



Victoria Cross Recipient William Henry Thomas Sylvester

William Henry Thomas Sylvester was born in Devizes, Wiltshire and was baptized there on 17th May 1831 at the Church of St. John the Baptist.

An Assistant Surgeon in the 23rd Regiment of Foot (later the Royal Welch Regiment), he was awarded the Victoria Cross for his service in the Crimean War in 1855

He also served in the Indian Campaign of 1857-1858, including the relief of Lucknow and defeat of the Gwalior Detachment at Cawnpore.

He appears in the Army List as being on "half pay" from 13th December 1868 and, in 1871, he was a doctor at the New Hospital, Swansea, Wales, By 1881 he was living in Westminster, London with his wife Martha and daughter Alice who was born there in 1876. He was practicing as a doctor.

By 1911 he had moved to Paignton, Devon with Martha and Alice and was listed as "medical retired" on the census.

He died on the 13th March 1920 in Paignton, and is buried in the cemetery there with his wife Martha.

His Citation reads,

War Office, November 18, 1857

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to signify her intention to confer the Decoration of the Victoria Cross on the undermentioned Officers and Non-Commissioned Officer of Her Majesty's Army, who have been recommended to Her Majesty for that Decoration, in accordance with the rules laid down in Her Majesty's Warrant of the 29th January, 1856, on account of Acts of Bravery performed by them before the enemy during the late War, as recorded against their several names viz;

23rd Regiment

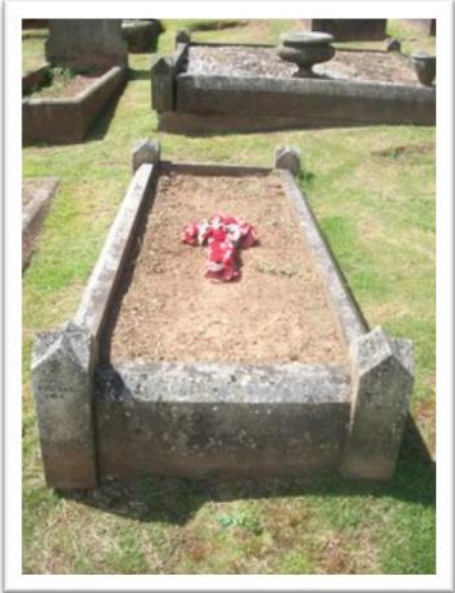
Assistant Surgeon William Henry Thomas Sylvester

Date of Act of Bravery, 8th September, 1855

For going out, on the 8th September, 1855, under a heavy fire, in front of the fifth parallel, Right Attack, to a spot near the Redan, where Lieutenant and Adjutant Dyneley was lying mortally wounded, and for dressing his wounds in that dangerous and exposed situation.

N.B. This officer was mentioned, in General Sir James Simpson's Despatch of the 18th September, 1855, for his courage in going to the front, under a heavy fire, to assist the wounded.

Corporal Robert shields also of the 23rd regiment was awarded the Victoria Cross for volunteering to assist Surgeon Sylvester



Paignton Cemetery



National Arboretum