

Victoria Cross Online



Issue 34 August 2025

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to the 34th edition of Victoria Cross Online Magazine.

The feature article this month is an article is kindly provided by Richard Pursehouse and focuses on the amazing story of Henry Tandey VC DCM MM and the "link" potentially with Adolf Hitler, which has featured in the book "The Man Who Could Have Shot Hitler" and been debated by historians including Richard in his article.

There is also the next two instalments in the Worcestershire Regiment VCs series on Edgar Kinghorn Myles VC and Frank Crowther Roberts VC.

There is also an update on last month's two auction sales in different parts of the globe – Willward "Peter" Sandys-Clarke VC and Robert Beatham VC.

Fourthly, there is an announcement of the third book I am currently writing in conjunction with Barnthorn Publishing Ltd

Sadly as a stop press to this issue there is the announcement of the death of John Cruickshank VC AE,



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Henry Tandey VC DCM MM

By Richard Pursehouse

The Victoria Cross hero who reportedly had Hitler in his sights but showed him mercy was honoured in his hometown in September 2018, when a memorial paving stone honouring the bravery of Henry Tandey was unveiled in Leamington Spa. The ceremony commemorated the centenary of his actions for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross at the St Quentin Canal in France at the end of September 1918.



Henry Tandey VC

DCM MM

By Richard Pursehouse

Henry Tandey, born in August 1891, is also remembered nationally as the being the man who was supposed to have chosen not to shoot Adolf Hitler when he had the chance.

In October 1918, at the Battle of Marcoing, Hitler - badly wounded - lurched into Tandey's firing line. The Warwickshire soldier refused to squeeze the trigger. If he had, the Second World War could have been averted.

According to reports, Tandey was informed of the identity of the man he spared during a 1938 'shocking' telephone call his nephew apparently took from the Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain (although Tandey by all accounts did not own a telephone). Chamberlain had just returned from a fruitless meeting with Hitler attempting to avert war. He had been invited to Hitler's Eagle's Nest hilltop retreat near Berchtesgaden in Bavaria and was shown a black and white reproduction of the famous painting titled 'The Menin Crossroads'. The Italian war artist Fortunino Matania's painting was commissioned in 1923 and shows soldiers of the Green Howards evacuating the wounded at the Battle of Ypres in 1914 – with Tandey in the foreground carrying a comrade on his back. Hitler's regiment was in the area at the time, although the regiment's records were destroyed in a bombing raid on Berlin.

Henry Tandey VC DCM MM

By Richard Pursehouse



Courtesy of the Green Howards Museum

Henry Tandey VC

DCM MM

By Richard Pursehouse

Incredibly - and allegedly - Hitler had recognised Tandey as the man who spared him. He told Chamberlain: "That man came so near to killing me I thought I should never see Germany again. Providence saved me from such devilishly accurate fire as those English boys were aiming at us."

Just over a month before the start of the Second World War, in July 1939 Tandey was invited to the 250th anniversary dinner and celebrations of his regiment at Richmond, Yorkshire. He was accompanied by his wife who for the first time saw the painting of 'The Menin Crossroads'. Until then she had only seen a similar copy as that possessed by Hitler. When quizzed on the story Tandey commented to a Coventry Herald representative:

"I believe that the fact leaked out, when Mr. Chamberlain visited Berchtesgaden. I haven't found out for sure yet, but I suppose the English visitor noticed the picture, and when he commented on it, Hitler explained why he kept the copy. There were several gun teams against us, but I shall find out definitely soon, I hope."

He commented in the Daily Mirror dated 28 July 1939:

"There should be no Hitler to-day. We should have marched into Germany, but, now that Hitler is where he is, we should stop him or else he will be taking England from us next. Yes, and I would be the first to have a 'bat' at him."

Henry Tandey VC

DCM MM

By Richard Pursehouse

Hitler had asked Chamberlain to convey his best wishes and gratitude to Henry, whose response at the time is not known. In 1939 Tandey told the Coventry Herald: "Did I see Hitler? I had the sights of my rifle on most of their gun crews, but whether I hit any of them I shall never know. I've wondered since how near I came to knocking down the future dictator."

The incident has an air of urban myth attached to it. Hitler was apparently 80km away from Marcoing in 1918. Hitler may have wanted to imply that Tandey, a recipient of the highest award for bravery had recognised something special in Hitler. Or did he claim he recognised Tandey to wind up Chamberlain? Or were Marcoing and Menin mixed up in the telling of the story? At the end of the war, Hitler's copy of the painting was either stolen or destroyed when American troops entered the Eagle's Nest.

Tandey's toughness was forged during a bleak childhood, part of which was spent in an orphanage, and he worked as a boiler attendant at Leamington Spa's Regency Hotel. He enlisted with the Green Howards in August 1910, and as a 'Regular' in the 2nd battalion, fought on the Western Front from the very start, including fighting at the Mole at Zeebrugge. He was shot in the arm in 1916 on The Somme and wounded a second time at Passchendaele in November 1917.

Henry Tandey VC DCM MM

By Richard Pursehouse



This week is the anniversary of the award of the V.C. to Corporal Arthur Hutt, of Coventry, in 1917. In the picture he is seen seated on the right in company with four other Warwickshire V.C.'s. Standing (left to right): Private H. Tandey (Coventry), Major A. H. S. Waters (Solihull) and Corporal W. Beesley (Nuneaton). Seated with Corporal Hutt is Corporal W. Amery (Leamington).

Henry Tandey VC

DCM MM

By Richard Pursehouse

Tandey received the Distinguished Conduct Medal in August 1918 for his actions at the Second Battle of Cambrai; for his leading of a reserve bombing party into the German trenches at Havrincourt on 12 September 1918, he was awarded the Military Medal. The Victoria Cross (number 1099) was bestowed on Tandey for his actions during a counter-attack along the St Quentin Canal on 28 September 1918: three medals in a space of six weeks.

For the final medal, the Victoria Cross, with his platoon held up by machine-gun fire, Tandey crawled forward, located the enemy position and attacked it, leading a Lewis machine-gun team in the advance. As he reached the St. Quentin Canal, he restored a plank bridge in order to continue the advance. During that night Tandey and eight comrades were surrounded by Germans, yet he led a bayonet charge with such aggression that 37 of the enemy were driven into the remainder of his company. Despite being wounded twice, Tandey refused to leave until the fight was over.

News of the Victoria Cross had not been made public when The Coventry Evening Telegraph on 16 December 1918 revealed Tandey had gained the Distinguished Conduct Medal:

Henry Tandey VC DCM MM

By Richard Pursehouse



St Peter's School, Leamington Spa. Henry Tandey is seated
third from right on front row.

Henry Tandey VC

DCM MM

By Richard Pursehouse

“Private H. Tandey, who is the first Leamington man to win the coveted honour, is 27 years of age, and has served ten years with the colours. He has been at the Front since the outbreak of war. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Tandey, of Livery Street, Leamington, and comes from a fighting family. His father is an ex-soldier recently discharged, and his two brothers are serving, viz., Pte. F. Tandey, Prince Wales Own Yorkshire Regt (now crippled), and Samuel Tandey, aboard one of HM minesweepers.

“The hero has spent several of his leaves in Coventry, where his fiancée (Miss Warwick) resides at 37, Clarendon Street. About the middle of last month his mother received the pleasant news in the same post that her son had won the DCM and MM. The DCM was conferred for the following acts of gallantry at Vaulx Vraucourt:

“For most determined bravery and initiative during operations from August 25 to September 2, 1918, particularly during the attack on system of trenches on August 28. He was in charge of a reserve bombing party, and finding the parties in front temporarily held up, he called on the two other men of his party and worked across the open in rear of the enemy and rushed the post, coming back with 20 prisoners after having killed several of the enemy. His daring action and initiative largely contributed to the capture of the northern trench. He was an example of daring courage throughout the whole of the operations.”

Henry Tandey VC

DCM MM

By Richard Pursehouse

And when the Victoria Cross was added to the list, the local press had a field day. One newspaper reported: "This man exhibited great heroism and devotion to go out under the most heavy shell fire. He carried a badly wounded man on his back. He then went out again and found three more wounded men and put them under and fetched a party of men bring them in.

"During a bombing attack on the Hindenburg line, he volunteered to be leading bomber, and then led the party over the open. He took it upon himself to be responsible for holding the bombing block in the trench, and while doing this the party was attacked by enemy in strength.

"The German officer shot at him and missed him. Pte. Tandey, quite regardless of danger, then led his party against the enemy and drove them away in confusion. This soldier's conduct was throughout of the highest order, and for gallantry beyond all praise, Pte. Tandey has been twice wounded. He was employed at the Regent Hotel, Leamington, before enlisting. As youth he was ever alert and was a leader to his companions. His sister told a Midland Daily Telegraph representative this morning that good luck and success had attended every action of his life."

He was also Mentioned in Despatches five times during the Great War and his conduct resulted in his Commanding Officer giving him a 'roving commission', something not usually granted to a private, meaning when out of the line he did not have to report for any parades, drills or fatigues.

Henry Tandey VC

DCM MM

By Richard Pursehouse

Upon hearing the news, the Mayor of Leamington Spa telegraphed Tandey:-

“In the name of the inhabitants of the Borough, I offer you the heartiest congratulations upon the great honour that has been conferred upon you by His Majesty the King. You are the first Leamington man to win the coveted distinction, and the whole town is proud of your achievement.”

King George V formally presented Tandey with his Victoria Cross at an investiture in Buckingham Palace in mid-December 1919.

Also in 1919, Lance-Corporal Henry Tandey VC, DCM, MM, had conferred on him the Honorary Freedom of the Borough by the Mayor. He was given a silver-gilt casket with a beautifully illuminated scroll conferring the honour. The inside is lined with khaki velvet, and the lid adorned with the civic crown and cross flags. The corners show an embossed oak design, and the front and back are embossed with laurel leaves, the wreath at the front encircles the Borough arms and is embossed and enamelled with a message on the rear, stating from whom it was presented and the date. The oak for the casket was from a tree presented by Lord Leigh from his Stoneleigh Estate. The scroll and casket presented to him by the Mayor is displayed in the Mayor's Parlour in Leamington Spa.

Presenting to him £350 worth of Victory Loans and a gold watch paid for by subscription, his Worship commented that “the victory was one which you have done as much as any one man could do to bring about.”

Henry Tandey VC DCM MM

By Richard Pursehouse



Henry Tandey VC

DCM MM

By Richard Pursehouse

During the ceremony both the Mayor and the Town Clerk (Mr. Leo Rawlinson) were frequently interrupted by the prolonged applause of the audience. The Mayor entered the hall preceded by the Mace-Bearer and followed immediately by Lieutenant John Cridlan Barrett VC (Leicester Regiment) and Lance Corporal Tandey VC, the Mayoress and the ex-Mayoress (Mrs. Atkinson) and members of the Town Council, together with the Town Clerk.

The Band of the King's Royal Rifles added an inspiring touch by playing the National Anthem. Tandey VC and Barrett VC signed the roll of the Honorary Freedom of the Borough. Tandey commented: "I think this is the proudest day of my life. In the honours I got, I only did my duty as a soldier." The crowd applauded.

The following year (1920) Tandey was one of the VCs lining the nave in Westminster Abbey for the Unknown Warrior.

After the war Tandey was employed in recruiting duties at Halifax and Keighley. He loved army life and re-enlisted the day after his discharge in 1919. He refused promotion, served in Egypt, Gibraltar and Turkey before quitting the military in 1926. In the same year, he married Edith Warwick and moved to Cope Street, Coventry.

A member and Vice-President of the Coventry Branch of the 'Old Contemptibles', Tandey was presented a Coronation Medal when he attended in May 1937 the coronation of King George VI in London.

Henry Tandey VC

DCM MM

By Richard Pursehouse

To commemorate the Victoria Cross awarded to Corporal Arthur Hutt, two months after the start of the Second World War a commemorative dinner was organised and Tandey was one of four other VCs who attended. During the Second World War, Tandey was determined to volunteer to fight for and defend his country once more, apparently wanting to have a second chance to shoot Hitler, but he was unable to enlist because of his wounds and instead he became an air raid warden in Coventry. After one air raid on 14 November 1940, Tandey came back home to find his house destroyed. Fortunately, his wife was staying with her sister in Leamington Spa. He also witnessed The Blitz damage in London.

In October 1947 Tandey along with Frank Whittle (an RAF officer who was co-creator of the turbo jet engine and awarded the Freedom of the Borough in 1944), Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery DSO (who had served in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment in the Great War) when Montgomery presented with the Freedom of the Borough, and in 1954 he attended the funeral of Corporal Arthur Hutt VC of Coventry. In the 1950s to the 1970s, Tandey was the works police sergeant at the Canley factory of the Standard-Triumph Motor Company. His wife Edith died on 7 February 1958.

In July 1968 he was invited and reluctantly agreed to attend a garden party held by the Queen at Buckingham Palace in honour of VC and GC holders ('reluctantly', as he did not want to re-live the moment in the action for which he was awarded the VC).

In October 1969 Tandey was invited to meet the Mayor Alderman W. F. Burdett and they chatted over an informal tea, and he brought with him the casket containing his Freedom of the Borough scroll to show him, fifty years after he had been presented with it.

Henry Tandey VC DCM MM

By Richard Pursehouse

VC HOLDER MEETS LORD MAYOR



Henry Tandey VC

DCM MM

By Richard Pursehouse

Tandey VC was one of the 34 Freeman of Leamington Spa in June 1976 that was present at a parade by 3rd Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, exercising its right to march through Leamington Spa “with colours flying, bands playing, and bayonets fixed.” After the parade he stayed at the Regency Hotel, although there is no record whether he was charged for the room at the hotel where he had once worked.

Having served in the 2nd Battalion Duke of Wellington’s (West Riding) Regiment Tandey donated his medals to the Regimental Museum (Green Howards) in Richmond, Yorkshire. On special occasions and parades he would sign them out to wear.

That would prove problematic when Tandey died from cancer in 1977, aged 86. He was cremated at Canley (where his first wife was cremated) and his ashes were buried at Masnières CWGC, on the site of his action at Marcoing in Northern France. His family was unaware the medals should have been returned to the museum and they were auctioned by his second wife Anne (sometimes referred to as Annie, a German ‘war bride’ née Kietzmann, who had originally married Tandey’s nephew Harry) at Sotheby’s auctioneers.

Apparently, Henry had told her to sell his medals so that she did not have to live on her meagre pension. A private collector, Sir Ernest Harrison OBE, a former Green Howards officer, bought the medals for the then-record £27,000 and they were eventually donated by him to the Green Howards Museum at a ceremony held in the Tower of London on 11 November 1997.

Henry Tandey VC DCM MM

By Richard Pursehouse



Royal British Legion colleagues outside the crematorium chapel today as their tribute to Mr Tandey, a wreath depicting the letters VC, is carried to the garden of remembrance.

Henry Tandey VC

DCM MM

By Richard Pursehouse

The ceremonial dress medals belonging to Tandey were sold by a member of his family in 1958. In 1997, Norman Parker, a former Mayor of Leamington Spa, representing a group of Leamington Spa businesses including the Regent Hotel, having been outbid for Tandy's full-sized medal group by £1,000, managed to purchase the dress medals for £1,000 and they were displayed in the VC Room at the Regent Hotel.

Tandey's funeral was reported on the front page of the Coventry Evening Telegraph of 23 December 1977, the article including a photograph of a wreath in the shape of two letters - VC. The following April a maple tree sapling was planted in Jephson Gardens, Leamington Spa, by the mayor and Tandey's widow Mrs. Anne Tandey. His brother George and nephew Harry travelled from London for the ceremony. In June 1979 the first residents of twelve flats built by Warwickshire Council were given the keys to their flats in Henry Tandey Court.

Tandey VC has been described as the "most decorated private soldier of the British Army in the Great War" because he refused any promotions. A blue plaque was erected on 28 September 2012 (94 years to the day he was in the action for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross) in Kenilworth Street, Leamington Spa, close to where he was born.

Henry Tandey VC DCM MM

By Richard Pursehouse



The Henry Tandey VC DCM MM medal group at the Green Howards Museum in Richmond, Yorkshire.

Worcestershire Regiment VCs

Edgar Kinghorn Myles VC



Edgar Kinghorn Myles (1894-1977) was born on 23th July 1894 at 'Brooklyn', 147 Milton Avenue, East Ham. He went to Shrewsbury Road Board School and then on to East Ham Technical College, which later became East Ham Grammar School. His first job was as a junior clerk with the Port of London Authority.

A keen member of the Boys' Brigade, he resigned from the East Ham Company of the Brigade in 1912 and then moved with his family to 2 Lake House Road, Wanstead. In August 1914 he joined the 8th Battalion of the Welsh Regiment, and was later promoted to Second Lieutenant. Throughout the First World War he actually served with the 9th Battalion of the Worcestershire Regiment, fighting with them in the Gallipoli campaign and other actions before he was awarded his Victoria Cross at Sanna-i-Yat in Mesopotamia (present day Iraq).

Mesopotamia was part of the Ottoman Empire. British and Indian troops went to the Persian Gulf in early November 1914 to protect British oil interests. They swiftly moved further inland, moving along the River Tigris in order to capture Baghdad. This rapid progress was halted at the Battle of Ctesiphon (22-26 November 1915). More than half the 8,500 British and Indian troops were killed or wounded in the battle and the survivors had to retreat.

Worcestershire Regiment VCs

Edgar Kinghorn Myles VC



Worcestershire Regiment VCs

Edgar Kinghorn Myles VC

Next year at Sanna-i-Yat, while attempting to relieve the town of Kut, Edgar's bravery led to the award of his Victoria Cross on 9th April 1916. Aged just 21, he went out alone, under heavy fire, on several occasions to assist wounded men lying in the open. He carried a wounded officer to a safe place and was hit by enemy fire whilst carrying a wounded man, but managed to carry on and bring him back to safety.

Later on, after being promoted to acting Captain, Edgar won the Distinguished Service Order on 25th January 1917. This is awarded during wartime for meritorious or distinguished service by officers of the armed services, usually in combat. He was also wounded in this action. He was also twice mentioned in despatches, which means that his actions were regarded as particularly brave or meritorious. After the war Edgar was formally transferred to the Worcestershire Regiment with which he had actually served during the war. In 1923 he was transferred to the King's Liverpool Regiment and was promoted to Captain two years later. He retired from the Army in 1928.

He married in 1947 at Hatfield aged 53, though years later he was found destitute living in a converted railway carriage accompanied only by a dog. He was admitted to the Huntley Royal British Legion Home in Bishopsteighton, Devon where he died aged 82 on 31st January 1977. He was cremated at Torquay Crematorium and his ashes were scattered.

Worcestershire Regiment VCs

Edgar Kinghorn Myles VC

2nd Lt. Edgar Kinghorn Myles, Welsh R.

For most conspicuous bravery. He went out alone on several occasions in front of our advanced trenches, and, under heavy rifle fire and at great personal risk, assisted wounded men lying in the open.

On one occasion he carried in a wounded officer to a place of safety under circumstances of great danger.



Worcestershire Regiment VCs

Edgar Kinghorn Myles VC

In November 1960 his decorations and medals were bought by the Worcestershire Regiment and are now on display in the Worcester City Art Gallery and Museum. On 11th April 2016 a commemorative paving stone honouring Edgar Myles was laid in the Cenotaph area of Central Park, East Ham.



Worcestershire Regiment VCs

Edgar Kinghorn Myles VC



Worcestershire Regiment VCs

Frank Crowther Roberts VC DSO OBE MC



Frank Crowther Roberts (1892-1982) was born in Highbury, Middlesex on 2nd June 1892. He was the son of the Reverend Frank Roberts, Vicar of St John's, Southall. He was educated at St Lawrence College and the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, and was commissioned into the Worcestershire Regiment in 1911 and went with the 1st Battalion to Egypt where he won a boxing trophy in 1913, after two years' service. At the outbreak of war he was a Lieutenant.

His battalion moved to France in November 1915, where after less than two months he was awarded the DSO at Neuve Chapelle. He led a party of 25 men in a raid on an enemy trench, the first genuine raid to be carried out on the Western Front. The party took the Germans by surprise, bayoneted 30 of them and returned to the British lines after only 4 minutes. Later that year, he became a Captain and gained the Military Cross in 1917 at the Battle of Ypres. He was Officer Commanding the 1st Battalion from 1917-18, and later he was Brigade Major for 23rd Brigade between March and October while the actual CO was absent in England.

Worcestershire Regiment VCs

Frank Crowther Roberts VC DSO OBE MC

During the period 22nd March to 2nd April 1918 west of Somme and at Pargny, France, Lieutenant Colonel Roberts showed exceptional military skill in dealing with the many very difficult situations of the retirement and amazing endurance and energy in inspiring all ranks under his command. On one occasion the enemy attacked a village and had practically cleared it of our troops when Colonel Roberts got together an improvised party and led a counter-attack which temporarily drove the enemy out of the village, thus covering the retirement of troops on their flanks. The success of this action was entirely due to his personal valour and skill.

He was gazetted for the VC on 8th May 1918, and was presented with the medal by King George V at Buckingham Palace on 1st June 1918. After the 1914-18 War, 'Culley' Roberts served in a variety of Staff appointments in Egypt, the Rhine Army and in the Far East, before transferring to the Royal Warwickshire Regiment on accelerated promotion in 1927. After further service in India, the Middle East, with the Iraqi Army and as a Staff Officer in Northern Ireland, he was selected to command 1st Battalion The Royal Warwickshire Regiment in 1937. He subsequently served as a Brigade Commander in India and as G.O.C. 48 Inf. Div. (T.A.) before retiring in December 1939.

Worcestershire Regiment VCs

Frank Crowther Roberts VC
DSO OBE MC

Capt (A /Lt-Col) Frank Crowther
Roberts, D S O , M C , Wore R

During continuous operations which covered over twelve days Lt-Col Roberts showed most conspicuous bravery, exceptional military skill in dealing with the many very difficult situations of the retirement,

and amazing endurance and energy in encouraging and inspiring all ranks under his command.

On one occasion the enemy attacked a village and had practically cleared it of our troops, when this officer got together an improvised party and led a counter-attack which temporarily drove the enemy out of the village, thus covering the retirement of troops on their flanks who would otherwise have been cut off.

The success of this action was entirely due to his personal valour and skill.

Worcestershire Regiment VCs

Frank Crowther Roberts VC DSO OBE MC

He had married Winifred Wragg in 1932 and on retirement settled in Bretby, near Burton-on-Trent, his wife's home. There were no children and Mrs. Roberts died in December 1980. Frank turned 90 a fortnight after the VC/GC Reunion dinner in London on 18th May 1981, and he died at Four Winds, Stanhope Bretby, Burton on Trent on 12th January 1982. He was the last of the 1918 Spring Offensive VCs to pass away. He was cremated at Bretby Crematorium, and his ashes were interred in his wife's family grave in Bretby Churchyard.

In his will he left £285,432 and bequeathed his medals to the Worcestershire Regiment, along with a handsome bequest. Apart from the VC, DSO and MC, he was also awarded the 1914-15 Star with Mons clasp, British War Medal 1914-20, Victory Medal 1914-19, Gold Medal of the Order of Mohamed Ali, Sudan Medal and clasp and Iraq Medal. They are displayed (replica group) in the Worcestershire Regiment Museum, Worcester.

Worcestershire Regiment VCs

Frank Crowther Roberts VC
DSO OBE MC



Worcestershire Regiment VCs

Frank Crowther Roberts VC
DSO OBE MC



Sandys-Clarke VC Auction



The posthumous Victoria Cross and campaign medal awarded to Lieutenant Willward Alexander Sandys-Clarke, The Loyal Regiment (North Lancashire), has been sold at auction by Spink of London, on the instructions of a direct descendant.

The sale took place on Thursday, 24 July 2025. The estimated sale price was between £300,000 and £500,000. The sale hammer price realised £350,000. The identity of the purchaser has not been revealed.



Beatham VC Auction



The Victoria Cross awarded to Private Robert Beatham, 8th Bn, Australian Imperial Force, has been sold at auction by Noble Numismatics of Sydney. The VC is not accompanied by Beatham's First World War trio of campaign medals.

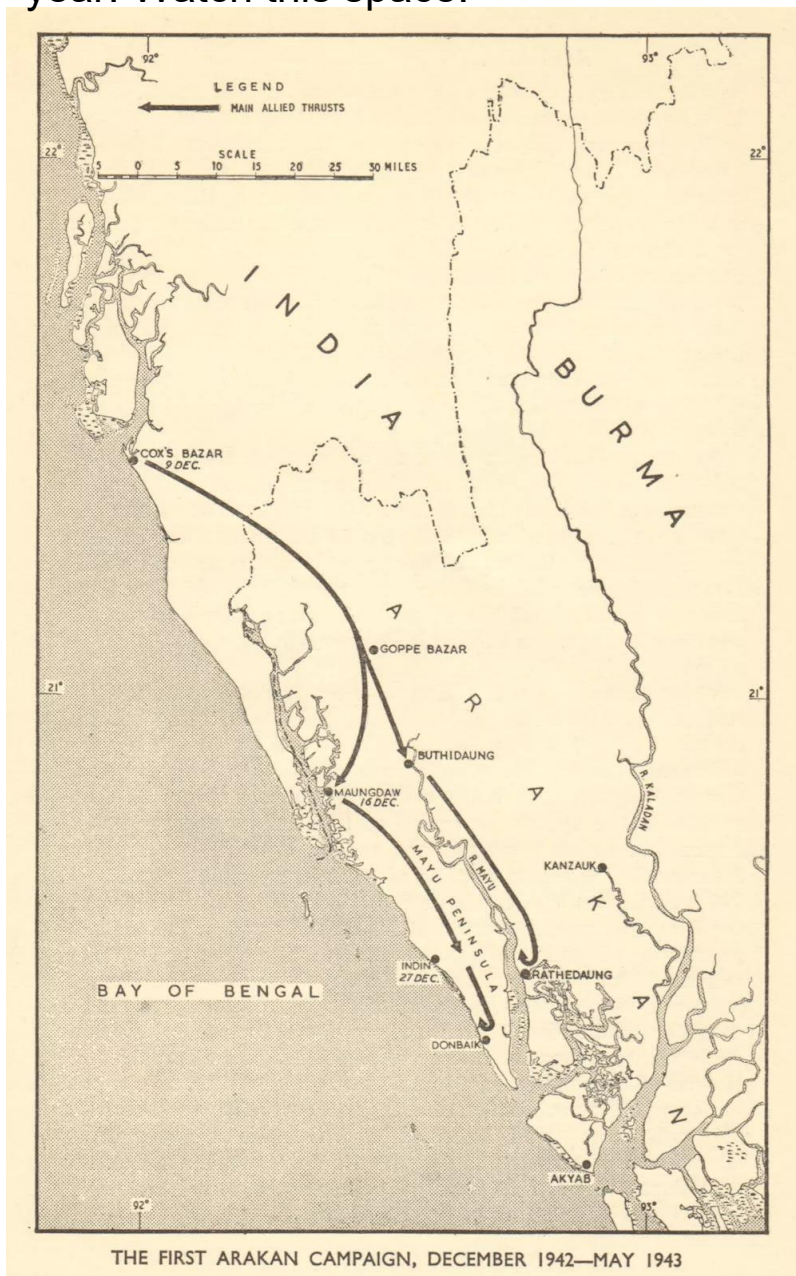
The sale took place in Sydney on Friday, 1 August 2025. The Robert Beatham Victoria Cross comes under the "Australian Protection of Moveable Cultural Heritage Act 1986" (VCs are Class 1), meaning, the Victoria Cross cannot leave Australia.

The estimated sale price was AUS\$ 500,000. (£244,000). The sale hammer price realised AUS\$ 495,000. (£241,209). The identity of the purchaser has not been revealed.



Book Announcement

I am happy to announce that I am currently writing my third book in conjunction with Barnthorn Publishing Ltd. Following on from the successes of “Stan Hollis VC The Man They Couldn’t Kill” and “Arnhem VCs”, my third book will focus on the “Burma Campaign VCs”. The book will follow a similar style to my Arnhem book being split into two parts. The first part will focus on telling the story of the Burma Campaign between 1942-1945 outlining the key events of the different phases of what is known as the “Forgotten War”. The second will then tell the stories of the 29 men awarded the Victoria Cross for their actions during the struggle to regain Burma from the Japanese. It will hopefully be out later this year. Watch this space!



STOP PRESS



In a late stop press to this month's edition, it is sad to report that on 16th August 2025, the family of John Cruickshank VC AE announced that earlier that week, he had passed away at his nursing home in Scotland, aged 105. Cruickshank was the last surviving Victoria Cross recipient from the Second World War, and also the holder of the record of the longest time of holding the medal (81 years). The family have announced it will be a private funeral in due course.

A full tribute to the life of John Cruickshank VC AE will appear in the September edition of Victoria Cross Online, and the issue will be dedicated to his memory. Rest in Peace Sir.

