



Victoria Cross Recipient Thomas Edwin Adlam

Edwin Adlam was born on the 21st October 1893 at Waterloo Gardens, Salisbury and educated at Bishop Wordsworth's School in Salisbury. In 1911 he was still living at home in Waterloo Gardens – listed as a "Pupil Teacher". He served first in the Territorial 2/4 Hampshire Regiment where he was promoted to Sergeant before being mobilized into the 7th Battalion Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment in 1916.

He had been teaching at the Brook Street Council School, Basingstoke for a month when he was transferred to the regular army. However, in this month, he managed to meet his future wife – Ivy Annette Mace who was also a new teacher. They married on 21st June 1916 in the Parish Church at South Farnborough, Hampshire. At this time he was a 2nd Lieutenant, according to the Parish Records. They had four children- Josephine born May 1918, Stephanie born June 1923, Roger born August 1924 and Olive, born March 1929.

The Victoria Cross award was made for his bravery at Schwaben Redoubt, Thiepval, France on 27th September 1916.

His citation reads:

"Temporary Second Lieutenant Tom Edwin Adlam, Bedfordshire Regiment.

For most conspicuous bravery during operations.

A portion of a village which had defied capture on the previous day had to be captured at all costs to permit subsequent operations to develop.

This minor operation came under very heavy machine gun and rifle fire. Second Lieutenant Adlam realising that time was all important, rushed from shell hole to shell hole under heavy fire collecting men for a sudden rush, and, for this purpose, also collected many enemy grenades.

At this stage he was wounded in the leg, but nevertheless he was able to out throw the enemy and then, seizing his opportunity, and in spite of his wound, he led a rush, captured the position and killed the occupants. Throughout the day he continued to lead his men in bombing attacks.

On the following day he again displayed courage of the highest order, and though again wounded and unable to throw bombs, he continued to lead his men.

His magnificent example and valour, coupled with the skilful handling of the situation, produced far-reaching results."

In civilian life Thomas was a schoolteacher until World War II when he served with the Royal Engineers reaching the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Thomas died 28th May 1975 in Hayling Island, Hampshire and is buried in St. Matthews Churchyard, Blackmoor Hampshire.

