

# Victoria Cross Online

Nº1 HARLEY S T.

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# EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Welcome to the 37<sup>th</sup> edition of Victoria Cross Online Magazine.

The feature article this month is about the first ever recipient of the Victoria Cross and Bar (and the only one of three to date to be for two different conflicts), Arthur Martin-Leake VC

In my next series of articles, I am going to focus on the 10 youngest recipients of the Victoria Cross. I will continue this month with the other two of the five joint 10th youngest recipients and their stories. The featured men are from very different conflicts – James Murray VC from the First Boer War of 1881, and Thomas Peck Hunter VC from World War II.

There is then news of the upcoming sale of the Reginald Haine VC MC medal group at Spink's at the end of November 2025. The group which was previously on loan to the Imperial War Museum from the family has an estimate of £240,000 - £280,000.

There is also news of the appeal for funding to be able to erect a statue to Daniel Laidlaw VC, the "Piper of Loos", in his home town.



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# Arthur Martin-Leake

## VC and Bar



Arthur Martin-Leake (1874-1953) was born on 4th April 1874 at "Marshalls", High Cross, Ware, Hertfordshire, the fifth son of Stephen Martin-Leake, who was originally from Thorpe Hall, Essex. He was one of eight children, with two sisters called Georgina and Isabel, and five brothers. Four of his brothers became officers in the Army.

The other brother, Frank became a Captain in the Royal Navy. Sadly, one of his brothers, Theodore, was killed in a ballooning accident in World War I. He was educated at Westminster School, and the University College, and qualified in Medicine in 1898. His first medical appointment was at a district hospital at Hemel Hempstead. This was a short-term appointment, as soon as the Second Boer War broke out the following year, he joined the Hertfordshire Yeomanry as a Trooper.

Arthur remained with this company during its year service in South Africa, taking part in several important engagements, notably Prinsloo's surrender and the relief of Hoar's laager. When the Company went home he remained in South Africa, and was employed with the Army as a civil surgeon.

Later, when the South African Constabulary was formed by General Baden-Powell, he joined that force at the rank of Surgeon-Captain, and served with it until he was invalided home due to wounds. It was during this service, he was involved in the action which led to the award of the Victoria Cross (London Gazette, 13th May 1902).



# Arthur Martin-Leake

## VC and Bar

*War Office, May 18, 1902.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to signify His intention to confer the decoration of the Victoria Cross on the undermentioned Officer, whose claims have been submitted for His Majesty's approval, for his conspicuous bravery in South Africa, as stated against his name:—

Corps.	Name.	Act of Courage for which recommended.
South African Constabulary	Surgeon-Captain A. Martin-Leake	During the action at Vlakfontein, on the 8th February, 1902, Surgeon-Captain Martin-Leake went up to a wounded man, and attended to him under a heavy fire from about 40 Boers at 100 yards range. He then went to the assistance of a wounded Officer, and, whilst trying to place him in a comfortable position, was shot three times, but would not give in till he rolled over thoroughly exhausted. All the eight men at this point were wounded, and while they were lying on the Veldt, Surgeon-Captain Martin-Leake refused water till every one else had been served.

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Martin-Leake was presented with his VC by King Edward VII at St James' Palace, London on 2nd June 1902. As soon as he was able to, he returned to the medical profession, and having passed the necessary examinations, he was admitted as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons in June 1903.

# Arthur Martin-Leake

## VC and Bar



# Arthur Martin-Leake

## VC and Bar

In the autumn of 1903 he went to India to take up an appointment as an Administrative Medical Officer of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, an appointment he would hold for a long period of time. He remained in India until 1912 when he returned to England for a period of leave. Whilst he was in England, the Balkan War broke out, and the British Red Cross set up a unit to serve with the Montenegrin Army, and Martin-Leake volunteered for active service. He saw a lot of fighting, and was awarded the Montenegrin Red Cross decoration by King Nicholas. On the morning of 5th August 1914, the news of the declaration of war against Germany was received in India where Arthur had returned.





# Arthur Martin-Leake

## VC and Bar

Arthur quickly obtained a leave of absence from the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, and sailed back to Europe. They didn't quite make it back to England, eventually arriving in Paris on 30th August 1914. Martin-Leake was appointed to the 5th Field Ambulance, 2nd Division with the rank of Lieutenant. By the time he linked up with his unit, the Germans were in retreat from the Marne and were holding positions on the Aisne. The German subsequent advance on the Channel ports were checked during the First Battle of Ypres between 19th October and 17th November 1914. It was during this period that Martin-Leake became the first of only three men to date to be awarded a Bar to his Victoria Cross (London Gazette, 18th February 1915).

The citation read as follows: Lieutenant Arthur Martin Leake, Royal Army Medical Corps, who was awarded the Victoria Cross on 13th May, 1902, is granted, a Clasp for conspicuous bravery in the present campaign: — For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty throughout the campaign, especially during the period 29th October to 8th November, 1914, near Zonnebeke, in rescuing, whilst exposed to constant fire, a large number of the wounded who were lying close to the enemy's trenches.

### CLASP TO VICTORIA CROSS.

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# Arthur Martin-Leake

## VC and Bar

Martin-Leake received the Bar to his VC at Windsor Castle from King George V on 24th July 1915. He had been promoted to Captain in March 1915, and then Major in November 1915. Owing to his previous experience in the Balkans, he was selected to accompany the “Adriatic Mission” which was to assist the Serbians with supplies and medical help. On 3rd April 1917, he was given command of a Field Ambulance, and promoted to Temporary Lieutenant-Colonel, and subsequently commanded a Casualty Clearing Station with the 1st Army. At the termination of his contract in September 1918, he left the service, and after some leave in England, he returned to his pre-war job on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. He remained in India until 1937, when he decided to retire. He chose to return to England, and settled into his family home, Marshalls, near Ware.

On the outbreak of the Second World War, Arthur volunteered again for service and worked as a surgeon in a mobile medical unit. Following the end of the War, he again returned to retirement. Martin-Leake died of lung cancer at his home, Marshalls, on 22nd June 1953, aged 79, and was cremated at Enfield Crematorium. His ashes were interred at St John’s Church, High Cross, near Ware, Hertfordshire. His medals are held and displayed by the Museum of Military Medicine, Keogh Barracks, Mytchett, Surrey.





# Arthur Martin-Leake VC and Bar



Martin-Leake VC and Bar Grave  
(courtesy of Victoria Cross Trust)



# Arthur Martin-Leake

## VC and Bar



The Martin-Leake VC and Bar Medal Group at the Museum  
of Military Medicine  
(courtesy of Thomas Stewart)

# The Youngest VCs – 10=

## Thomas Peck Hunter

### VC



Thomas Peck Hunter (1923-1945) was born in Aldershot, Hampshire on 6th October 1923, one of five children of Ramsey and Mary Hunter (a former soldier and civil servant), who moved to Edinburgh shortly after his birth. Hunter attended Tynecastle High School (where the poet Wilfred Owen had taught during recuperation in 1917) and Stenhouse School before becoming an apprentice stationer in Edinburgh. At the outbreak of the war he served in the Home Guard and was called up on 8th May 1942 for military service. He enlisted as a hostilities-only (HO) marine on 23rd June 1942. He was promoted LCpl on 6th October 1943 and Temporary Cpl on 25th January 1945.





# The Youngest VCs – 10=

## Thomas Peck Hunter

### VC

On 3rd April 1945, during Operation Roast, and the Battle of Lake Comacchio, Corporal Hunter of "C" Troop was in charge of a Bren group of the leading subsection of the Commando. Having advanced to within 400 yards of the canal, he observed the enemy were holding a group of houses South of the canal. Realising that his Troop behind him were in the open, as the country there was completely devoid of cover, and that the enemy would cause heavy casualties as soon as they opened fire, Corporal Hunter seized the Bren gun and charged alone across two hundred yards of open ground. Three Spandaus from the houses, and at least six from the North bank of the canal opened fire and at the same time the enemy mortars started to fire at the Troop.

Corporal Hunter attracted most of the fire, and so determined was his charge and his firing from the hip that the enemy in the houses became demoralised. Showing complete disregard for the intense enemy fire, he ran through the houses, changing magazines as he ran, and alone cleared the houses. Six Germans surrendered to him and the remainder fled across a footbridge onto the North bank of the canal. The Troop dashing up behind Corporal Hunter now became the target for all the Spandaus on the North of the canal. Again, offering himself as a target, he lay in full view of the enemy on a heap of rubble and fired at the concrete pillboxes on the other side. He again drew most of the fire, but by now the greater part of the Troop had made for the safety of the houses. During this period he shouted encouragement to the remainder, and called only for more Bren magazines with which he could engage the Spandaus. Firing with great accuracy up to the last, Corporal Hunter was finally hit in the head by a burst of Spandau fire and killed instantly.

# The Youngest VCs – 10=

## Thomas Peck Hunter

### VC

TUESDAY, 12 JUNE, 1945

#### ADMIRALTY.

*Whitehall,*

*12th June, 1945.*

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

The late Corporal (Temporary) Thomas Peck HUNTER, CH/X.110296, Royal Marines (attached Special Service Troops) (43rd Royal Marine Commando) (Edinburgh).

In Italy during the advance by the Commando to its final objective, Corporal Hunter of "C" Troop was in charge of a Bren group of the leading sub-section of the Commando. Having advanced to within 400 yards of the canal, he observed the enemy were holding a group of houses South of the canal. Realising that his Troop behind him were in the open, as the country there was completely devoid of cover, and that the enemy would cause heavy casualties as soon as they opened fire, Corporal Hunter seized the Bren gun and charged alone across two hundred yards of open ground. Three Spandaus from the houses, and at least six from the North bank of the canal opened fire and at the same time the enemy mortars started to fire at the Troop.

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There can be no doubt that Corporal Hunter offered himself as a target in order to save his Troop, and only the speed of his movement prevented him being hit earlier. The skill and accuracy with which he used his Bren gun is proved by the way he demoralised the enemy, and later did definitely silence many of the Spandaus firing on his Troop as they crossed open ground, so much so that under his covering fire elements of the Troop made their final objective before he was killed.

Throughout the operation his magnificent courage, leadership and cheerfulness had been an inspiration to his comrades.

#### CENTRAL CHANCERY OF THE ORDERS OF KNIGHTHOOD.

*St. James's Palace, S.W.1.*

*12th June, 1945.*

The KING has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire:—

*To be Additional Members of the Military Division of the said Most Excellent Order:—*

Temporary Lieutenant (Special) Jean Henri COLEMAN, R.N.V.R.

Temporary Lieutenant James William JEFFREY, R.N.V.R.

for courage, skill and outstanding devotion to duty shown whilst on special services.

# The Youngest VCs – 10=

## Thomas Peck Hunter VC

Hunter was buried in Argenta Gap War Cemetery. King George VI presented his parents with his Victoria Cross on 26th September 1945, at a private investiture in the Palace of Holyrood House, Edinburgh. Thomas' sister and nephew donated his medals to the Royal Marines Museum, Southsea, Hampshire in 1974 where they were displayed until it closed in 2017, prior the planned relocation to the Portsmouth Naval Dockyard. This is hoped to happen in the next few years following the securing of funding.





# The Youngest VCs – 10=

## Thomas Peck Hunter

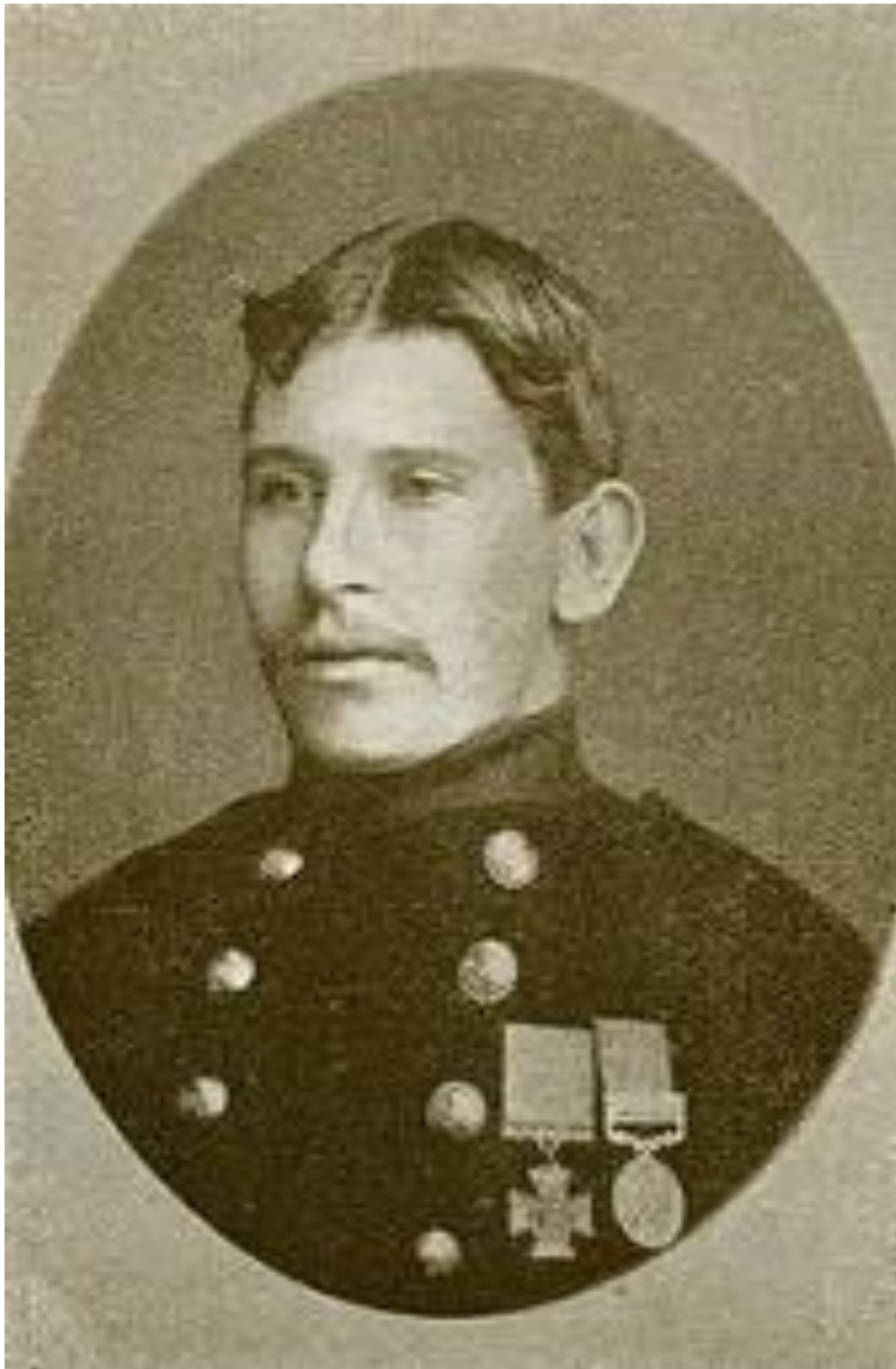
### VC



Medal Group when on display at the now closed  
Royal Marines Museum at Eastney Barracks, Southsea  
(Thomas Stewart)

# The Youngest VCs – 10=

## James Murray VC



# The Youngest VCs – 10=

## James Murray VC

James Murray (1859-1942) was born in the St Michael's Parish of Cork, Ireland in February 1859. As a young man, he enlisted with the 2nd Battalion of the Connaught Rangers, and was posted to South Africa in time for the outbreak of the First Boer War of 1881.

On 16th January 1881, at Elandsfontein, South Africa, Troopers Murray and Danagher advanced into the open under a withering fire to rescue two men of the 21st Foot (2nd Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers) named Byrne and Davis, both of whom had been badly wounded. No sooner had Murray started forward than his horse was shot under him, but he continued to advance across the open on foot. The two rescuers reached the men together, and on stooping to lift Byrne's head Murray was shot through the body, the bullet entering his right side and passing out near the spine. Having received such a serious wound, and realising the seeming hopelessness of the situation in which they found themselves, Murray ordered Danagher to take his carbine and make good his escape. Murray remained with Byrne, who shortly afterwards died. The Boers then threw themselves upon Murray and Davis and took them prisoners.

Byrne's body was placed in a bullock's skin and was conveyed with the two prisoners to the Boer camp which was pitched upon the top of the mountain. Murray afterwards paid tribute to the treatment of the enemy, and to the courtesy of the Boer commandant who permitted them to return to Pretoria under a flag of truce and to take with them the body of Byrne. Five days after Murray and Davis reached Pretoria, Davis died.

Both Murray and Danagher were recommended for, and gazetted for the VC on 14th March 1882, and Murray was presented with his medal two months later, on 15th May 1882, at Windsor Castle, by Queen Victoria.



# The Youngest VCs – 10=

## James Murray VC

Late 2nd Battalion, the Connaught Rangers Nourse's Horse	Lance - Corporal James Murray Trooper John Danaher	For their gallant conduct during an engagement with the Boers at Elandsfontein on the 16th January, 1881, in advancing for 500 yards, under a very heavy fire from a party of about 60 Boers, to bring out of action a private of the 21st Foot who had been severely wounded; in attempting which Lance-Corporal Murray was himself severely wounded.
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Following his service, little is known about Murray's later life, except that he returned to his native Ireland. He died aged 83 on 19th July 1942 in Dublin, and was buried in an unmarked grave in Glasnevin Cemetery. Sometime in the 1990s a headstone was erected over his resting place by his daughter Lily, but, because of the political situation in Ireland at the time, the headstone did not include recognition of his award of the Victoria Cross. In late 1999 Lily decided it was fitting and safe to add the letters 'VC' to James's memorial, and although she died before seeing the finished stone, she was aware her wishes had been carried out.

His medals are held by the National Army Museum in Chelsea, though sadly not currently displayed.

# The Youngest VCs – 10=

## James Murray VC



# The Youngest VCs – 10=

## James Murray VC



James Murray VC's medal group pictured on the National Army Museum website (not currently displayed)



# Haine VC MC Group Auction

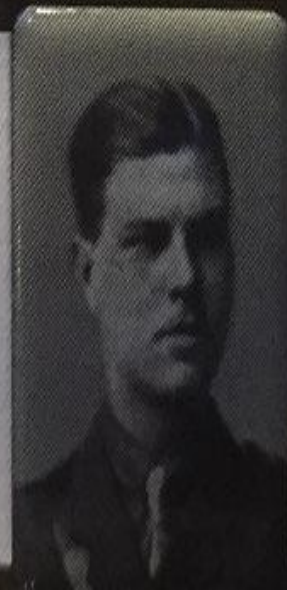


## Reginald Haine VC

1917, France, Honourable Artillery Company

2nd Lieutenant Haine endured over 30 hours of fighting at Gavrelle. He led six bombing attacks to capture a strong position. The Germans counter-attacked and won it back. He continued bombing all night and recaptured the position.

*On Loan from the family*



# Haine VC MC Group Auction

Reginald Leonard Haine (1896-1982), known as Bill, was born at Earlsfield, Wandsworth, London on 10th July 1896. His father, Harry James Haine, was a teacher, and married Louisa Margaret Smith at Crewkerne, Somerset in 1891. She was an assistant schoolteacher and schoolmistress prior to her marriage. Just after Bill's birth, his father had become a Metropolitan Police officer, and had reached the rank of Detective Sergeant by 1901. Bill only had one brother, Harry Willis Haine, born in 1892.

It is not known where Bill was educated, but he was a patrol leader with Petersham Boy Scout Troop. He was articled to a firm of accountants when he enlisted in the Honourable Artillery Company on 28th August 1914, eleven months underage. The Battalion was inspected by King George V and moved into camp at Aveley near Purfleet, Essex expecting to have six months training. However, this was cut short and he was sent to France. He was wounded on 16th June 1915 and rejoined the Battalion on 21st October. Promotion followed rapidly – Lance Corporal, Lance Sergeant and then Sergeant on 12th March 1916. He was promoted again to Company Sergeant Major on 15th November and was commissioned on 7th December. He was appointed to command C Company on 13th April 1917.

On 28th/29th April 1917 near Gavrelle, France, when British troops were holding a salient which was being repeatedly counter-attacked by German forces, Second Lieutenant Haine organised and led six bombing attacks against a German strong point and captured the position, together with 50 prisoners and two machine-guns. The enemy at once counter-attacked and regained the lost ground, but Second Lieutenant Haine formed a "block" in his trench and for the whole of the following night maintained his position. Next morning he again attacked and recaptured the position. His splendid example inspired his men during more than 30 hours of continuous fighting.

# Haine VC MC Group Auction

Lieutenant General Sir William Congreve VC, the Commander of XIII Corps personally went to congratulate Bill and Alfred Pollard on their actions when the Battalion came out of the line on 1st May. The VC was presented by King George V at Buckingham Palace on 21st July 1917, and he was the first Richmond man to be awarded the medal. The Council wanted to set up a subscription on his behalf, but he refused as he saw no connection between money and his action. He and Pollard were invited to a celebratory lunch at Armoury House following their investiture. When Pollard was asked to speak, all he said was "Thank you very much everybody" and sat down. The audience were not impressed and asked Bill to elaborate. He stood up and said "I think Alf's said all there is to say" and promptly sat down too!

He was promoted to Lieutenant on 7th June 1918 and was seconded on probation to the Indian Army on 6th November. He served with the 1/35th Sikhs, before transferring to the Indian Army on 11th January 1919. He was awarded the Military Cross for his actions at Dakka, Afghanistan on 17th May 1919, when during the fighting near the summit of a hill he did everything he was able to to collect the man for an attack on the enemy trenches in the face of heavy fire. He was presented with his MC at Buckingham Palace on 10th March 1920. Bill acted as Adjutant of 1/35th Sikhs as an acting Captain in May 1919, and left the Indian Army on 12th January 1920, and became a chartered accountant with Messrs Andrew Low, Son & Co and was later a director of Jennings Hotels Ltd.

He married Dora Beatrice Holder on 21st November 1923 at St Mark's, Woodcote, Purley, Surrey. The couple lived in Purley, until moving to Eastbourne, Sussex. They had one daughter, Janet, born in 1924. Bill was promoted to Captain in the Honourable Artillery Company on 2nd January 1928 and he transferred to the TA Reserve of Officers on 15th June 1929. During World War II, he served in the Home Guard and was Lieutenant Colonel and Commanding Officer of 58th Surrey (Purley) Battalion from 1st February 1941. He was a founder member of the VC and GC Association in 1956 and joined the Committee. He was also Chairman of the Baltic Exchange Branch of the British Legion, meeting in Merchants Hall, London.



# Haine VC MC Group Auction



# Haine VC MC Group Auction

Bill died at St Thomas's Hospital, Lambeth, London on 12th June 1982. His funeral was held at the Parish Church of St Mary, Eastbourne and he was cremated at Chichester Crematorium, where his ashes were scattered in the Garden of Remembrance. A memorial plaque was placed at the crematorium. In addition to the VC and MC, he was awarded the 1914 Star with "Mons" clasp, British War Medal 1914-20, Victory Medal 1914-19 with Mentioned in Despatches oakleaf, India General Service Medal 1908-35 with "Afghanistan NWF 1919" clasp, Defence Medal 1939-45, George VI Coronation Medal 1937, Elizabeth II Coronation Medal 1953 and Elizabeth II Jubilee Medal 1977. The VC is owned privately and was on loan to the Imperial War Museum, where it was displayed in the Ashcroft Gallery. In September 2025 following the closure of the Ashcroft Gallery, it was announced that the medal group is to be auctioned at Spink's on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2025 with an estimate between £240,000 and £280,000.





# Haine VC MC Group Auction



# Laidlaw VC Statue Appeal

The great grandson of Daniel Logan Laidlaw VC, Kevin Laidlaw, has joined a campaign to erect a statue to the memory of the “Piper of Loos” in his birth place, Little Swinton, in Berwickshire. Currently the village is home to the Victoria Cross commemorative stone placed in 2015 in memory of Laidlaw VC, but calls have begun for better. The campaign has begun fundraising by selling small busts of Daniel Laidlaw VC.



Daniel Logan Laidlaw (1875-1950) was born at Little Swinton, near Berwick upon Tweed, Northumberland on 26th July 1875. His father was Robert Laidlaw, who was a cattleman, and later agricultural labourer and quarryman. Daniel's mother was Margaret nee Logan, a field worker at the time of her marriage to Robert on 13th December 1867 at Swinton Mill, Northumberland. Daniel was one of eight children, with three brothers and four sisters.

Daniel was educated at Berwick National and Lesbury Schools. He was a Boy Scout and became an apprentice miller. He enlisted in 2nd Durham Light Infantry on 11th April 1896 and served in India, including on plague duties. He was claimed by his elder brother in June 1898 and transferred to the King's Own Scottish Borderers as a Piper.

He married Georgina Mary nee Harvie on 11th April 1906 at the Baptist Church, Alnwick, Northumberland, and they lived at East Kirk Newton, Northumberland. They went on to have five children: Andrew Robert (born 1906), John Hume (born 1909), Georgina (born 1912), Margaret (born 1913) and Victor Loos (born 1920).

# Laidlaw VC Statue Appeal

Daniel was discharged to the Reserve on 11th April 1912 and was engaged in various civilian employments, including canteen manager at Alnwick Co-operative Stores at Alexandria and as a groom at D and DH Porter's horse breeding centre at South Doddington. He was also Assistant Scout Master of 1st Alnwick Troop.

Daniel re-enlisted on 7th September 1914. He was described as 5ft 6in, 122lbs, hazel eyes, dark brown hair and a Presbyterian. Appointed acting Corporal on 26th September and went to France on 9th February 1915. He was found drunk in his billet on 19th February and reduced to Private on 22nd February.



Shining through all the horror of human strife, the deluge of blood, the torrent of tears, are incidents which compensate for suffering and even make war sublimely beautiful. Such an event was the conduct of Piper Laidlaw, of the King's Own Scottish Borderers, on the occasion of the advance at Loos. At a critical moment when his comrades were unnerved by the effects of gas,

the superb piper bounded on to the trench parapet, and swung up and down, playing "The Flowers of the Forest" under heavy fire. The magic skiel of the piper restored the nerve to his sentimental compatriots. The effect was instantaneous, and the Scots dashed out of the trench to the assault, Laidlaw piping away until wounded, thereby gaining the V.C.



# Laidlaw VC Statue Appeal

On 25th September 1915 during the Battle of Loos at Hill 70, prior to an assault on enemy trenches and during the worst of the bombardment, Piper Laidlaw, seeing that his company was shaken with the effects of gas, with complete disregard for danger, mounted the parapet and, marching up and down, played his company out of the trench. The effect of his splendid example was immediate and the company dashed to the assault. Piper Laidlaw continued playing his pipes even after he was wounded and until the position was won. He was also awarded the Croix de Guerre by France on 1st May 1917. He was evacuated to Britain and treated at Lord Derby's Hospital, Warrington. While in hospital he was on the strength of the Depot from 2nd October and proceeded on sick leave. He transferred to 9th (Reserve) Battalion at Catterick and later at Kingshorn on 19th January 1916.

The VC was presented by King George V at Buckingham Palace on 3rd February. He was promoted to Corporal 16th June 1916 and then Lance Sergeant on 17th October 1917. He then transferred to 3rd (Reserve) Battalion at Claremorris on 4th November 1918 and the Depot on 11th November. He was demobbed in April 1919 and transferred to the Class Z Reserve on 30th April.

**15851 Piper Daniel Laidlaw, 7th Battalion, The King's Own Scottish Borderers.**

**For most conspicuous bravery prior to an assault on German trenches near Loos and Hill 70 on 25th September, 1915.**

**During the worst of the bombardment, when the attack was about to commence, Piper Laidlaw, seeing that his company was somewhat shaken from the effects of gas, with absolute coolness and disregard of danger**

# Laidlaw VC Statue Appeal

mounted the parapet, marched up and down and played his company out of the trench. The effect of his splendid example was immediate, and the company dashed out to the assault. Piper Laidlaw continued playing his pipes till he was wounded.

He was a member of the VC Guard at the interment of the Unknown Warrior on 11th November 1920, during which he played the pipes. He spent many years moving to find work in industry or on the land around Berwickshire, Northumberland and Durham. He was out of work for eight years following the slump in the shipyards. Daniel played himself, "The Piper of Loos", in the films, "The Guns of Loos" 1928 and "Forgotten Men" 1934. He was also interviewed on one of the earliest TV programmes. He tried chicken farming to escape unemployment and became sub-postmaster in Shoresdean, near Berwick, in 1938.

He died at Shoresdean on 2nd June 1950 and was buried in an unmarked grave at Norham Churchyard, Northumberland. Among the mourners was Mr AG Lindsay Young, brother of Daniel's platoon commander at Loos. Daniel believed that the Army would provide a headstone, but as he died in peacetime, he was not entitled to one. A headstone was finally dedicated on 2nd June 2001.

# Laidlaw VC Statue Appeal





# Laidlaw VC Statue Appeal



# Laidlaw VC Statue Appeal

In addition to the VC, he was awarded the 1914-15 Star, British War Medal 1914-20, Victory Medal 1914-19 with Mentioned in Despatches oak leaf, George VI Coronation Medal 1937, Defence Medal 1939-45 and French Croix de Guerre with Bronze Palme. Although his Victory Medal has a MID oak leaf, there is no record of it in the London Gazette. His VC is held by the National War Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh Castle, having been presented by his son Victor, and grandson on the field of the Battle of Loos on 25th September 2005. The King's Own Scottish Borderers couldn't accept it due to the cost of the insurance.



# Ham and Jam Podcast

Just an announcement for all readers of an impending appearance by yours truly on the excellent podcast “Ham and Jam” on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025. I was kindly asked by the two creators of Ham and Jam, Andy Bryant and Kevin Getz to appear and discuss the publication earlier this year of my “Arnhem VCs” book. The intention was to release the episode during the anniversary month of September but “technical gremlins” got in the system and delayed its release. Thankfully, the tech gods smiled down and it is now going to be released in December. If you have not heard of this podcast it recently featured a fantastic episode with Al Murray “The Pub Landlord” who is a renowned expert on Arnhem and many other WW2 subjects. You can find the podcast on Spotify and on Patreon platforms.



<https://buymeacoffee.com/hamandjam>

<https://open.spotify.com/show/3KU7XbQtmoubDA58EPoOIf>

[https://www.patreon.com/cw/HamJam\\_TheWW2BritishAirbornePodcast](https://www.patreon.com/cw/HamJam_TheWW2BritishAirbornePodcast)

In other exciting news I have been invited to host a webinar to the Royal Engineers Historical Association early in 2026 to discuss “Arnhem VCs” Watch this space!



# Australian VCs for Sale

On 25 November 2025, at Noble Numismatics in Sydney, Australia, there will be an auction which will feature two Victoria Crosses earned by Australian servicemen from two very different conflicts. The first Victoria Cross was awarded in World War I to Private Robert Beatham VC. Beatham was killed in action on 9 August 1918, and was personally presented to his mother in 1919. The estimate on the Beatham VC is \$500,000 (around £245,000).

The second Victoria Cross is that of Corporal Daniel Keighran for an action in Afghanistan. Keighran was awarded the third Victoria Cross for Australia and he is hopeful that the medal will stay in Australia as well as the other nine medals in the group. Keighran has decided to sell the medals due to his mother now residing in a nursing home, and the needs for funds to pay for her care. The estimate for the Keighran VC medal group is \$800,000 (around £395,000).



# Australian VCs for Sale

