

Victoria Cross Online



Issue 25 October 2024

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to the 25th edition of Victoria Cross Online Magazine. The feature article this month is courtesy again of Richard Pursehouse (who kindly has given two articles this month) and details the life of John "Jack" Baskeyfield VC. Later in the issue, Richard writes about the life of Thomas Hughes VC.

There is of course, the next four instalments in my series on the Medical VCs – this month sees the stories of Francis Scrimgour VC, John Green VC, John Sinton VC and William Barnsley Allen VC.

There is also another update from the extremely busy Victoria Cross Trust with their two grave restorations in North Yorkshire of the graves of Tom Dresser VC and Richard Sandford VC.



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Baskeyfield VC

By Richard Pursehouse and Ben Cunliffe



There were five Victoria Crosses awarded for the airborne landings at Arnhem 80 years ago (September 1944), of which four were awarded posthumously.

John Baskeyfield, of Burslem, was part of the South Staffordshire Regiment who fought at Arnhem, which was the only battalion that had two Victoria Crosses awarded for one engagement during the Second World War.

The son of Minnie and Daniel Baskeyfield (a pottery worker at Burslem's Price Brothers Potters, Longport), John Baskeyfield – Jack to everyone that knew him – was born at 69 Commercial Road, Burslem. He had two sisters (Vera and Gladys) and two brothers (George and Ray).

He was educated at St John Day School in Burslem and Cobridge Church Day School (where he was a choirboy), and later attended night school.

He left school aged 14 and was taken on as an errand/delivery boy at the Co-Operative butcher's shop on Newport Lane, Middleport, and worked at other branches in Goldenhill and Porthill as a butchery cutter.

In February 1942, John joined up (in Shrewsbury) and was accepted in the North Staffordshire Regiment, and was sent to 20 Infantry Training Centre.

He transferred to the 11th South Staffordshire Regiment on June 30, 1942, and on February 8, 1943, his request for a further transfer to the 2nd Battalion South Staffords was agreed.

Baskeyfield VC

By Richard Pursehouse and Ben Cunliffe



Burslem War Memorial

www.memorialstovalour.co.uk

Baskeyfield VC

By Richard Pursehouse and Ben Cunliffe

He wanted to transfer because it had become an 'airborne' unit (he, like many other officers and soldiers, believed the airborne to be the bravest and toughest soldiers) and he first went overseas in May 1943, taking part in the North Africa air landings.

During an airlift to Sicily, his glider, of which he was second-in-command, crashed into the sea having been released prematurely (like many other gliders) and he spent eight-and-a-half hours in the water before being rescued by a naval launch. He subsequently served in Italy.

He was promoted to Lance-Corporal on January 5, 1944, to Corporal on June 30, 1944, and finally to Lance-Serjeant in July 1944.

Recognising that airborne troops lacked the defensive power to take on German armour, anti-tank guns such as the British six-pounder, were incorporated in the planning for airborne landings.

At the end of July 1944, the 2nd Battalion South Staffords anti-tank team entered a gunnery competition, with Baskeyfield's crew coming first (a score of 72 out of a possible 90).

Baskeyfield and his gun crew were in the air landings at Arnhem (Operation 'Market') on 19 September 1944.

Lance-Serjeant John Baskeyfield's gallant stand against German tanks and self-propelled guns, which cost him his life, was sketched at the time by The Illustrated London News's special war artist, Bryan de Grineau.

When correspondents were reporting the fighting in the Falklands and the Gulf, British families had only to turn on their television sets to see the action from the comfort of their own sitting rooms.

Baskeyfield VC

By Richard Pursehouse and Ben Cunliffe



The battle for Europe was very different. Armed only with a sketchpad, artists working for The Illustrated London News were in the front line.

It was their dangerous mission to create the pictures which were to bring vividly to life incidents whose heroism and drama would otherwise have faded with the clipped tones of the BBC announcers who reported on the fighting.

The drawing by de Grineau is a lasting tribute to Lance-Serjeant John Daniel Baskeyfield, whose South Staffordshire Regiment was part of the 1st Airborne Division. It shows him moments before he lost his life. The drawing was so impressive, artist Terence Cuneo was commissioned in 1970 by the Staffordshire Regimental Association to enhance the monochrome sketch into a colour painting, and it went on a tour of Europe (including in Berlin), and eventually was hung in the regimental mess and travelled with the regiment.

Baskeyfield VC

By Richard Pursehouse and Ben Cunliffe

The morning after landing, the anti-tank teams, including Baskeyfield and infantry, began to advance towards the main objective of the landings – to capture intact the bridge at Arnhem.

Baskeyfield was in charge of a six-pounder field gun at Oosterbeek (to the west of Arnhem on the Lower Rhine), which three days after the initial landings was within a British perimeter shrinking before overwhelming attacks from heavy German armoury.

The other two gun crew commanders were Corporal William Wade and Corporal Len Hutton. The anti-tank group commander was Captain Geoffrey Calvin Woodward (from Abingdon).

As German opposition stiffened and enemy counter-attacks grew in strength, defensive positions were set up in Oosterbeek by the infantry and the six-pounder teams near the railway close to the junction of Acacialaan and Beneden Dorpsweg roads.

Around mid-morning, an order was received to withdraw the infantry into the Van Hofwegen laundry, the move led by South Staffords officers Major Cain (later also to receive the Victoria Cross, the only one not awarded posthumously) and Major John “Jock” Stuart Aitchison Buchanan (from Edinburgh, the officer commanding Support Company). Buchanan escaped across the river, and would be awarded the D.S.O.

The anti-tank guns were positioned with a good field of fire to oppose the anticipated German advance, which began just before noon.

Baskeyfield realised he was faced by forces gathering for an all-out attack upon his sector, with German infantry supported by both tanks and self-propelled guns advancing along Benedendorpsweg.

Baskeyfield VC

By Richard Pursehouse and Ben Cunliffe



Scene of Action (www.memorialstovalor.co.uk)

It was their intention to pierce the necessarily makeshift defences as a preliminary to over-running the battalion positions.

As the onslaught developed that afternoon, Baskeyfield's crew destroyed at least one self-propelled gun. Their weapon was relatively light in the context of the battle, but he tried to ensure killing first-time hits by allowing the enemy tanks, with their rapid-fire cannon, to come within 100 yards of his position.

One by one, his crew were killed or badly hurt, and Baskeyfield received a crippling wound to his right leg. But he realised he had been fighting only a preliminary action, and refused to be carried to the Regimental Aid Post.

Baskeyfield VC

By Richard Pursehouse and Ben Cunliffe

Instead, he propped himself up to check that his gun could still be fired, and shouted vital encouragement to men in neighbouring trenches, stiffening their resolve.

As he had expected, the enemy renewed the attack with even greater ferocity, this time under a lethal steel curtain of 'rolling' mortar fire.

Behind the scant cover of the battered gun shield, he was by now quite alone, and fought with the gun single-handed as he fired round after round at the advancing Germans.

The VC citation confirms: "By this time, his activity was the main factor in keeping the enemy tanks at bay. The fact that the surviving men in his vicinity were held together and kept in action was undoubtedly due to his magnificent example and outstanding courage. Time after time, enemy attacks were launched and driven off."

Inevitably, his gun was eventually knocked out. Although the wreckage was still the focus of intense fire, he dragged himself to another location, where a neighbouring six-pounder which had been covering Benedendorpsweg was surrounded by the bodies of its crew, including its commander Lance-Serjeant Mansell.

With a Sturmgeschütze III (a German self-propelled tank) bearing down upon him, he carried out desperate checks to discover that the field gun could still fire.

Another soldier tried to reach him to help, but as The Illustrated London News picture shows, as he crawled across the road he was cut down when he was just six yards away. By then weak from loss of blood, Baskeyfield managed to lift two rounds into the breach, hitting one Tiger tank (possibly two) and he reloaded and fired, which stopped two self-propelled guns of Sturmgeschütze Brigade 280 in their tracks.

Baskeyfield VC

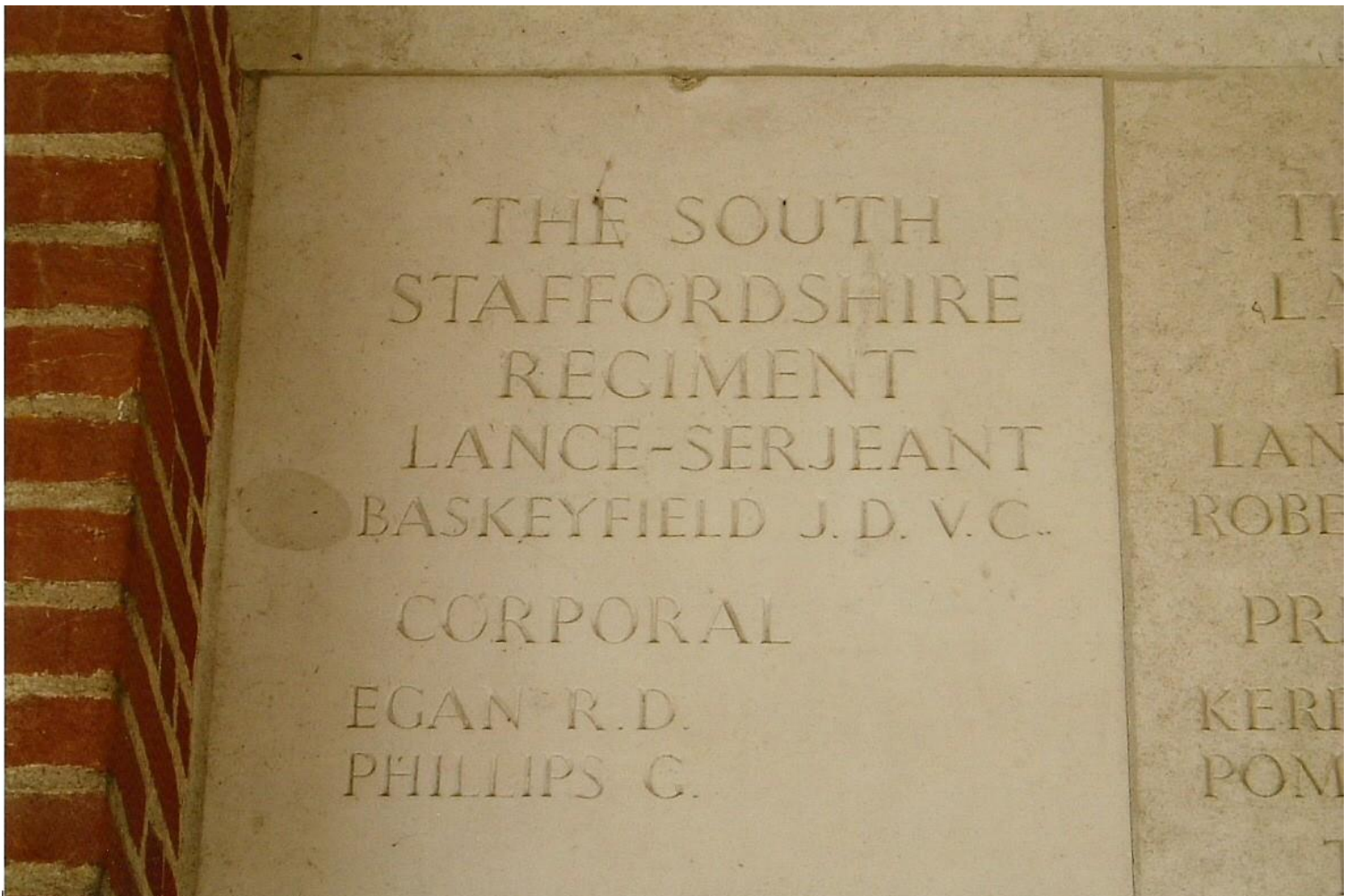
By Richard Pursehouse and Ben Cunliffe

been moving up to support the German self-propelled gun.

The German attack petered out. What remained of his body lay near his destroyed anti-tank gun for the rest of the fighting.

The fighting spirit of Baskeyfield's courage helped to sustain many other soldiers in the bitter battles still to come.

His body was never found, although Corporal Raymond Cornby, who as a prisoner of war was ordered by the Germans to collect and bury the dead, had reported after the war he had found and buried a headless body near the gun position. Jack Baskeyfield is commemorated on the Groesbeek Memorial to the Missing.



Groesbeek Memorial

www.memorialstovalour.co.uk

Baskeyfield VC

By Richard Pursehouse and Ben Cunliffe

The London Gazette

Of TUESDAY, the 21st of NOVEMBER, 1944

Published by Authority

Registered as a newspaper

THURSDAY, 23 NOVEMBER, 1944

War Office, 23rd November, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the posthumous award of the VICTORIA CROSS to:—

No. 5057916 Lance-Sergeant John Daniel Baskeyfield, The South Staffordshire Regiment (1st Airborne Division) (Stoke-on-Trent).

On 20th September, 1944, during the battle of Arnhem, Lance-Sergeant Baskeyfield was the N.C.O. in charge of a 6-pounder anti-tank gun at Oosterbeek. The enemy developed a major attack on this sector with infantry, tanks and self-propelled guns with the obvious intent to break into and overrun the Battalion position. During the early stage of the action the crew commanded by this N.C.O. was responsible for the destruction of two Tiger tanks and at least one self-propelled gun, thanks to the coolness and daring of this N.C.O., who, with complete disregard for his own safety, allowed each tank to come well within 100 yards of his gun before opening fire.

In the course of this preliminary engagement Lance-Sergeant Baskeyfield was badly wounded in the leg and the remainder of his crew were either killed or badly wounded. During the brief respite after this engagement Lance-Sergeant Baskeyfield refused to be carried to the Regimental Aid Post and spent his time attending to his gun and shouting encouragement to his comrades in neighbouring trenches.

After a short interval the enemy renewed the attack with even greater ferocity than before, under cover of intense mortar and shell fire. Manning his gun quite alone Lance-Sergeant Baskeyfield continued to fire round after round at the enemy until his gun was put out of action. By this time his activity was the main factor in keeping the enemy tanks at bay. The fact that the surviving men in his vicinity were held together and kept in action was undoubtedly

due to his magnificent example and outstanding courage. Time after time enemy attacks were launched and driven off. Finally, when his gun was knocked out, Lance-Sergeant Baskeyfield crawled, under intense enemy fire, to another 6-pounder gun nearby, the crew of which had been killed, and proceeded to man it single-handed. With this gun he engaged an enemy self-propelled gun which was approaching to attack. Another soldier crawled across the open ground to assist him but was killed almost at once. Lance-Sergeant Baskeyfield succeeded in firing two rounds at the self-propelled gun, scoring one direct hit which rendered it ineffective. Whilst preparing to fire a third shot, however, he was killed by a shell from a supporting enemy tank.

The superb gallantry of this N.C.O. is beyond praise. During the remaining days at Arnhem stories of his valour were a constant inspiration to all ranks. He spurned danger, ignored pain and, by his supreme fighting spirit, infected all who witnessed his conduct with the same aggressiveness and dogged devotion to duty which characterised his actions throughout.

War Office, 23rd November, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the following awards in recognition of gallant and distinguished services in the field:—

The Distinguished Service Order.

Temporary Major (acting temporary Lieutenant-Colonel) Robert Woodall Sankey, D.S.C., Royal Marines.

The Military Cross.

Lieutenant Donald George MacNab, D.C.M. (2124), New Zealand Military Forces.

Government House, Canberra.

23rd November, 1944.

The KING has been graciously pleased to approve the publication of the name of the undermentioned as having been commended for brave conduct:—

Australian Military Forces.

NX. 17606 Sergt. R. H. Best.

Baskeyfield VC

By Richard Pursehouse and Ben Cunliffe

His Victoria Cross citation was published in the London Gazette and states:
“The superb gallantry of this NCO is beyond praise.

“He spurned danger, ignored pain, and by his supreme fighting spirit infected all who witnessed his conduct with the same aggressiveness and dogged devotion to duty which characterised his actions throughout.”

Not bad for an always-smiling, fair-haired butcher from Burslem, who stood less than 5ft 7ins tall.

In September 1946 the Staffordshire Sentinel described the plans for the first pilgrimage to Arnhem of survivors and relatives of those who had fought at Arnhem two years previously.

‘All food in Holland is strictly rationed, but the people of Arnhem with whom the pilgrims will be billeted, have been making small savings for several weeks order to feed them. Many of these people will be hosts to airborne men who two years ago turned their houses into fortresses.

‘The party of pilgrims includes 100 relatives of the airborne dead, and 60 past and present members the airborne forces who took part in the operation. It is the first post-war pilgrimage of its kind. Among the relatives are Mr. and Mrs. Baskeyfield, of Tunstall, Staffordshire, whose son, Sergeant John Daniel Baskeyfield, won the V.C. at Arnhem on September 20, 1944. The Airborne Forces Security Fund is paying Mr. and Mrs. Baskeyfield's expenses, for Mr. Baskeyfield is a sick man and without work. All travelling expenses in Holland will be met by the Dutch Government.

Baskeyfield VC

By Richard Pursehouse and Ben Cunliffe

The Anglican and Catholic services were held the Airborne Cemetery Oosterbeek on Tuesday morning were in English. There was a civic ceremony on the bridge over the Lower Rhine. The Netherlands Army was represented by an anti-aircraft regiment from Breda. On Wednesday the pilgrims were present at Schiphol, where a K.L.M. Constellation was named the City of Arnhem. The aircraft carried the arms of Arnhem and the badge of the 1st Airborne Division.

In 1969, The Staffordshire Regiments appeal for £1,600 to buy a Victoria Cross reached its target after only two weeks. Twenty-five years earlier a Post Office messenger delivered a telegram informing the parents a 21 years-old soldier that he had been posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

In September 1969, that messenger, Mr Ray Gardner, now a Post Office counter clerk at Stoke-on-Trent sent £5 towards a fund to save the medal for the Staffordshire Regimental Museum at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield.

In 1944, Mr. Gardner then 16, delivered the telegram to the parents of Lance Sergeant Baskeyfield in Carson Road, Stoke. "I remember the day as if it was yesterday" said Mr. Gardner of Porthill, Newcastle-under-Lyme, "The family did not appear to be distressed when I delivered it, but I only stayed a few minutes.

"I sent the donation because I believe the V.C. should be kept either by his regiment or his family. When I heard of the appeal it was the least I could do to help keep the VC with his old regiment."

The medal was bought from a London dealer and placed in the regimental museum at Whittington Barracks, Lichfield in October.

Baskeyfield VC

By Richard Pursehouse and Ben Cunliffe

The VC was awarded posthumously to L/Sgt. John Baskeyfield after the Battle of Arnhem and was part of a private collection. The dealer agreed to reserve it for the regiment until the money could be raised by public subscription.

Col. Hugh Cook, the museum curator, said: "The fact that we can buy it after the such a short time is a great tribute to the generosity of the Staffordshire people and we are very grateful."



Staffordshire Regiment Museum (Authors Collection)

Baskeyfield VC

By Richard Pursehouse and Ben Cunliffe



Baskeyfield VC

By Richard Pursehouse and Ben Cunliffe



The possible grave of Jack Baskeyfield VC in Arnhem Oosterbeek Cemetery
(Kevin Brazier)

Medical VCs

30. Francis Scrimger VC



Francis Alexander Carron Scrimger (1880-1937) was born on 8th February 1880 at Redpath Crescent, Montreal, Quebec. He was known as Frank, Scrim or Scrimy. His attestation paper records actually recorded his birth as 10th February 1881. His father was the Reverend John Scrimger, who was Pastor of Calvin Church, Montreal and lecturer in both Old and New Testament at the Presbyterian College. He was one of the leading clergymen in Canada and a strong advocate of Church Union. He was appointed Principal of the Presbyterian College in 1904. Frank's mother was Catherine Charlotte nee Gairdner and his parents married in Montreal in 1874.

Frank was educated at Montreal High School, McGill University Medical School in Montreal (BA 1901, MD 1905), and carried out postgraduate studies in Dresden, Vienna and Berlin. On 3rd March 1912 he joined the Canadian Army Medical Corps Militia and on 13th April, he was commissioned in the CAMC to serve with the Montreal Heavy Brigade, Canadian Garrison Artillery.

Medical VCs

30. Francis Scrimger VC



He attested into the Canadian Expeditionary Force on 9th August 1914 as a captain. On 22nd September 1914 he was appointed Medical Officer of 14th Battalion, CEF and went with it to Valcartier Camp. They left Quebec on SS Andania, arriving at Plymouth on 13th October. They trained on Salisbury Plain, before Frank was detached to No 1 Canadian General Hospital suffering from bronchopneumonia. The Battalion sailed for France on 10th February, but Frank remained in England until 12th April, when he went to France with No 1 Canadian General Hospital.

During the Second Battle of Ypres on 25th April 1915 at Saint-Julien, Belgium, Captain Scrimger was in charge of an advanced dressing station in a farmhouse near Wiltje on the St. Julien-Ypres Road. The advancing enemy were bombarding the area with an intense shelling. The German infantry were within sight. Scrimger directed the removal of the wounded under the heavy fire. Captain Scrimger and a badly wounded Captain Macdonald were the last men left at the station. Scrimger carried the wounded officer out of the farmhouse to the road. The bombardment of shell forced Scrimger to stop and place Macdonald on the road. Scrimger then protected him with his own body. During a lull in the gunfire Scrimger again carried Macdonald toward help. When he was unable to carry him any further, he remained with the wounded man until help could be obtained.

Medical VCs

30. Francis Scrimger VC

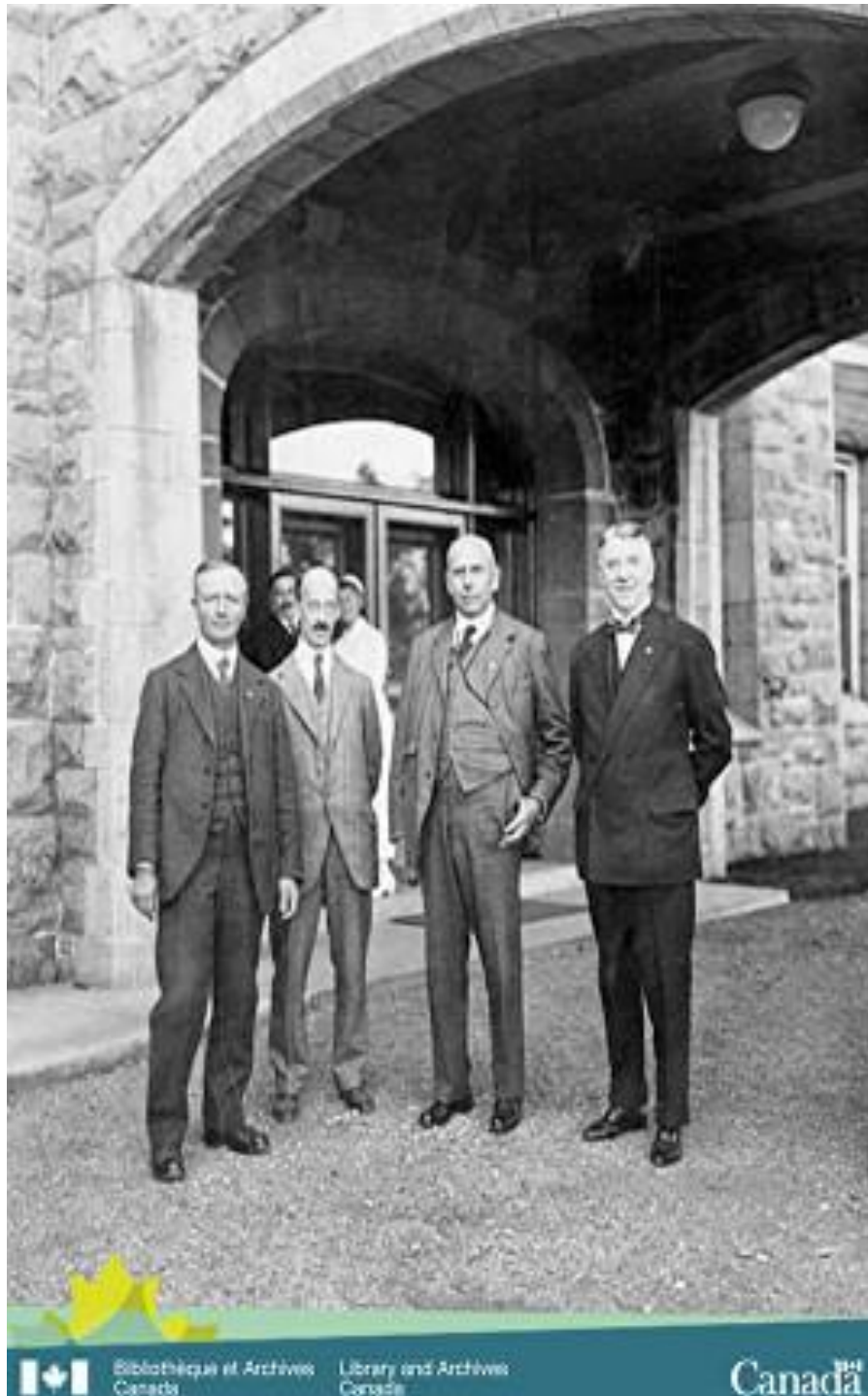
Frank received his VC from King George V at Windsor Castle on 21st July 1915. He was admitted to 1st Canadian Field Ambulance on 16th September with boils on his neck, and didn't return to the Battalion until the 5th October. On 31st December, he was posted to No 1 Canadian General Hospital, Etaples. While performing an operation there on 29th January 1916 the scalpel was knocked out of his hand by a patient. The wound to his hand became infected and he was admitted to No 6 British Red Cross Hospital at Etaples the following day. He was evacuated to England aboard HMHS Jan Breydel on 26th February 1916, and he had to have his finger amputated and it was feared that he may lose an arm.

In July 1916, he was fit enough to join the staff of Granville Canadian Special Hospital and held a number of positions before promotion to Temporary Major on 5th December. On March 1st 1917, Frank returned to France to serve with No 3 Canadian Casualty Clearing Station at Remy Siding, Lijssenthoek. During the German Spring Offensive, he led a team to reinforce No 50 Casualty Clearing Station at Roye on 21st March 1918. Frank spent the rest of the war with the No 3 Canadian Clearing Station, having had to be evacuated from Roye.

In September 1918, whilst on leave, Frank got married. He was posted to No 3 Canadian General Hospital in Boulogne from 3rd October, and was appointed acting Lieutenant Colonel to command the hospital. This was the same hospital commanded earlier that year by John McCrae (In Flanders Field). During the influenza epidemic which soon broke out, Frank was extremely busy, and even fell ill himself. After a spell back in England, he sailed for Canada aboard SS Baltic on 29th April 1919, and was demobilised a month later.

Medical VCs

30. Francis Scrimger VC



Medical VCs

30. Francis Scrimger VC

Frank's wife was Nursing Sister Ellen Emerson Carpentier, who he met at the No 3 Canadian Clearing Station at Remy Siding. She was mentioned in despatches in April 1918. They had four children, Jean Ligny born in 1919, Alexander Carron born in 1921, Charlotte Anna born in 1925 and Elizabeth Ellen born in 1929. From January 1919 until 1931, he was Assistant Surgeon at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal. He was also appointed Director of the Department of Experimental Medicine in 1919, researching Paget's Disease and the treatment of intractable ulcers. He joined the staff of McGill University as a lecturer in Clinical Surgery. He qualified as a Master of Surgery, and became a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a Member of the Association of Surgeons of America in 1930.

Frank died of a heart attack at his home in Montreal on 13th February 1937 and was buried in the family plot in Mount Royal Cemetery, Montreal. In addition to his VC, he was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal 1914-20 and Victory Medal 1914-19. His grandson, Dr John Charles Scrimger Wooton, presented his medals to the Canadian War Museum, Ottawa in October 2005. The 1914-15 Star is missing from the group.



Medical VCs

30. Francis Scrimger VC



Courtesy of Bill Mullen

Medical VCs

30. Francis Scrimger VC



www.victoriacrossonline.co.uk/francis-alexander-carron-scrimger-vc/

Courtesy of Canadian War Museum

Medical VCs

31. John Leslie Green VC



John Leslie Green (1888-1916) was born at "Coneygarths", High Street, Buckden, near St Neot's, Huntingdonshire on 4th December 1888. He was known as Leslie as to avoid confusion with his father, John George Green BA JP, a farmer of 165 acres. He was commissioned into the Huntingdonshire Militia in 1879 and promoted to Lieutenant in 1880. He was promoted to Captain in 1886 in the 5th King's Royal Rifle Corps (Militia), and resigned his commission in 1895. Leslie's mother was Florence May nee Toussaint, who was born in the Punjab, India in 1863. His parents married on 24th November 1886 in St Stephen's, Twickenham. Leslie had five siblings, though three died in infancy, leaving Dora Margaret and Edward Alan as his surviving siblings. Sadly, Edward would be killed in action on 13th October 1915.

Leslie was educated at St Catherine's School, Haslewood Avenue, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire before attending Felsted School in Essex from 1902-1906. He gained a scholarship to Downing College, Cambridge (BA Natural Science 1910) and went on to train as a doctor at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London (MRCS & LRCP 1913). He became house surgeon at Huntingdon County Hospital and also went to West Africa as a surgeon on an Elder Dempster Line ship.

He was commissioned as Acting Lieutenant on 28th September 1914. He went to France on 2nd March 1915 and was attached successively to 1/5th South Staffordshire, 1/2nd North Midland Field Ambulance and 1/5th Sherwood Foresters, before being promoted to Captain on 1st April.

Medical VCs

31. John Leslie Green VC

Leslie married another doctor, Edith May Nesbitt nee Moss MB BS in London on New Years Day 1916. There were no children. She was a medical student at College Hall, Byng Place, London in 1911 and was on the staff of Nottingham hospital at the time of her husband's death. She would later marry an American man in 1919.

On 1st July 1916 at Foncquevillers, France, although himself wounded, he went to the assistance of an officer who had been wounded and was hung up on the enemy's wire entanglements, and succeeded in dragging him to a shell hole, where he dressed his wounds, notwithstanding that bombs and rifle grenades were thrown at him the whole time. Captain Green then endeavoured to bring the wounded officer into safe cover, and had nearly succeeded in doing so when he himself was killed.

He was buried in Foncquevillers Military Cemetery and his will was administered by his father at £234/2/6. The VC was presented to his widow by King George V at Buckingham Palace on 7th October 1916; it is believed it was the first presentation of a posthumous VC to a relative by a monarch rather be sent by post.

In addition to his VC, he was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal 1914-20, and Victory Medal 1914-19. His widow presented the medals to the Royal Army Medical Corps and they are held at the Museum of Military Medicine, Keogh Barracks, Mytchett, Surrey.

Capt. John Leslie Green, late R.A.M.C.

For most conspicuous devotion to duty.

Although himself wounded, he went to the assistance of an officer who had been wounded and was hung up on the enemy's wire entanglements, and succeeded in dragging him to a shell hole, where he dressed his wounds, notwithstanding that bombs and rifle grenades were thrown at him the whole time.

Captain Green then endeavoured to bring the wounded officer into safe cover, and had nearly succeeded in doing so when he was himself killed.

Medical VCs

31. John Leslie Green VC



Medical VCs

31. John Leslie Green VC



Medal group image courtesy of Thomas Stewart

<https://victoriacrossonline.co.uk/john-leslie-green-vc/>

Medical VCs

32. John Sinton VC



John Alexander Sinton (1884-1956) was born in Victoria, near Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada on 2nd December 1884, he was nevertheless an Ulsterman through his parents, Walter Lyon Sinton, from a Quaker linen manufacturing family, and Isabella, of the Pringle family of Derrymore House estate, near Bessbrook, County Armagh (which in 1859 had been bought and developed by John Grubb Richardson, member of the prominent Quaker linen-manufacturing family, whose relatives included his nephew Henry Barcroft, and great-nephew Sir Joseph Barcroft). John Sinton's parents were married in the Bessbrook Friends Meeting House in 1880.

The family moved back to Ulster in 1890, where John attended the Nicholson Memorial School, Lisburn, followed by the Royal Belfast Academical Institution, 1899-1902. While at school in Belfast John lived with his mother at Woodvale, in the west of the city. He then attended Queen's College, Belfast (the direct forerunner of Queen's University, Belfast but then still a recognised College of the Royal University of Ireland) and graduated MB, BCh, BAO with first class honours in Medicine, second class honours (first place) with exhibition in Surgery and first class honours with exhibition in Midwifery and Gynaecology. He took various medical posts in Belfast and also obtained the Diploma in Public Health, Belfast in 1910 and later the same year, the Diploma in Public Health of Cambridge, followed by the Diploma in Tropical Medicine (Liverpool) in 1911. He was first in the entrance examination for the Indian Medical Service and was gazetted lieutenant in the military branch of that Service on 29 July 1911.

Medical VCs

32. John Sinton VC

On arrival in India, Sinton was appointed Regimental Medical Officer to the 31st Duke of Connaught's Own Lancers, based at Kohat in North West Frontier Province, and was also in charge of the Brigade Laboratory. In the period before the First World War he published a number of papers on cholera treatment, eosinophilia (a kind of white blood cell disorder) in helminth (parasitic worm) infections, and the culture of malaria parasites.



In October 1915 he was posted as Regimental Medical Officer to the 37th Dogra Regiment which took part in the unsuccessful Mesopotamian campaign in southern Iraq, in very inhospitable territory (described by contemporary soldiers as “two ruddy long rivers [the Tigris and Euphrates] surrounded by miles of Sweet Fanny Adams”), with extremes of temperature and other conditions which could lead to greater casualties from disease than from battle.

During fierce fighting in January 1916, the battle of Shaikh Saad, the 37th Dogra Regiment lost one British officer killed, three British and four Indian officers wounded, including Sinton, and 240 casualties in other ranks including 32 killed. Although shot through both arms and through the side, he refused to go to hospital, and remained as long as daylight lasted, attending to his duties under very heavy fire. In three previous actions Captain Sinton displayed the utmost bravery.

Medical VCs

32. John Sinton VC



Painting of Capt. Sinton attending a wounded soldier at Drah Kurna, Mesopotamia
The original is in the Army Medical Services Museum, Aldershot, England

He also was successful in controlling an outbreak of cholera, with a rigorous regimen of inoculations and other precautions. Mentioned in despatches four times, he was awarded the Russian Order of St George.

After a period of invalid leave, he returned to service commanding Cavalry Field Ambulances. From August 1918 until April 1919 he was Senior Medical Officer, Turkistan Military Mission, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel. The same year Queen's University awarded him the honorary degree of MD for his academic distinctions and in recognition of his war service record.

Medical VCs

32. John Sinton VC

In 1921-1936 he was attached to the Pasteur Institute of India based at Kasauli, a hill station near Simla, north-west India. He was soon transferred from there to become Director of the Malaria Survey of India, also based at Kasauli. During his time there he published (some as co-author) over 200 scientific papers on malariology, chemotherapy (he replaced, after large-scale trials, the unpleasant quinine treatment with a new drug, Plasmoquine), parasitology, immunology, laboratory and survey techniques and especially, 36 papers on Indian species of *Phlebotomus* (a genus of sandfly which carries leishmaniasis or kala-azar) on which he was the leading authority. He retired in 1936, having established for himself a reputation of international standing.

During the Second World War Sinton was appointed malariologist to the East Africa Force in 1940, in 1941 being transferred to the Middle East Command in the same rôle. He briefly retired again with the rank of Honorary Brigadier in 1943 but only for two weeks; he was re-employed by the War Office as a consultant malariologist to advise on malaria treatment in Assam, Burma, India, Ceylon, Australia, New Guinea, the Moluccas and the Solomon Islands.

Sinton retired yet again at the end of the War, and redirected his life. First, he settled in Northern Ireland, buying a house near Cookstown, County Tyrone. Further, instead of continuing his scientific work, he busied himself with more civic and public affairs, particularly at Queen's University. He was appointed to the Senate in 1948, Pro-Chancellor in 1952, President of the Queen's University Association in 1953 and President of the Queen's University Services Club. He held senior office in the Belfast Old Instonians Association (the organisation of former pupils of his old school, the Royal Belfast Academical Institution), was a Justice of the Peace, High Sheriff for County Tyrone in 1953 and Deputy Lieutenant in 1954. Queen's University named a Hall of Residence in their Queen's Elms student complex after him.

Medical VCs

32. John Sinton VC

War Office,

21st June, 1916.

His Majesty the KING has been graciously pleased to award the Victoria Cross to the undermentioned Officer and Man:—

Capt. John Alexander Sinton, M.B., Ind. Med. Serv.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty. Although shot through both arms and through the side, he refused to go to the hospital, and remained, as long as daylight lasted, attending to his duties under very heavy fire.

In three previous actions Capt. Sinton displayed the utmost bravery.

Medical VCs

32. John Sinton VC

His long list of honours and distinctions is headed by his election as Fellow of the Royal Society in 1946, which was largely for his outstanding work on malaria and leishmaniasis. In 1946 he was Robert Campbell Orator and Medallist of the Ulster Medical Society. Queen's University awarded him a DSc in 1927, and he was awarded the Chalmers Memorial Medal of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene 1929, and their highest award, the Manson Medal, just days before his death – it was presented to his widow later in the year. The Egyptian Government awarded him their Anti-Gambia Memorial Medal in 1950 for his services in a malaria epidemic in 1950. He was made an Honorary Member of the National Malaria Society of the United States in 1930, from 1937 until 1946 he was a member of the Malaria Commission of the League of Nations and from 1943 until 1946 a member of the Malaria Commission of the Medical Research Council.

John Alexander Sinton died at his home near Cookstown on 25th March 1956 and was buried with full military honours at Claggan Presbyterian cemetery in Cookstown. Sinton's large medal group is held by the Museum of Military Medicine currently at Keogh Barracks, Mytchett, Surrey



Medical VCs

32. John Sinton VC



Medal Group courtesy of Thomas Stewart

Medical VCs

32. John Sinton VC



Medical VCs

33. William Barnsley Allen VC DSO MC*



William Barnsley Allen (1892-1933) was born at 14 Botanical Road, Ecclesall, Sheffield, Yorkshire on 8th June 1892. His father, Percy Edwin Allen, was a steel merchant's clerk and later a silversmith manager.

His mother was Edith nee Barnsley (hence William's middle name) and they married in 1889 and lived for a time in Scarborough before moving to Ecclesall. William had two sisters, Edith Dorothy born in 1890 and Barbara born in 1896. By 1901, the family were living in Worksop, Nottinghamshire.

William was educated at St Cuthbert's College, Nottinghamshire from 1902-1909 and was a member of Mountgarrett House, then Mason House. He attended Sheffield Medical School, graduating in June 1914 (MB & ChB), having been awarded the University Gold Medal for Pathology 1913, the Kaye Scholarship for the highest marks in physiology and anatomy and three Bronze Medals for academic distinction. He was also a member of Sheffield University Officer Training Corps from 1911.

William became a junior house doctor at the Royal Hospital in Sheffield in June 1914 and was commissioned in 3rd West Riding Field Ambulance RAMC as a Lieutenant on 8th August 1914. He was promoted to Captain on 1st April 1915 and went to France on 15th April, attached to 246th (West Riding) Brigade Royal Field Artillery.

Medical VCs

33. William Barnsley Allen VC DSO MC*

William married Mary "Mollie" Young nee Mercer at the Wesleyan Chapel, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire on 16th May 1916. They had one daughter, Patricia Josephine Laura Allen, born on 30th April 1920. William was awarded the Military Cross (LG 26th September 1916) for his actions south of Thiepval, The Somme on 14th and 20th August 1916, when he went into no man's land under heavy shellfire to tend to a wounded artilleryman, repeating the procedure for others later.



Medical VCs

33. William Barnsley Allen

VC DSO MC*

On 3rd September 1916, near Mesnil, France, when gun detachments were unloading high explosive ammunition, the enemy suddenly began to shell the battery position. The first shell fell on one of the limbers, exploded the ammunition and caused several casualties. Captain Allen at once ran across under heavy shell fire and started attending to the wounded. He himself was hit four times by pieces of shell, but he went coolly on with his work until the last man had been attended to and removed. He then went to tend a wounded officer and only then reported his own injuries.

William was granted leave between 5th-12th October 1916, and on the 12th was examined by the medical board in Scarborough. He was suffering from bronchial catarrh and debility and declared unfit for duty for 7 days. On 18th October, a medical board at 3rd Northern General Hospital, Sheffield found him unfit for duty for three further weeks. William's Victoria Cross was gazetted on 26th October 1916.

The Victoria Cross and Military Cross were presented by King George V in Hyde Park on 2nd June 1917. He would then be awarded a Bar to his MC for his actions at Nieuport on 25th July 1917, when during an intense bombardment of a town with HE and gas he left the ADS to search for wounded. Hearing there were some wounded in a remote part of town he went there, collected them and supervised their removal to the Dressing Station. He was seriously gassed, but performed his duties until evacuated to the Casualty Clearing Station.

The gas affected his eyes and chest and a large abscess formed in the pectoralis major, which was operated on five times. He arrived in Britain from France on HMHS St Denis on 13th August and was sent to Swedish War Hospital, Paddington Street, London and then 3rd Northern General Hospital, Sheffield on 21st August. William was out of action until after Christmas 1917.

Medical VCs

33. William Barnsley Allen VC DSO MC*

Captain William Barnsley Allen, M.C.,
M.B., Royal Army Medical Corps.

For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty.

When gun detachments were unloading H.E. ammunition from wagons which had just come up, the enemy suddenly began to shell the battery position. The first shell fell on one of the limbers, exploded the ammunition and caused several casualties.

Captain Allen saw the occurrence and at once, with utter disregard of danger, ran straight across the open, under heavy shell fire, commenced dressing the wounded, and undoubtedly by his promptness saved many of them from bleeding to death.

He was himself hit four times during the first hour by pieces of shells, one of which fractured two of his ribs, but he never even mentioned this at the time, and coolly went on with his work till the last man was dressed and safely removed.

He then went over to another battery and tended a wounded officer. It was only when this was done that he returned to his dug-out and reported his own injury.

Medical VCs

33. William Barnsley Allen VC DSO MC*

He was appointed Acting Major on 4th January 1918, and returned to the front. He would be awarded the DSO for his actions on 11th-14th October 1918 with 1/3rd Field Ambulance west of Saulzoir on the River Selle line; he showed a high degree of fearless initiative in organising the collection of wounded under continuous hostile shellfire. By his untiring energy, inspiring example and contempt of danger he moved large numbers of helpless wounded from positions of danger before he was gassed. He was wounded again on 17th October, and returned to Britain.

He was transferred to a regular commission as a Captain on 1st December 1918, and became Acting Major on 11th July 1919. He then served in Rawalpindi on the staff of the Prince of Wales and Duke of Connaught. From January 1923 he was in Aden until discharged on 26th September 1923, suffering from malaria and dysentery and granted rank of Major.

In civilian life, he went into practice with Dr Louis Aimee Newton MRCS LRCP in Hounslow, Middlesex. The partnership ended in 1931 and William continued on his own. Sadly, William's marriage was failing, and Mollie sued for divorce on the grounds of William's adultery with several women. Mollie was granted custody of their daughter, and when the divorce was granted, she married William Wilson in York in 1926. William had also re-married in 1925 to a florist, Gertrude Craggs, at St Margaret's Registry Office, The Strand.

William suffered bouts of ill health in later life which affected his behaviour and personality. In July 1932, he crashed his car into a ditch and was charged with drink driving. He was fined £1 and his licence was suspended for five years. In his defence in court, he stated he "had suffered as no other man in England had suffered."

Medical VCs

33. William Barnsley Allen VC DSO MC*

His war wounds plagued him constantly and he took to drink and drugs to obtain relief. On 27th August 1933, he telephoned Dr Sadler to come to see him at his home Perley's Marsh", Bracklesham Bay, Sussex. William died within half an hour of the doctor's arrival and had been taking various drugs. Death was certified as an overdose. An inquest at Chichester on 28th August recorded a verdict of misadventure. He was buried in Earnley Cemetery, Bracklesham. He left over £4,500 in his will to his widow.

In addition to his VC, DSO and MC & Bar, he was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal 1914-20 and Victory Medal 1914-19 with Mentioned in Despatches oakleaf. His VC is held by the Museum of Military Medicine, Keogh Barracks, Mytchett, Surrey.



Grave
Image
courtesy of
Kevin
Brazier

Medical VCs

33. William Barnsley Allen VC DSO MC*



Medal Group courtesy of Thomas Stewart

<https://victoriacrossonline.co.uk/william-barnsley-allen-vc-dso-mc/>

Thomas Hughes VC

By Richard Pursehouse



Thomas Hughes VC

By Richard Pursehouse

Thomas Hughes left his native Ireland in 1910 to seek a different life, and found employment as a stable hand over Hednesford Hills, near Cannock, Staffordshire under the mentor and racehorse trainer Lawrence Rooney. He worked for Rooney for two years, and afterwards for the McGowan's stables at East Cannock. Known to everyone as "Irish Tommy", Hughes would join the elite band of brothers numbering 627 awarded the Victoria Cross during the Great War.

When war was declared in August 1914, Hughes was employed at the Cannock and Rugeley Colliery Company's Wharf at East Cannock and in November 1914 he volunteered at Hednesford drill hall, eventually joining the 3rd (Reserve) Battalion of the Connaught Rangers and subsequently transferred within the regiment to the 1/6th (Service) Battalion, which was part of the 47th Brigade of the 16th (Irish) Division. After spending several months training, Hughes's battalion arrived on the Western Front, and was sent into action on the Somme in September 1916.



Thomas Hughes VC

By Richard Pursehouse

The Cannock Chase Courier dated 11 November 1916 covered the story of the 33rd Victoria Cross awarded during the Somme fighting at Guillemont, France:

A HEDNESFORD HERO V.C. OF THE CONNAUGHT RANGERS

"For most conspicuous bravery and determination. He was wounded in an attack but returned at once to the firing line, after having his wound dressed. Later, seeing a hostile machine gun, he dashed out in front of his company. He shot the gunner, and single handed captured the gun. Though again wounded he brought back three or four prisoners."

'That is the official record of a young jockey, who trained horses on Hednesford Hills. A place that has been a celebrated training ground for generations. Possibly, while in France the winner of the V.C. often thought of the stables of Mr Rooney, and the exhilarating canters he had enjoyed on the Hills.

'Private Thomas Hughes was born at Coravoo, five miles from Castleblayney, County Monaghan. Probably of a roving disposition, the boy found employment at the Curragh, or some other stable in Ireland, and eventually, still adhering to his determination to be a jockey or connected with racing, and Irish lads are fond of sport, he joined the stables of Mr Rooney who then had a rather lengthy string of stables, at Hednesford. Until Mr Rooney moved in 1914 to become the private trainer of Mr Reid Walker at Stanton, Shifnal, in Shropshire, Private Hughes remained with him but he would not leave the Chase, and he afterwards undertook, perhaps, less contented work on the wharf of the Cannock and Rugeley Colliery.

Thomas Hughes VC

By Richard Pursehouse

'He was a devout Catholic, and regularly attended the services at St. Joseph's, Hill Top and the resilient Priest greatly liked the lad for he was of a quiet respectful demeanour. Hence, probably, there sprang up between the Rev. P. Boyle and T. Hughes a great attachment. Both of them were at the annual function at the Drill Hall, Hednesford, in 1914, and a few days afterwards he joined, to fight for King and Country. The Huns were then on the offensive, and every man was required. What better men than the Irishmen could be found and the Connaught Rangers, which Private T. Hughes joined, have names of big engagements on their colours? The Connaught Rangers figure in a leading position in a fighting race. The Connaughts were sent across the water early and Private T. Hughes followed to fill up the gaps that had been made by the 'apostles of Kultur' on the fields of Flanders. It is seen to be reminded that despite the trouble in Dublin and some parts of Ireland there are men who when properly handled are of a race that non can excel as a fighting force. The Connaught Rangers cared little for the agitators in the Emerald isle. They knew their duty, and they accomplished it, and Pte. T. Hughes was one of the Rangers. It is not necessary to enter into further particulars. The official record, although brief, conveys all that is necessary. A man formerly employed on the Hednesford Hills, and later at the Cannock and Rugeley wharf has secured a distinction more to be desired than any owner of a horse that won the blue ribbon of the turf. He was fighting for his country, and "Who dies if England lives"

Thomas Hughes VC

By Richard Pursehouse

‘And in this connection Ireland is included. The stable lad is at Netley hospital, a palatial place on the bank of the Southampton water where many onsets have found comfortable quarters after their heroic efforts. It is fortunate that they are recovering from their wounds received in the defence of the old Country, for Britain can ill afford to spare such heroic qualities.

‘As in the days of old, when a veteran returned to his home, he had a hearty reception; so, too, must Pte T. Hughes, if he returned to Hednesford, which it is stated he will do bye and bye. None will be more cordially welcome him than will the Chairman of the Urban District Council, and other residents of the capital of the Chase Mining District, while Father Boyle will also welcome one of the first in the Catholic Diocese, who won such a distinction by bravery. But then it was always thus: when the difficulty arose, the men were sent there to confront it; that is if the conflict was for truth, justice, and righteousness.’

At a ceremony in Hyde Park on 2 June 1917 Hughes, still on his crutches due to his wounds, was presented his Victoria Cross by King George V. He was discharged as no longer fit for war service on 12 February 1918, and a few months later he was invited back to Cannock Chase to boost attendance at Hednesford and Cannock War Weapons Week in July 1918. During a ceremony presided over by his friend Reverend P. J. Boyle at Anglesey Lawns, Hednesford, he was again presented his Victoria Cross by Colonel R. S. Williamson, along with a locally funded ‘appreciation’ (no details are available, but sometimes this could be War Bonds, cash, a watch or a framed ‘illustrated address’).

Thomas Hughes VC

By Richard Pursehouse

HEDNESFORD'S V.C. & WAR WEAPONS WEEK.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE PUBLIC PRESENTATION TO PRIVATE TOM HUGHES V.C.

Will, in conjunction with the Hednesford and District War Weapons Week, take place
On the Anglesey Lawn, on Thursday Next, July 11th,
at 6-30 p.m.

The REV. P. J. BOYLE, (Chairman), will open the joint proceedings, and
Col. R. S. WILLIAMSON, Will make the Presentation,
And deliver an Address.

MRS. HUGHES, (President of the Ladies' Committee) and MR. GEORGE WATWOOD,
Will also speak.

CITIZENS OF HEDNESFORD !

Let your presence on this historic occasion show that you are proud of the great
soldier who, by his valour, has won for your town and district the premier honour
of the British Battlefield, and of the Empire.

Signed on behalf of the Presentation Committee :

P. J. BOYLE, Chairman.
G. T. GREEN, Treasurer.
G. WATWOOD, Secretary.

CANNOCK, HEDNESFORD & DISTRICT WAR WEAPONS WEEK.

JULY 6 to 13,

CANNOCK AREA.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WEEK.

OFFICIAL OPENING ON MONDAY, AT 6 O'CLOCK, MARKET PLACE,
BY

Brigadier General GREASY, D.S.O.

SUPPORTED BY Capt. G. A. LLOYD, M.P.,

Lieut. Col. H. S. STAVELEY HILL, M.P., and Other Gentlemen.
S. M. SLATER, Esq., (Mayor of Walsall), Will speak ON TUESDAY EVENING.

MILITARY BANDS Will be in attendance on the BAND STAND Each Evening during week.

6-15 MONDAY & SATURDAY, 7 O'clock other Nights.

SELLING CENTRES :-

CANNOCK :- LABOUR EXCHANGE, LOCAL BANKS & POST OFFICE.-

Open 10 o'clock a.m., until 9 o'clock p.m.

BRIDGTOWN, HUNTINGTON, CHE. LYN HAY, GREAT WYRLEY, LANDYWOOD, AL
POST OFFICES. Open until 9 o'clock. SHARPSHILL IN SCHOOL ROOM.

GRAND PRIZE SCHEME.

£100 IN THREE SECTIONS.

Section 1.—A Special Prize Scheme for School Children for Certificates Bought
through the Schools. £25 will be allocated to this section.

Section 2.—One Chance for every Certificate bought, Maximum Chances 100.

Section 3.—War Bonds.—One Chance in every £20, or fraction of £20 up to maxi-
mum 25 chances.

Prizes will be in either War Bonds or Certificates.

Thomas Hughes VC

By Richard Pursehouse

Streamers and flags were put up around Anglesey Lawn, and investors proceeded to the 'Selling Centre' in Market Hall to invest in the War Savings Certificates and War Bonds.

Eventually Hughes returned to Ireland, where he helped run the family farm in his home town with his sister Annie and her son Michael. The people of Castleblayney collected a sum of money, and he purchased the hill farm near Castleblayney. After Home Rule in 1921, with Ireland becoming divided along religious lines, Thomas Hughes struggled with his fame, and he was seen as having taken "The King's Shilling," and became increasingly dependent on alcohol.

Thomas Hughes never married, but is understood to have had an illegitimate son, Ken, who was born in England. He died at his home at Fincarn on 4 January 1942, leaving his medals including the Victoria Cross to his sister Annie, who later sold it to a London dealer. Members of the Connaught Rangers Association purchased the Victoria Cross from the same dealer in December 1959 for £500 and presented it to the Sandhurst Military Museum. The medal later passed to the National Army Museum, Chelsea.



Thomas Hughes VC

By Richard Pursehouse



<https://victoriacrossonline.co.uk/thomas-hughes-vc/>

Victoria Cross Trust

News

During the past month, the Victoria Cross Trust have completed the restoration of two more Victoria Cross graves in Eston Cemetery and Thortree Cemeteries in Middlesbrough. These are the stories of Tom Dresser VC and Richard Sandford VC.



On 12th May 1917 near Roeux, France, Private Dresser, in spite of having been twice wounded on the way and suffering great pain, succeeded in conveying an important message from battalion headquarters to the front line trenches, which he eventually reached in an exhausted condition. His fearlessness and determination to deliver this message at all costs proved of the greatest value to his battalion at a critical period. He was wounded during the action, and was evacuated to England on 19th May, and treated at Roseneath Auxiliary Hospital, Wrexham and at Ripon, Yorkshire until 23rd November. Tom had no idea he had been recommended for the VC until a nurse brought him the Daily Mail on 30th June.

The VC was presented to him by King George V outside Buckingham Palace on 21st July 1917. He was presented with a gold watch and 100 guineas by the people of Middlesbrough after being invested. He was also presented with a silver watch and chain by the Hull Soldier's Club.

Tom served in G Company, 8th North Riding (Middlesbrough) Battalion Home Guard in the Second World War and was awarded a certificate of merit by GOC-in-C Home Forces in 1943. He was given the Freedom of Middlesbrough on 13th May 1944, the same day as Edward Cooper VC. Tom ran the shop until June 1979, when the council purchased it for a redevelopment project. He received compensation and moved to 63 Erroll Street. Tom died there on 9th April 1982 and was buried in Thortree Cemetery, Middlesbrough with his wife.

Victoria Cross Trust News



Images of the before and after grave photographs of Tom Dresser VC Grave in Thorntree Cemetery, Middlesbrough
(courtesy of Victoria Cross Trust)

<https://victoriacrossonline.co.uk/tom-dresser-vc/>

Victoria Cross Trust

News



On 22nd/23rd April 1918 at Zeebrugge, Belgium, Lieutenant Sandford commanding HM Submarine C.3, skilfully placed the vessel between the piles of the viaduct which connected the Mole with the shore, before laying his fuse and abandoning her. He disdained to use the gyro steering which would have enabled him and his crew to abandon the submarine at a safe distance, but preferred to make sure that his mission would be successful.

Of all the VCs awarded for the operations at Zeebrugge and Ostend, his was the most approved. When his VC was gazetted on 23rd July 1918, it was said to have "snowed telegrams" on his family. Eight days after the announcement with his wounds healed, he went to Buckingham Palace to receive his VC from King George V. To this, the French added their Legion of Honour, which was gazetted on 28th August.

By then, Sandford had returned to duty in command of the 6th Flotilla's C30. His stay was short. In October, he transferred to the 10th Flotilla, based on Teesside, where he became the relief CO and then CO of the G11. Shortly afterwards, however, he contracted typhoid fever and went into Cleveland House Naval Hospital, Grangetown, where he died on 23rd November 1918. He was just 27 and he had little time to bask in the glory of the VC.

He was buried in Eston Cemetery, near Middlesbrough

Victoria Cross Trust News



Before and After images of the Richard Sandford VC Grave in
Eston Cemetery, Middlesbrough (Courtesy of the Victoria Cross Trust)

<https://victoriacrossonline.co.uk/richard-douglas-sandford-vc/>