



*Victoria Cross
Recipient
Thomas McArthur
(Arthur)*

Thomas (AKA Thomas Arthur) was born in Abbotsham, Devon about 1837. In 1851 he was working as a farm labourer in Parkway, near Bideford, Devon.

He is listed as either McArthur, MacArthur or Arthur in various records.

Thomas enlisted at Devonport in March 1853 for service in the Royal Regiment of Artillery. His attestation record shows he was 18 at this time.

In the summer of 1855, he was involved at Sebastopol where he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

His citation reads;

War Office, 24th February, 1857.

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to signify Her intention to confer the Decoration of the Victoria Cross on the undermentioned Officers and Men of Her Majesty's Navy and Marines, and Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and Men of Her Majesty's Army, who have been recommended to Her Majesty for that Decoration in accordance with the rules laid down in Her Majesty's Warrant of the 29th of January, 1856 — on account of acts of bravery performed by them before the Enemy during the late War, as recorded against their several names, viz. :—

Royal Artillery Gunner and Driver Thomas Arthur

When in charge of the magazine in one of the left advanced Batteries of the Right Attack on the 7th June, 1855, when the Quarries were taken, he, of his own accord, carried barrels of Infantry ammunition for the 7th Fusiliers several times during the evening across the open. Volunteered for, and formed one of the spiking parties of Artillery at the assault on the Redan on the 18th June, 1855.

The Medal was presented by the Queen on 26th June 1857.

As Thomas Arthur, he is named in the Crimea Medal Roll where he qualified for the Inkerman and Alma Clasps.

On his return from the Crimean war, he married Ann (Britannia) Goddard on 6th July 1859 in Saint Michael's, Aldershot, Hampshire.

Still in the army, he was posted to India where four of his children were born between 1868 and 1873.

In 1881 Thomas was living in Cadley, Wiltshire with his family and is recorded as a Chelsea Pensioner and general labourer and, in 1891, the family were still resident in Cadley.

Thomas died in Savernake, Wiltshire on the 2nd March 1902, and he is buried in the churchyard at Cadley.



Abbotsham Plaque



Cadley Wiltshire