



Victoria Cross Recipient William Gosling

William Gosling was born on 15th August 1892 in Wanborough, Wiltshire, one of four children to farmer Albert Gosling and his wife Elizabeth. By 1911 his mother had been widowed and she and three children, including William were running the farm. William was enrolled into the Royal Field Artillery 3rd Wessex Brigade (Territorial) where he won the Victoria Cross at Arras, France on the 5th April 1917. It was promulgated on June 14th 1917. After the war William remained a farmer and also ran a shop in Wroughton. However, he was intermittently associated with the army and was a Major by World War II

His Citation Reads;

No. 645112 Sgt. William Gosling, R.F.A.

"For most conspicuous bravery when charge of a heavy trench mortar. Owing to a faulty cartridge the bomb, after discharge, fell 10 yards from the mortar. Sgt. Gosling sprang out, lifted the nose of the bomb, which had sunk into the ground, unscrewed the fuse and threw it on the ground, where it immediately exploded. This very gallant and prompt action undoubtedly saved the lives of the whole detachment."

The Victoria Cross was presented by King George V at Buckingham Palace on 21st July 1917

William died 12th February 1945 at Summer House Farm Wroughton Wiltshire, and is buried in Sts. John & Helen Churchyard, Wroughton.

