is buried in St. Matthews Churchyard, Blackmoor, Liss, Hampshire. He married Ivy Annette Mace in the June Quarter of 1916 in the Hartley Wintney Registration District of Hampshire.



Second Lieutenant Adlam's Victoria Cross was gazetted in the London Gazette on the 25th November 1916. It reads: "Second Lieutenant 7th Battalion., Bedfordshire Regiment. For most conspicuous bravery. A portion of a village which had defied capture had to be taken at all costs, to permit subsequent operations to develop. This minor operation came under very heavy machine-gun and rifle fire. Second Lieutenant Adlam, realising that time was all-important, rushed from shell-hole to shell-hole under heavy fire, collecting men for a sudden rush, and for this purpose also collected many enemy grenades. At this stage he was wounded in the leg, but nevertheless he was able to out-throw the enemy, and then seizing his opportunity, and in spite of his wound, he led a rush, captured the position and killed the occupants."

Lieutenant Adlam was in Colchester recovering when news of his VC reached him. No one had mentioned him even being proposed for a medal but he returned to the Orderly Room from a night out only to find himself swamped with telegrams. Calling his father to ask what everyone was congratulating him for and why newspaper people wanted to get his photograph, his father was the one to give him the news!

Tom Adlam does not appear to have served on the front lines after this battle, at least not within the Bedfordshire Regiment. He was transferred into the newly formed Royal Air Force and ready for embarkation to Singapore when news of the Armistice came. Being stationed in Cambridge, he joined the celebrations and, getting carried away, climbed the flagpole in the main market square. In his interview he revealed he was more terrified then than at any stage of his assault against the Redoubt but could not climb down and lose face!

After the war he served in Ireland and continued to have connections with Sandy in Bedfordshire, where he was the first chairman of the local British Legion branch between 1922 and 1926. Later he moved back to Wiltshire and became headmaster of the village school in Blackmoor, Hampshire, where he lived with his wife Ivy and their four children.

World War II saw him recalled, serving in the Royal Engineers movement control section as Embarkation Commandant at Tilbury, and later in Glasgow, after which he returned to family life.



**Beak, Daniel Marcus William (VC, DSO, MC & Bar)** - Major General, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (Drake Battalion, Royal Naval Division). He was born on 27 July 1891 at 42 Kent Road, St. Denys, Southampton, Hampshire. He died at Princess Margaret Hospital, Swindon on 3rd May 1967 aged 75 following a long illness. He was buried on the 9 May at Brookwood Cemetery, Woking, Surrey. The plot number is 222960. He is named on a memorial at New Cemetery, Ayr, Scotland along with his wife Matilda Catherine Frances Ritchie Wallace who died in 1930. The memorial can be found in the Wall Section, Lair 52.

He was awarded the Victoria Cross aged 27 when during the entire period of 21, 25 August and 4 September 1918 (T/Commander), at Logeast Wood, France, he led his men and captured four enemy positions under heavy fire. Four days later, although dazed by a shell fragment, he reorganised the whole brigade under heavy gun fire and led them towards their objective. When the attack was held up, he and one other man succeeded in knocking out the cause, a nest of machine guns, taking ten prisoners. His initiative and the confidence with which he inspired all ranks, contributed very materially to the success of these operations. His citation was published in the London

Gazette on 15 November 1918. His medals can be seen in the Ashcroft Collection exhibited at the Imperial War Museum, London.



**Beauchamp-Proctor, Andrew Frederick Weatherby (VC, DSO, MC & Bar, DFC)** - Sometimes recorded as Anthony. Acting Captain 84 Squadron, Royal Air Force. Andrew was born on 4th September 1894 at Mossel Bay, East Coast, Cape Province, South Africa the son of Capt. John J. Beauchamp-Proctor and Mrs. J. J. Beauchamp-Proctor. He was registered at birth as Andrew Proctor but he re-adopted the family name of Beauchamp-Proctor during WWI. He was killed in a flying accident at Enford/Upavon whilst preparing for an air display. He was firstly buried at Upavon with a Commonwealth War Graves Memorial Stone marking his grave. He was re-interred on 8th August 1921 at Mafeking Cemetery, South Africa in the European Section and plot number 1050-2.

He was awarded the VC for the following deed. Between 8 August and 8 October 1918, a two month period, he was victorious in 26 air



combats. From his first victory in November 1917 until the end of WWI he had destroyed 22 aircraft, 16 Kite balloons and drove down a further 16 enemy craft. His work from the 8 August 1918 in attacking enemy troops on the ground and in

reconnaissance during the Allied advance was almost unsurpassed in its brilliance. His citation was published in the London Gazette on 30 November 1918

His medals remain out of public collections. He is commemorated on memorial stones at Upavon his original burial place, Mafeking, South Africa where he is now buried, on the Royal Air Force Memorial in St. Clement Dane's Church in Central London and on a memorial plaque inside the porch of St. Mary's Church Droyden, Manchester.

**Fosbery, George Vincent (VC)** - George was born in Stert, near Devizes on 11th April 1832 the son of Reverend Thomas Vincent Fosbery. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel having joined the Indian Army in 1852. He is known for his invention of the "Paradox" gun used in sporting circles. He also invented the Webley-Fosbery Revolver. He married Emmeline Hall in 1858 and fathered ten children most of whom had emigrated to Canada before the death of George on 8th May 1907 in Bath, Somerset.



He was awarded the VC in 1863 "For the daring and gallant manner in which, on 30 October 1863, when aged about 30 years, and acting as a volunteer at the time, he led a party of his regiment to recapture the Crag Piquet, after its garrison had been driven in by the enemy, on which occasion sixty of them were killed in desperate hand to hand fighting. From the nature of the approach to the top of the Crag, amongst the large rocks, one or two men only could advance at one time. ' Whilst I ascended one path,' relates Lieut.-Colonel Keyes, CB., commanding the 1st Punjab Infantry, ' I directed Lieut. Fosbery, of the late 4th European Regiment, to push up another at the head of a few men. He led this party with great coolness and intrepidity, and was the first man to gain the top of the Crag on his side of the attack.' Subsequently Lieut.-Colonel Keyes being wounded, Lieut. Fosbery assembled a party, with which he pursued the routed enemy in the direction of the Lalloo Ridge, inflicting on them further loss and confirming possession of the post."

His citation appeared in the London Gazette on 7th July 1865. He is buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, Bathwick, Somerset. His Grave marker is a simple wooden cross situated behind the chapel building. His medal forms part of the Ashcroft Collection displayed in the Imperial War Museum, London.

**Gosling, William (VC)** - Major, 3rd Wessex Brigade, Royal Field Artillery (now Royal Regiment of Artillery) was born 15 August 1892 in Wanborough. He was the son of Albert and Elizabeth Gosling his mother being widowed by 1911. Prior to army service William worked on the farm that his mother ran in Swindon Road, Wroughton. William died at Summerhouse Farm in Wroughton on 12 February 1945 aged 53 following a long illness. He is buried in the West side of St. John & St. Helens Churchyard in Wroughton with wife Martha (nee Crowe) whom he married in Billericay, Essex in 1919. During World War II he served as a Major in the Home Guard.



He was awarded the VC when as a Sergeant on 5 April 1917 a faulty bomb fell ten yards from his mortar section, he quickly ran over to the device, lifted the nose from the mud it had been embedded into, unscrewed the fuse and launched it to the ground where it immediately exploded. This action undoubtedly saved the lives of the whole detachment. His citation was published in the London Gazette on 14 June 1917. His medals remain in private hands

He is commemorated on the Royal Artillery VC Recipient Memorial in the Royal Artillery Chapel at Woolwich, South East London.

**Gray, Thomas (VC)** - Sergeant/Observer 563627 Thomas Gray was born in Urchfont on 17 May 1914, fourth born of seven sons of the village policeman, Ernest Arthur Gray and his wife Susannah Mary. He



lived in 'Fiddlers Cottage' which doubled as the police station. Five of the Gray boys joined the Royal Air Force, three of them including Tom, as Aircraft Apprentices at RAF Halton. By 1946 three of them had died while flying with the RAF. Tom was educated at Warminster Secondary School. He enlisted in the 20th (Halton) Entry on 27 August 1929 and for the next three years trained to become an aero engine Fitter II(E). On leaving Halton in August 1932, Tom was posted to 40 Squadron servicing Fairey Gordon bombers. He volunteered for flying duties as an air gunner (this aircrew category was usually filled at that time by ground tradesmen on a voluntary basis additional to their normal duties). Tom soon earned the brass 'winged bullet' badge of a qualified air gunner. Tom was promoted to Leading Aircraftsman in 1933 and in June of that year was posted to 15 Squadron with Hawker Hind day-bombers. Gray returned to Halton for conversion to Fitter I, completing training in May 1936. On 15 March 1937 he joined 58 Squadron at Driffield with the Vickers Virginia bomber and moved with them to Boscombe Down on 24th March. In February 1938 came a move to 12 Squadron at Andover and promotion to Corporal. Following a short course of instruction at No 1 Air Observers School, he was remustered as an air observer (equivalent of the later category of Navigator). In the 1938 annual firing competition, Tom was awarded the 'Silver .303 Bullet' prize. He was

promoted to Sergeant in January 1939. On 2nd September 1939 12 Squadron was moved to France as a unit of the AASF. Early in the morning of 10 May 1940 the German forces commenced their Blitzkrieg advance through the Low Countries. On the 12th May, 12 Squadron were tasked with destroying vital bridges over the Albert Canal, the whole Squadron volunteered so it was decided that the six crews already detailed on the readiness roster should undertake the mission. Tom's pilot Flying Officer Donald Garland was to lead 3 aircraft against the Veldwezelt Bridge in a low level attack. Tom was the Observer/Navigator on Fairey Battle 1 - P2204 PH-K, piloted by Flying Officer Donald Garland with LAC Lawrence Reynolds as rear gunner. They flew below the cloud base at 1000 feet and on reaching the Veldwezelt area started a shallow bombing run. There were estimated to be some 300 guns entrenched in a defensive ring around the bridge, and the aircraft was blasted into the ground. The second Battle L5439 piloted by Pilot Officer I. A. McIntosh was hit in the main fuel tank, setting the aircraft ablaze, he jettisoned his bombs and made a forced landing - he survived as a Prisoner of War. The third Battle L5227 piloted by Sgt Fred Marland released its bombs but then lost control and dived into the ground. When the smoke cleared it was seen

that the western end of the bridge was shattered, and evidence suggested the damage was caused by Garland and Gray's cool attack. It had been Gray's first operational bombing raid. After the raid, local civilians recovered the bodies of Garland, Gray and Reynolds, and quickly buried them in a secret location to prevent the Germans claiming them. Near the end of the war Allied authorities were notified and all three were re-interred in Lanaken cemetery. Subsequently the three were buried in the Imperial War Graves Commission cemetery at Heverlee. The citation for Garland and Gray's VCs which appeared in the London Gazette dated 11 June 1940 read: *Flying Officer Garland was the pilot and Sergeant Gray the observer of the leading machine of a formation of five aircraft that were ordered to destroy at all costs a bridge over the Albert Canal which had not been demolished by the land forces and was allowing the Germans to advance into Belgium. In spite of very heavy defence of the area surrounding the bridge, the formation made a successful dive-bombing attack from the lowest practicable altitude, after releasing their bombs they were attacked by a large number of enemy fighters. Only one aircraft of the five returned to its base. Much of the success of the operation must be attributed to the formation leader, Flying Officer Garland, and to the coolness and resource of Sergeant Gray, who navigated the leading aircraft under most difficult conditions in such a manner that the whole formation, although it subsequently suffered heavy losses, was able successfully to attack the target.*

The VC was presented to Gray's parents, who had now moved to Odd Down, Bath, Somerset, at an investiture in Buckingham Palace on 24 June 1941. Thomas Gray is commemorated on the Royal Air Force Memorial in St. Clements Dane Church, London. His grave reference at Heverlee is Collective Grave, Plot VI, Row F, Grave 14-16. A VC-10C MK1 was named for him, one of 15 Royal Air Force VC's so honoured.



**Hastings E. Harington.**

the award. His Citation appeared in the London

Gazette on 24th December 1858. He is commemorated with a headstone at his burial site and is named on the Memorial in the Royal Artillery Chapel at Woolwich. Harington Road in Formby, Lancashire is named in his memory.

**Harington, Hastings Edward (VC) -**

Edward was a Captain in the Bengal Army born in Hinton Parva (Little Hinton) on 9th November 1832. Died 20th July 1861 aged 29 from cholera after 9 years of service in the Bengal and then the British Indian Army. He is buried in Agra Cemetery, India.



He was awarded his VC for action during the Indian Mutiny in the relief of Lucknow 14th-27th November 1857 where he was severely wounded. He was elected by the vote of his fellow officers to receive



**Heneage, Clement Walker** - Clement was born on 6th March 1831 in Compton Bassett. He served with the British Army during the years of 1851 and 1868 achieving the rank of Major serving with the 8th Hussars. He served in the Crimean War taking an active part in the Charge of the Light Brigade and at the Battle of Balaclava. He also served during the Indian Mutiny when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC. On 17th June 1858 at Gwalior, in British India Captain Heneage, together with Sergeant Joseph Ward, Farrier George Hollis and Private John Pearson was in a charge made by a squadron of the 8th Hussars. His citation reads: 8th Hussars, Captain (now Brevet-Major) Clement Walker Heneage. Selected for the Victoria Cross by their companions in the gallant charge made by a squadron of the Regiment at Gwalior, on the 17th of June, 1858, when, supported by a division of the Bombay Horse Artillery, and Her Majesty's 95th Regiment, they routed the enemy, who were

advancing against Brigadier Smith's position, charged through the rebel camp into two batteries, capturing and bringing into their camp two of the enemy's guns, under a heavy and converging fire from the Fort and Town. (Field Force Orders by Major-General Sir Hugh Henry Rose, G.C.B., Commanding Central India Field Force, dated Camp, Gwalior, 28th June, 1858.).

In 1877 he was appointed High Sheriff of Wiltshire.

Clement died on 9th December 1901 (aged 70) in his home village and is buried in St. Swithin's Churchyard, Compton Bassett.



**Macarthur, Thomas, VC (AKA Thomas Arthur)** - Thomas was born circa 1835 at Abbotsham in Devon the son of Thomas and Jane Arthur. In the 1841 the census lists him as living with his mother Jane and in the 1851 census he was working as a farm labourer in Parkway near Bideford, Devon. Thomas enlisted at Devonport in March 1853 for service in the Royal Regiment of Artillery. His attestation record shows he was 18 at the time of enlisting. In the summer of 1855 Gunner and Driver Thomas Arthur, aged 20 was



with his artillery battery in an advanced position at Sebastopol. The British were attacking the Russians in an attempt to capture the 'Quarries', an advanced position held by the Russians. Thomas Arthur was responsible for the ammunition magazine. However, his deeds went well beyond his call of duty; in intensive fighting and realising that infantry of the 7th Fusiliers were short of much needed ammunition he crossed open ground, which was under intensive fire from the enemy, many times to supply much needed ammunition.

Less than two weeks later he volunteered and led a party to spike the guns of a fortified position held by the Russian artillery at the Redan. And further to this, on numerous occasions he left the trenches to rescue wounded officers and men. For all these heroic actions he was awarded the Victoria Cross. He was gazetted on 24th June 1857. After service in the Crimea he returned to England where he married Britannia (Ann) Goddard in Aldershot, Hampshire on 6th July 1859. He served in India where his 3 eldest children were born. In 1881 Thomas is living at 7 Cadley Square, Cadley with his family and is recorded as a Chelsea Pensioner and general labourer and in 1891 the family were resident at 29 Salisbury Road, Cadley. Thomas died on 2nd March 1902 in Savernake. He is buried in Cadley Churchyard in the Savernake Forest. He is commemorated with a headstone in Cadley Churchyard and is named on a memorial in the Royal Artillery Chapel at Woolwich. His medals are displayed at the Royal Artillery Museum.



**Rogers, Maurice Albert Wyndham (VC, MM)** - Sergeant Rogers served in the 2nd Battalion Wiltshire Regiment. He was born on 17th July 1919 the son of Albert Edward and Dora Grace Rogers of Bristol, Gloucestershire. He was married to Lena Elizabeth Rogers, of Plaistow, Essex.

Whilst serving in Italy during WWII, his battalion was ordered to attack high ground held by the enemy. They advanced under intense fire and sustained a number of casualties. The platoon, stopped by the enemy's wire and the intensity of machine-gun fire, took cover some 70 yards short of their objective. Sergeant Rogers continued to advance alone, and penetrated 30 yards inside the enemy's defences, drawing their fire and throwing them into confusion. Inspired by his example, the platoon began the assault. Sergeant Rogers was blown off his feet by a grenade, and wounded in the leg. He ran on towards an enemy machine-gun post, attempting to silence it. He was shot and killed at point blank range. This N.C.O.'s undaunted determination, fearless devotion to duty and superb courage carried his platoon on to their objective in a strongly defended position. The great gallantry and heroic self-sacrifice of Serjeant Rogers were in the highest tradition of the British Army".

He died 3rd June 1944 and is buried in the Beach Head War Cemetery, Anzio, Italy.

In 2003 Sergeant Rogers had a road named after him. A new industrial estate had been built at Hopton, Devizes, Wiltshire (near to the old La Marchant Barracks) and the road has been called "Sgt Rogers Way". The road sign gives his full name and location and year of the VC award. Earlier he had a block of flats 'Rogers House' named after him on the White City Estate in Shepherd's Bush, London. His parents were in attendance at the opening ceremony.

His story was published as the cover story for D.C. Thomson's Victor comic in issue 204 dated 16 January 1965. His Victoria Cross is displayed at The Rifles (Berkshire and Wiltshire) Museum in Salisbury, Wiltshire.



**Strong, George VC** - George was a private serving with the Coldstream Guards. He was born in 1833 in Ham Hill, Odcombe, Yeovil, Somerset and was baptised on April 7th 1833 in the parish church. His parents were Job and Mary Strong. He died in Sherston Magna on 25th August 1888 aged 52. He is buried in the Churchyard of Holy Cross Church. George was awarded the VC in September 1855, at Sebastopol, in the Crimea, when on duty, Private Strong picked up a live shell which had fallen into the trench, and threw it over the parapet. He was well aware of the extreme danger involved, and his action saved many lives. He married Eliza Dickson or Dickenson in June Quarter 1863 and according to the

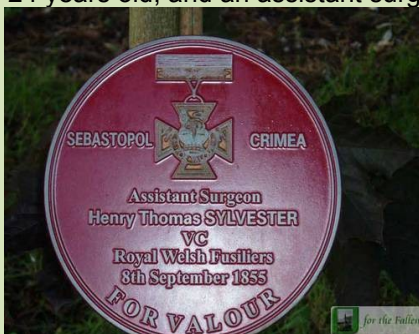




1881 census they were living in Sherston Magna with 3 sons and a daughter. He was gazetted on the 24th February 1857.

He is commemorated with a modern Portland stone headstone in the churchyard which replaces the adjacent joint headstone with Thomas Strong. His medals are held at the Coldstream guards museum.

**Sylvester, William Henry Thomas** - William was born in Long Street, Devizes on 16th April 1831. At age 24 years old, and an assistant surgeon in the 23rd Regiment of Foot (later The Royal Welch



Fusiliers), British Army during the Crimean War when the following deed took place for which he was awarded the VC:-

*The marker at the National Arboretum, Staffordshire*

On 8 September 1855, at Sebastopol, Crimea, near the Redan, Assistant Surgeon Sylvester

went with a corporal (Robert Shields) to the aid of an officer who was mortally wounded and remained with him, dressing his wounds, in a most dangerous and exposed situation. Again, on 18 September this officer was at the front, under heavy fire, attending the wounded.



He later gained the rank of Major Surgeon and died at his home at 8 Beach Road, Paignton, Devon on 13th March 1920 aged 88 in Paignton, Devon and is buried in the Paignton Cemetery Plot number 2614 his age on the headstone is shown as 89. He was Gazetted on 20th November 1857 and his medals are held at the Royal Army Medical Corps Museum