

# A Fitting Legacy and Beyond



Victoria Cross Online  
Issue 5 February 2023

## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to the February edition of the Victoria Cross Online magazine. Unbelievable we have reached the 5<sup>th</sup> edition already

There is the second in a series of three articles on the missing, stolen and destroyed VCs completed by yours truly. This month will focus on the Destroyed VCs.

I am thankful again to regular contributor Ned Malet de Carteret for his piece on George Ingouville VC, a fellow native of Jersey.

The main cover feature article for this month comes from Ian Judson featuring the new inductee to Hull RFC's Hall of Fame, Jack Harrison VC MC.

There is also an update on the attempt to keep the Scarf VC group in the UK and the recent 5 grave renovations by the Victoria Cross Trust.



## Contents

3-8 The Destroyed VCs

9-11 "Spirit of Jersey"

12-19 "A Fitting Legacy and Beyond"

20 Scarf VC Update

21-25 Victoria Cross Trust Grave Renovations.

# The Destroyed VCs

In the second of three articles, the focus on the Victoria Cross medals which over the course of the history of the gallantry award, have been destroyed in a variety of circumstances. The number of Victoria Cross medals which have been lost in this fashion is relatively small but significant – 6.



Julian Royds Gribble was awarded the VC for his action on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1918 at Hermies Ridge, France, when as the last officer standing, Julian finally allowed his men to retreat keeping six with him. Private Madeley was one of them "I got hit and I am glad to say I broke through, but not with the Captain" Julian was last seen emptying his revolver into the final assault. " I saw him go down under about seven big German brutes and that was the last I saw of one of England's finest officers". He was alive and became a POW. Tragically, he would die of Spanish influenza thirteen days after the Armistice. His VC was destroyed in a house fire at his brother's home Wamil Hall, near Mildenhall, Suffolk, in 1958. As far as is known no replacement Victoria Cross was requested by the family.

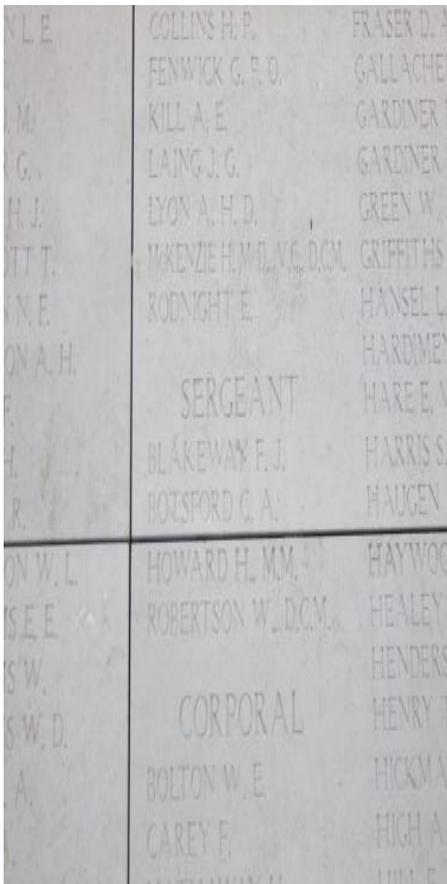


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# The Destroyed VCs



On 30th October 1917 at Meetscheele Spur, near Passchendaele, Belgium, Lieutenant McKenzie was in charge of a section of four machine guns accompanying the infantry in an attack. Seeing that all the officers and most of the NCOs of an infantry company had become casualties and that the men were hesitating before a nest of enemy machine-guns, the lieutenant handed over his command to an NCO, rallied the infantry, organised an attack and captured the strong-point. He then led a frontal attack on a pill-box which was causing casualties. The pill-box was captured but he was killed.



Sadly, Hugh's body was not recovered and he is commemorated on the Menin Gate Memorial, Ypres. His medals were in his widow's possession when they were destroyed in a house fire at Amherstburg, Lake Erie, Ontario on 24th May 1959, in which she died. Unaware of this, the Regimental Museum in Calgary appealed across Canada for the location of the VC. They made contact with his daughter in 1970 and she had Hugh's Croix de Guerre and DCM which she donated in 1979.

# The Destroyed VCs



On 8th March 1917, east of Bouchavesnes, France, when engaged with some other men in deepening a captured trench this officer struck with his spade a buried bomb, which immediately started to burn. 2nd Lt. Cates, in order to save the lives of his comrades, placed his foot on the bomb, which immediately exploded. He showed the most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty in performing the act which cost him his life, but saved the lives of others.



Cates died of his wounds at 137th Field Ambulance at Bouchavesnes on 9th March 1917 and was buried in Hem Farm Military Cemetery, Hem-Monacu, France. His VC was destroyed in a fire in 1951. An official replacement was issued and is now in the Royal Green Jackets Museum, Winchester, Hampshire.

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# The Destroyed VCs



On 22nd February 1881 at Wesselstroom, during a skirmish with the Boers, Private Mayes was wounded and lying in the open under threat from the fire of the enemy. Private James Osborne of the 2nd Battalion without hesitation, rode into the midst of the party of 42 Boers, and picked up Mayes and carried him back to camp and safety, under heavy fire.

Osborne was recommended for, and awarded the VC on 14th March 1882. His medals following his death were placed in the care of the Northamptonshire Regiment but were lost during an air raid on Belfast on 4th-5th May 1941. They were lodged in Ulster Bank for safe keeping along with the regimental silver to be returned after the War. In 1964, James' daughter, Mrs Poulter asked about its location and was told about the air raid. No official replacement was ever requested by either the regiment or the family.

In 2008, a granddaughter Rhoda Whitehouse made an application for a replacement medal but was turned down. The regiment made a replica set for her.



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# The Destroyed VCs



On 12th August 1857, the column came up against the enemy in the village of Boursekee Chowkee about a mile and a half in front of Bashiratguni. The enemy redoubt, on a hill some 400 yards from the main road, was heavily defended by artillery. A deep and wide marsh protected its front and heavy rain had made the area impossible for the moving of guns. Without support from the artillery, the infantry formed up ready to storm the redoubt under heavy fire from the mutineers. Lieutenants Joseph Crowe and Campbell stood just ahead of their troops waiting for the order to charge through the thick mud. The order was given and both officers engaged in a race to be first to reach the breastwork.



Crowe reached the redoubt just ahead of Campbell and clambered over the wall, sword swinging and ploughed into a group of mutineers. Joseph Crowe bequeathed his Victoria Cross to his sister, and the medal returned to the Cape Colony. Joseph Crowe's Victoria Cross was destroyed when his sister's farm caught fire at Firlands, Rondebosch, Cape Province, South Africa. The Victoria Cross was not recovered from the debris.

[https://victoriacrossonline.co.uk/?page\\_id=3694](https://victoriacrossonline.co.uk/?page_id=3694)

# The Destroyed VCs



On the 21st August 1860, during the assault, he was accompanying a wing of the 67th Regiment when it took up a position within 500 yards of the fort. He then proceeded, under heavy enemy fire, to attend to a dhoolie-bearer, whose wound Fitzgibbon had been ordered to bind up. While the regiment then moved forward, Fitzgibbon was seen to run across open ground under fire, to attend to another wounded man. In this action, he was hit and severely wounded. Fitzgibbon survived his wound, and was gazetted for the VC on 13th August 1861, under the name Arthur Fitzgibbon (an error).

Indian Medical Establishment	Hospital Apprentice Arthur Fitzgibbon	For having behaved with great coolness and courage at the capture of the North Taku Fort, on the 21st of August, 1860. On the morning of that day he accompanied a wing of the 67th Regiment, when it took up a position within 500 yards of the Fort. Having quitted cover, he proceeded, under a very heavy fire, to attend to a Dhoolie-bearer, whose wound he had been directed to bind up; and, while the Regiment was advancing under the Enemy's fire, he ran across the open to attend to another wounded man, in doing which he was himself severely wounded.
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Following his exploits in China, he returned to India, where he became an Apothecary, before he died aged just 38 on 7th March 1883 in Delhi. He was buried in an unmarked grave in Old Delhi Military Cemetery, and it is believed that his VC was buried with him. There is no records that a headstone exists.

# “Spirit of Jersey”

On a small island of around 50,000 inhabitants in the early/mid 1800's, I find it rather extraordinary that we have produced two Victoria Cross recipients

I became interested in the wider family of awardees in Jersey at the turn of this century and it was at the time of the 150th Anniversary of the award that I googled the name of Ingouville. By luck I locked onto Carlos Ingouville in Rio de Janeiro who turned out to be the family historian.

Carlos secured 6 tickets to Westminster Abbey to join me for the 150th anniversary Commemoration service at Westminster Abbey on the 26th June, 2006. His family came from Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, America and London. He and his his cousin, Luis from Argentina came to Jersey after the ceremony.

George Henry Ingouville was born at No 16, La Motte Street, St Helier on. It has been my barber's shop, "Weiss Coiffure" for over 40 years! His parents were Pierre and Eliza Marie French. The family were wealthy merchants and his uncle lived in a grand house, La Fregoniere, as painted by Philip John Oules in the 1840's (now the Hotel de France). George the eldest son, had four other siblings.

We sadly know nothing of George's schooling or childhood. George joined the Royal Navy and became Captain of the Mast. His award was a double action event on the 46-gun frigate, HMS Arrogant off the coast of Vyborg in the Baltic Sea.

# “Spirit of Jersey”



His citation gazetted on the 24th February, 1857 reads:

“He was on board HMS Arrogant’s second cutter when a Russian shell blew up the cutter’s magazine and it began to drift under a battery. Despite a wound in his arm, he jumped overboard, swam round to the bows, took hold of the painter and tried to tow her out to sea. Whilst doing this he was picked up by Lieutenant Dowell who towed the cutter out of the range of the Russian guns.”

The oil painting by George Houseman Thomas of the VC investiture by Queen Victoria in Hyde Park on Friday 26th June, 1857, depicts her majesty pinning the medal onto George Ingouville. We were lucky to see this picture at the exhibition at the Guards Museum in 2006.

# “Spirit of Jersey”

The family moved to Hyeres in the south of France, near Toulon. George was “lost” off Hyeres on the 13th January, 1869. He has no known grave. Ingouville Place in St. Helier is named after him. A building named Ingouville house is the subject of a major building transformation. George’s medal is on proud display in a wooden box in the Maritime Museum in St Helier. It curiously bears a crimson medal ribbon, rather than a blue one, which remains a mystery.

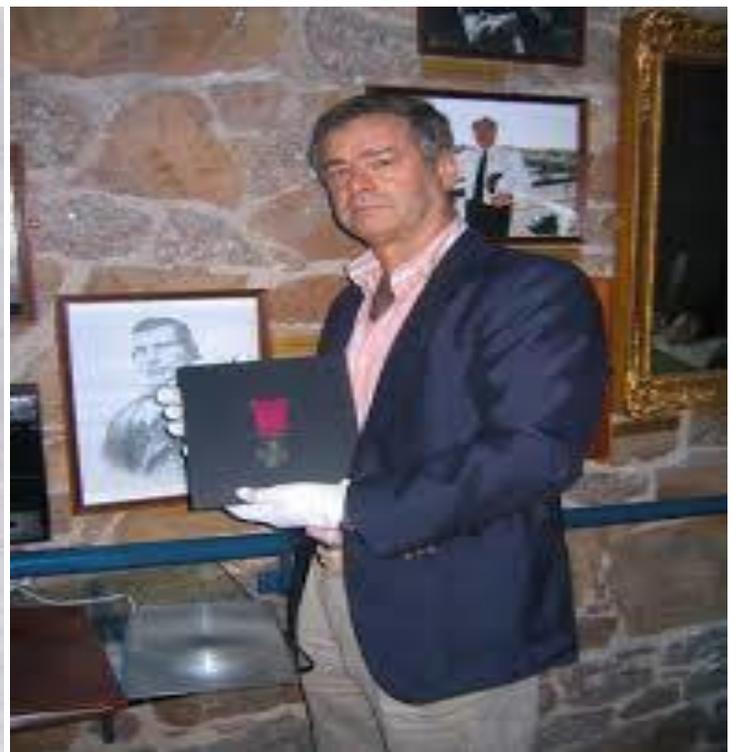
Carlos Ingouville instituted two large family gatherings in South America in the first decade of the millennium at which over 150 family members gathered together under the banner “ Spirit of Jersey” raising a toast to their famous ancestor, George Henry Ingouville.

I have been to date unsuccessful in having a plaque positioned at his birthplace, I must put it back on the to do list!

Ned Malet de Carteret

St Helier

February, 2023.



# A Fitting Legacy and Beyond



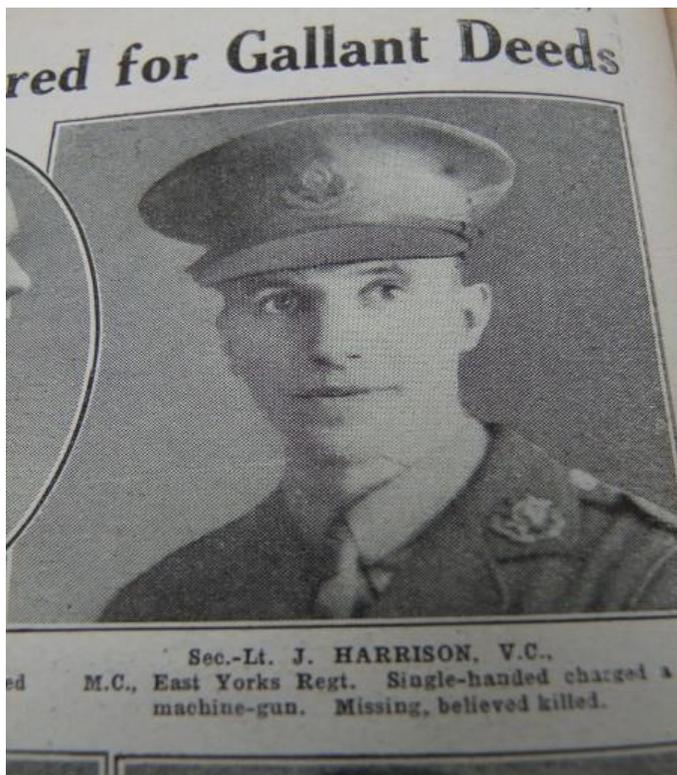
By Ian Judson



I cannot describe just how excited and proud I am to be writing this article, our fight to get to this stage has taken far too long.

When I was studying for my BA (Hons) degree in Journalism and Digital Media, from which I graduated in 2017, I started a campaign to get a statue of Jack Harrison VC MC erected in his hometown of Kingston Upon Hull, that campaign is ongoing, but to bring you up to date with what this article is about, there have been recent developments, all of which add up to what we are trying to achieve.

Last year my very good friend Glenn Gelder contacted me on social media and said that Jack should certainly be inducted into the Hull FC Hall of Fame, something which I was already campaigning for, which he wasn't aware of at the time.



# A Fitting Legacy

and

# Beyond

By Ian Judson



I had started the campaign for a statue during the final year of my degree, then decided that is something we need to build up to due to the cost of a statue, hence we had some fundraising events, which got us to a stage where a very nice solicitor said she would waive half her fee to get us registered as a charity, as a result of which the Jack Harrison VC MC Charitable Trust was founded.

When Glenn contacted me, we discussed an idea to walk from RFL headquarters in Leeds to the MKM Stadium for the Hull Derby, but then I pointed out that the Rugby Football League governing body had actually moved its headquarters to the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, but I had a better idea anyway and said we could walk from York St. John University (for reasons which will soon become very obvious) to the MKM Stadium, this was all about raising awareness of the statue campaign, but initially about our fight to have Jack placed in the exalted company of the Hull FC Hall of Fame.

So, why are we going to these sorts of lengths for the man that our charity is named after? It's quite simple really, Jack Harrison was a proper HERO in absolutely every sense of the word.

He came from a simple, working-class background, born at 20 Williamson Street in East Hull, his father John, who Jack was actually named after, was a Plater and Boilermaker at Earl's Shipyard in East Hull. He was educated at Craven Street School, next door to the home ground of Hull KR at the time

# A Fitting Legacy

and

# Beyond

By Ian Judson



before earning a scholarship to St John's College, York (hence our starting point for the walk) for teacher training.

While at college he earned college colours for swimming, cricket and rugby (he actually captained the first XV in his final year) and while there, his RU heroics attracted the attention of York RL, who he played six games for, scoring four tries.

On his return to Hull in 1912 he secured himself a teaching job at Lime Street School, he also did what would have been considered unthinkable for a lad coming from a Rovers supporting family, he signed for Hull FC and not only that, he had tremendous success with the Black and White side of this divided city, winning the Challenge Cup in the 1913/14 season, scoring an important try in the 6-0 final victory against Wakefield Trinity at Thrum Hall, Halifax.



# A Fitting Legacy and Beyond

By Ian Judson



**Jack Harrison at York St John University York Press: The 1911-12 St John's rugby team, with VC winner Jack Harrison in the centre with the ball.**

In the following season he set three club records, being the only player ever in the club's history to score six tries in a game, twice in the same season, scoring 14 tries in a run of 11 consecutive games and scoring a record 52 tries in one season, all achievements that not even such greats as Clive Sullivan could even challenge, although Richard Horne did manage to score tries in 11 consecutive games in 2006, he scored 11 tries in that run, still three less than Jack scored.

# A Fitting Legacy and

# Beyond

By Ian Judson



On 4<sup>th</sup> November 1915 Jack decided, despite being in an essential, protected profession as a teacher, to volunteer for the army.

He was repeatedly furloughed by the army so he could keep playing for Hull FC and, even when he went for officer training at Inns of Court, he still had a contract at Hull FC which he would have returned to, if he had survived the war.

Jack was subsequently commissioned as a Temporary 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the East Yorkshire Regiment and arrived on the Western Front of the Battle of the Somme in September 1916, before earning his Military Cross on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1917 by leading a patrol into No Man's Land, capturing four German trenches, catching a prisoner-of-war and, despite being cut off, leading his men back to safety without so much as a scratch on any of them, not bad for a rookie officer, I'm sure you will agree?

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1917, a few weeks after Vimy Ridge had fallen into allied hands, during the larger Battle of Arras, Jack and his men were ordered to go 'Over the Top' at Oppy Wood, Pas de Calais, unfortunately they were silhouetted against a big full moon and were little more than target practice for German machine-guns just inside the wood, Jack saw his men being slaughtered right, left and centre.

Jack led an attack against a particular gun which was causing particularly heavy casualties in the southern corner of the wood, he did this twice without success, before grouping his men in a bomb crater in No Man's Land, before singled-handed dashing at the machine-gun in question.

# A Fitting Legacy

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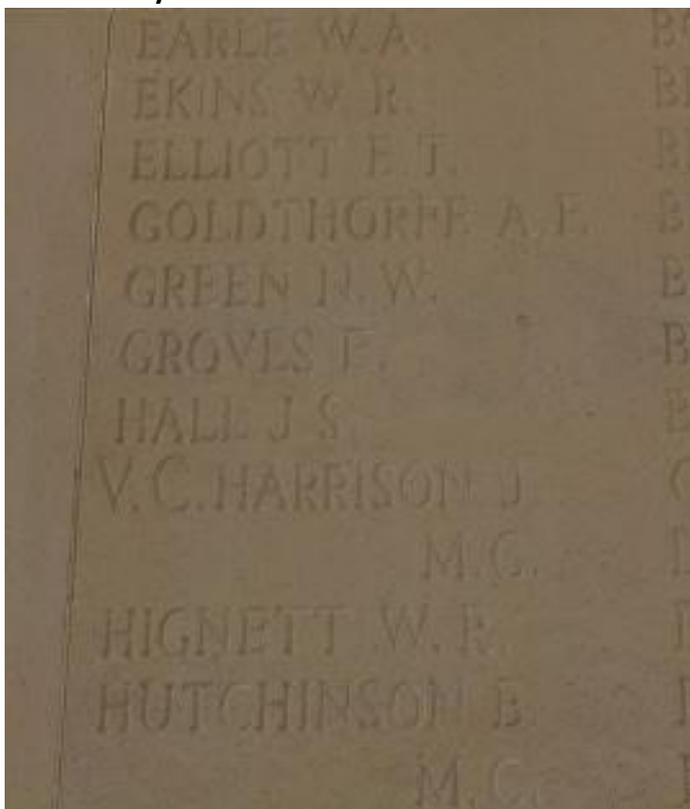
# Beyond

By Ian Judson



Because of his bravery, the machine-gun never fired again, taken out by Jack with a Mills Grenade before he got the rest of its crew with his pistol, unfortunately he also became a casualty, falling alongside thousands of other men and his body was never found.

For this action, which allowed what remained of his men to get to safety, he was awarded the Victoria Cross, becoming, due to the fact that he had continued playing for Hull FC after joining up and because we know he would definitely have returned to them to keep playing, the first ever current, professional sportsman ever to be awarded our highest possible military honour.



T/2nd Lt. John Harrison, M.C., E. York.  
R.

For most conspicuous bravery and self-sacrifice in an attack.

Owing to darkness and to smoke from the enemy barrage, and from our own, and to the fact that our objective was in a dark wood, it was impossible to see when our barrage had lifted off the enemy front line.

Nevertheless, 2nd Lt. Harrison led his company against the enemy trench under heavy rifle and machine-gun fire, but was repulsed. Reorganising his command as best he could in No Man's Land, he again attacked in darkness under terrific fire, but with no success.

Then, turning round, this gallant officer single-handed made a dash at the machine-gun, hoping to knock out the gun and so save the lives of many of his company.

His self-sacrifice and absolute disregard of danger was an inspiring example to all. (He is reported missing, believed killed.)

# A Fitting Legacy

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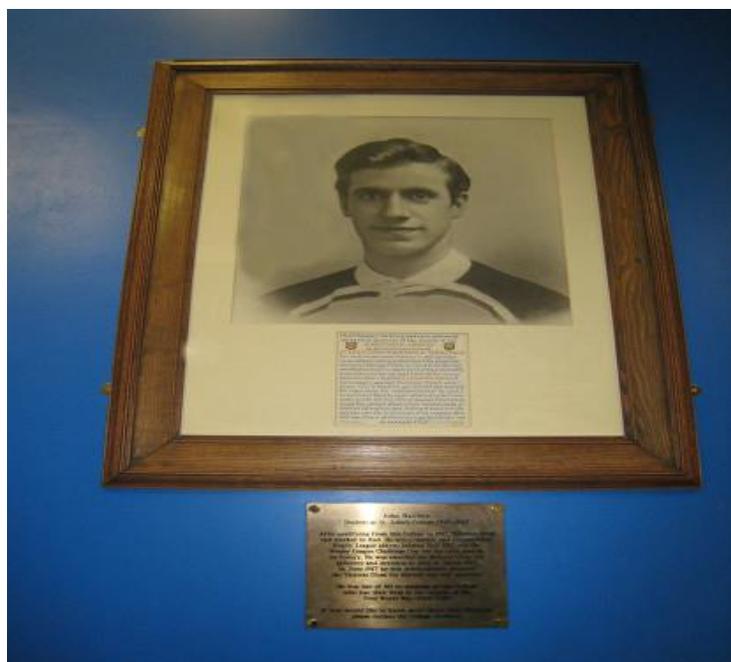
# Beyond

By Ian Judson



Back to current day, myself, Mike Lister, Neil Johnson and my fellow charity trustee Jon Hilton walked through the night from York to Hull and with the work that myself and Glenn, who will become a trustee of the charity in due course, had done before we raised enough awareness and convince the powers that be, to induct Jack into the Hull FC Hall of Fame.

As I mentioned before, we also believe that Jack should be placed in the RFL Hall of Fame, however we face a battle to make that happen due to something of a technicality. That technicality is that a player has to have played rugby league for at least ten years, as well as have left a suitable legacy on the sport itself, to be considered for induction into its Hall of Fame. Jack started playing professional rugby league in 1911 and, given that he still had a contract at Hull FC, he was only registered as a player until 1917, making him ineligible for the RFL Hall of Fame.



# A Fitting Legacy and Beyond



By Ian Judson



Our next fundraising events, which will be about raising money towards the long-term-goal of a statue will be a guided tour in Hull, showing places like where Jack was born, where he worked, where he went to school, where he played for Hull FC and where he lived next month, and then in April, we are hosting a Hull Derby Quiz Night and Charity Auction on the evening before Good Friday, contact me at [ian.judson123@gmail.com](mailto:ian.judson123@gmail.com) for details or to simply donate to the charity.



<https://www.facebook.com/jackharrisonvc/>

The Facebook Group for the Jack Harrison VC MC Charitable Trust.

<https://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/news/hull-east-yorkshire-news/amputee-walking-36-miles-hull-7533721>

News Report of the Charity Walk

[https://victoriacrossonline.co.uk/?page\\_id=6886](https://victoriacrossonline.co.uk/?page_id=6886)

# Scarf VC Update

The Second World War Victoria Cross medal group awarded to Squadron Leader Arthur Scarf, 62 Squadron, Royal Air Force, was sold at a Spink auction in London on the 27th April 2022. The sale was by order of a direct descendant. The sale estimate was between £350,000 and £450,000. The Arthur Scarf VC group had originally been on loan to the Royal Air Force Museum. The Spink sale hammer price realised £550,000. (£660,000 with fees).

Shortly after the sale it was revealed that the successful bidder was based overseas and intended to take the medal group out of the UK. Following the advice of the 'Reviewing Committee of the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest ( RCEWA )' a decision on an export application for the Victoria Cross will be a first deferred until the 27th January 2023. A second deferral period has now been announced until the 30th April 2023.

It was then announced that RAF Museum is determined for the medal group to remain in the UK. The Museum is hoping to raise £250,000 of the required funds through public donations. Money raised will be added to a contribution being made from the Museum's own funds, and a potential grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Sadly at the time of this magazine going to press the campaign has only reached £11,890 of its £250,000 target. If you wish to donate please go to the following link <https://www.gofundme.com/f/save-the-scarf-vc>



# Sherbrooke VC



VICTORIA  
CROSS  
TRUST

## Memorial



VICTORIA  
CROSS  
TRUST

In 2021, the Victoria Cross Trust visited Oxtun, Nottinghamshire and cleaned the grave of Robert Sherbrooke VC. In January 2023, the VCT became aware that more work needed to be done as the cross itself was collapsing towards the grave. The plan was agreed with Sherbrooke's granddaughter Andrea O'Donnell and the Reverend Anthony Giles to set a new foundation behind the existing base and then pull the headstone onto the new platform. The work was completed on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The grave was also re-cleaned by the DOFF machine to keep the grave in pristine condition.



<https://victoriacrosstrust.org/addsherbrooke-vc-memorial-stabilised/>





# VICTORIA CROSS TRUST

ST PETER'S  
CHURCHYARD,  
RODMARTON,  
GLOUCS

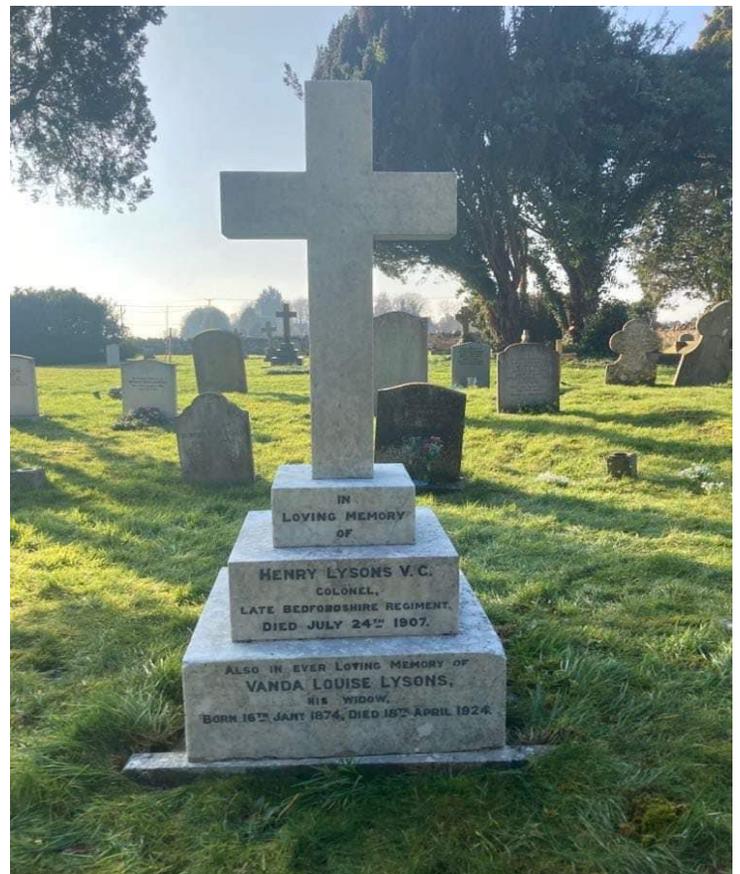
<https://victoriacrosstrust.org/>



On 28th March 1879, on Hlobane Mountain, Sir Evelyn Wood VC ordered the dislodgement of certain Zulus (who were causing the troops many losses) from strong natural caves commanding the position in which some of the wounded were lying. Following a delay in the execution of the orders issued, Captain Ronald Campbell of the Coldstream Guards, followed by Lieutenant Lysons and Private Fowler, ran forward and advanced over a mass of fallen boulders and between walls of rock, which led to a cave where the enemy was hidden. The gap was so narrow, they had to move in single file, with Campbell leading. When they reached the mouth of the cave, Campbell was immediately killed. Lysons and Fowler charged into the cave and forced the occupants out of the cave. Lysons then remained at the mouth of the cave, during which Campbell's body was carried down the slope. Evelyn Wood VC later described their actions as "the greatest deed I ever saw performed in my life."



Before



After

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# VICTORIA CROSS TRUST

<https://victoriacrosstrust.org/>



During the retreat from Arrah on 30th July 1857, William Fraser McDonnell climbed out under incessant fire from a boat in which he and several soldiers were, up to the rudder, and with considerable difficulty he cut through the lashing which secured it to the side of the boat. On the rope being cut, the boat was able to be steered to safety, saving 35 Europeans from certain death.

On the collapse of the Mutiny in Bihar, McDonnell was given the task of settling the confiscated estates of the rebel leader, Koer Singh, until June 1860. He then decided to return to England, and whilst there, on 9th November 1860, he attended his investiture at Windsor Castle.



Before



After

[https://victoriacrossonline.co.uk/?page\\_id=10446](https://victoriacrossonline.co.uk/?page_id=10446)

In the Sea of Azoff he was present on the 28th May 1855, in the attack on the Fort of Arabat. On the following day, he was under the boats of the Miranda and HMS Swallow, under the command of Lieutenant J.F.C. Mackenzie, and helped to set fire to 73 ships, and to the corn stores of Genitchi. Cecil Buckley's actions alongside Lieutenant Hugh Burgoyne and Gunner John Robarts saw all three men awarded the Victoria Cross for their gallantry.

Buckley would be involved in a similar action shortly after Genitchi, at Taganrog on 3rd June 1855, when with the Boatswain, Henry Cooper, he volunteered to take on the hazardous task of setting fire to the stores and equipment. Buckley would have the distinction of being the first Victoria Cross to be gazetted on 24th February 1857, though Charles Davis Lucas has the distinction of being the first by date of action. Buckley was the first of nine VC's awarded for actions in the Sea of Azoff.



# VICTORIA CROSS TRUST

ST PETER'S  
CHURCH,  
LECKHAMPTON,  
GLOUCS

<https://victoriacrosstrust.org/>



Before



After

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# VICTORIA CROSS TRUST

ST PETER'S  
CHURCH,  
LECKHAMPTON,  
GLOUCS

<https://victoriacrosstrust.org/>



On 26th August 1914 at Le Cateau, France, Captain Douglas Reynolds took up two teams with volunteer drivers, to recapture two British guns and limbered up two guns under heavy artillery and infantry fire. Although the enemy was within 100 yards he managed, with the help of two drivers (Job Henry Charles Drain and Frederick Luke), to get one gun away safely.

Tragically, the month before his son's birth, Douglas was knocked out by a gas shell and was appearing to be recovering from its effects. He decided to stay with his Battery, but subsequently he contracted septicaemia at No 1 Red Cross Hospital (Duchess of Westminster's Hospital), Le Touquet, where he died on 23rd February 1916. He was buried in Etaples Military Cemetery, France.



Before



After

[https://victoriacrossonline.co.uk/?page\\_id=13120](https://victoriacrossonline.co.uk/?page_id=13120)