



## *Victoria Cross Recipient William Robert Fountaine Addison*

William Robert Fountaine Addison was born on the 18th September, 1883 in Odiham, Hampshire, and was baptized in Odiham on 9th November 1883. He was educated at Robert May's School in Odiham and at the Salisbury Theological College – later to become Sarum College.

He was ordained in 1913 and, at the beginning of World War I, volunteered for the Army Chaplains' Department.

He was posted to Gallipoli 1st November 1915 with the 38th Lancashire Brigade and later to Mesopotamia where he was awarded the Victoria Cross at Sanna-i-Yat on the 9th April 1916. The award was presented by King George V at Buckingham Palace on the 3rd August 1917.

The citation read:

*"He carried a wounded man to the cover of a trench, and assisted several others to the same cover, after binding up their wounds under heavy rifle and machine gun fire.*

*In addition to these unaided efforts, by his splendid example and utter disregard of personal danger, he encouraged the stretcher-bearers to go forward under heavy fire and collect the wounded"*

William married Marjorie Helen Katrine Wallis on 19 July 1917 in Brighton and they had two sons – William Rex born 1919 and John Harold born 1923.

After the war, William remained in the army, serving overseas and in the UK. He was Senior Chaplain to the Forces from 1934 to 1938 when he left the army and became a parish priest. He was Rector of Coltishall with Great Hautbois, in Norfolk, from 1938 to 1958. However, on the outbreak of World War II he returned to the army and again served as Senior Chaplain to the Forces, and was Deputy Assistant Chaplain-General in South Wales.

William died on 7th January 1962 at St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex. His funeral took place at St. Barnabas Church, Bexhill-on-Sea 11th January and he was buried in Brookwood Cemetery, Woking, Surrey on the same day.

In addition to the Victoria Cross he received the following:

1914-1915 Star  
British War Medal (1914-1920)  
Victory Medal (1918)  
War Medal (1935-1945)  
King George VI Coronation Medal (1937)  
Queen Elizabeth Coronation Medal (1953)



William's Memorial after restoration