

# FOR VALOUR



THE UNVEILING OF A VICTORIA CROSS  
COMMEMORATIVE PAVING STONE IN  
HONOUR OF

**Captain Edward Bamford VC**  
**Royal Marines**

TUESDAY 17 APRIL 2018 AT 11AM

HORNSEY WAR MEMORIAL,  
HORNSEY CENTRAL NEIGHBOURHOOD  
HEALTH CENTRE, PARK ROAD,  
LONDON N8



# The Victoria Cross

Queen Victoria created the Victoria Cross medal in 1856. It stemmed from the Crimean War, which was one of the first wars to be covered by journalists, who gave eyewitness accounts of battles in their newspapers. They wrote about the heroism of all ranks of the serving military personnel. The Order of the Bath existed for gallant officers, but no such award was available to acknowledge the bravery of ordinary British service men and women.

The original royal warrant for the Victoria Cross stated the award should be:

**“Ordained with a view to place all persons on a perfectly equal footing in relation to eligibility for the Decoration that neither rank, nor long service, nor wounds, nor any other circumstance or condition whatsoever, save the merit of conspicuous bravery shall be held to establish a sufficient acclaim to the honour.”**

With mounting public support in 1856, Queen Victoria ordered the War Office to strike a new medal to recognise the acts of bravery of all the military, regardless of rank. The award was backdated to 1854 in order to recognise the acts of bravery of service personnel in the Crimean War. Since its inception, the medal has been awarded 1,358 times to 1,355 individual recipients.

The VC ribbon is crimson and one 1/2 inches (38 mm) wide. The original (1856) specification for the award stated that the ribbon should be red for army recipients and dark blue for naval recipients. The dark blue ribbon, however, was abolished soon after the formation of the Royal Air Force on 1 April 1918. On 22 May 1920, King George V signed a warrant that stated all recipients would now receive a red ribbon and the living recipients of the naval version were required to exchange their ribbons for the new colour. Although the army warrants state the colour as being red, it is defined by most commentators as being crimson or 'wine-red'.



# First World War VCs

In 2014 the Department for Communities and Local Government announced that as part of the forthcoming national Remembrance events marking the First World War, all recipients of the Victoria Cross awarded between 1914 and 1918, will have a memorial stone unveiled in their honour in the borough associated with the recipient. Where possible, each VC memorial stone is unveiled on or around the 100th anniversary date of when the VC was awarded.

Haringey was formed in 1965 of the boroughs of Hornsey, Tottenham and Wood Green, there are four such recipients for Haringey, all falling in 2018.

Each paving stone will be laid at the war memorial for the borough at the time of the war— this means two at the Tottenham Memorial and two at the Hornsey Memorial. The reason for this choice is while none of the recipients were killed during the great war these are visible landmarks where Haringey people remember those that died in the World Wars and recent conflicts.

Haringey's four Victoria Cross recipients were among an astonishing 628 VCs awarded throughout the First World War.

Our first stone was unveiled on Friday 23 March to honour 2Lt Alfred Herring. This is the second commemorative stone unveiling. There will be two further stones unveiled during this year.

This morning we stand together to remember the heroic action of Edward Bamford VC DSO and just like the other service memorials, we shall reflect on the incredible courage displayed by Edward in the face of the enemy one hundred years ago.



**Captain Edward Bamford VC**

Edward Bamford was also awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his gallantry aboard HMS Chester at the Battle of Jutland, the ship that also was the scene for the actions of Boy 1st Class John Cornwell who, posthumously, became a recipient of the VC at the age of sixteen.

Edward Bamford was born on 28 May 1887 to the Rev. Robert Bamford and Blanch Edith Bamford. The family lived in Langdon Park Road, Highgate N6 and later moved to Sherborne, Dorset.

He was educated at Sherborne Preparatory School, and later at Sherborne School, which he attended as a day boy from September 1900 until April 1902. His two brothers, Robert Bamford and Arthur Bamford

were also educated as day boys at Sherborne School. Arthur, who became a Private in the Grenadier Guards, was killed near Loos on 11 October 1915 and is commemorated at St Mary's A.D.S. Cemetery, Haisnes, and on the Sherborne School War Memorial.

In September 1905, Edward joined the Royal Marine Light Infantry and served at various times in H.M.S. Bulwark, Magnificent, Britannia, Chester, Royal Sovereign, and Highflyer. He joined HMS Britannia on 5 September 1911 and served until November 1915, being aboard when she ran aground near Inch Keith on her way to support Beatty's battlecruisers in the action fought off the Dogger Bank the previous January.

Following a brief attachment to the Guards Brigade, then manning the lines in the Ypres Salient on the Western Front, he was posted back to sea – promoted to Temporary Captain on 2nd May 1916.

Having been appointed to the newly commissioned light cruiser HMS Chester, as officer commanding the Royal Marine contingent, he was involved in the Chester's narrow escape at the Battle of Jutland. He commanded two guns manned by his marines. Wounded and slightly burned about the face when his after control station was blown to pieces by a shell burst. He later helped extinguish a cordite fire, and he was awarded the DSO (15th September 1916) and the Order of St Anne, 3rd Class (with

Swords), which was awarded by the Russian Government.

Bamford's injuries healed quickly and he returned to the Chester, and was promoted to Captain on 1st September. He remained with the Chester until February 1918, when he was appointed to command a company of the specially formed 4th Royal Marines for the duration of the Zeebrugge operations.

On 22nd/23rd April 1918 at Zeebrugge, Belgium, Captain Bamford, aged just 30 years old, landed on the Mole from HMS Vindictive with three platoons of the Royal Marines storming force in the face of great difficulties. When on the Mole and under heavy fire, he commanded his company with total disregard of personal danger and he showed a magnificent example to his men. He first established a strong point on the right of the disembarkation and when satisfied that it was safe, led an assault on the battery to the left. When they returned to Deal, the survivors were paraded and instructed to elect a representative to receive the VC. Bamford was chosen by ballot of the men involved in the action to receive the Victoria Cross.

His award was gazetted on 23rd July 1918, and it was presented to him 8 days later at Buckingham Palace by King George V with the other 5 Zeebrugge VCs. His gallantry was also marked by promotion to Brevet Major

and the award of the French Legion of Honour. He then served on HMS Royal Sovereign until March 1919

Edward Bamford died of pneumonia on 30 September 1928 aboard the HMS Cumberland en route to Hong Kong, where he held the appointment of Instructor of Small Arms and Musketry Officer at Hong Kong. He was buried in the Bubbling Well Road Cemetery in Shanghai, which sadly no longer remains.

Memorials to Edward Bamford are in the Depot Church in Deal and there is a Bamford House in the Royal Marines Barracks at Eastney. On 3 April 2004, the Royal Marines presented a plaque in his memory to the Officials of Zeebrugge. His Victoria Cross is displayed at the Royal Marines Museum in Southsea, England.



### **Edward Bamford's Medals (Thomas Stewart)**

Apart from the Victoria Cross and Distinguished Service Order, Edward Bamford also received the Russian Order of St. Anna, 3rd Class with Swords on 5 June 1917, French Legion of Honour on 23 May 1919, Japanese Order of the Rising Sun 4th Class in August 1921, 1914/15 Star (MID), British War Medal and Victory Medal.

# Programme

10.45am

Guests and public to meet at Hornsey War Memorial

11.00 am

Opening Address by Councillor Stephen Mann, the  
Worshipful Mayor of Haringey

Lt General Dutton to respond

## **The VC citation read by Royal Marine**

*On 22nd/23rd April 1918 at Zeebrugge, Belgium,  
Captain Bamford landed on the Mole from HMS  
Vindictive with three platoons of the Royal Marines  
storming force in the face of great difficulties. When  
on the Mole and under heavy fire, he commanded  
his company with total disregard of personal danger  
and he showed a magnificent example to his men.  
He first established a strong point on the right of the  
disembarkation and when satisfied that it was safe, led  
an assault on the battery to the left.*

## **Mayor to announce the unveiling of the VC memorial stone to Captain Edward Bamford**

**Paving stone is unveiled by Mayor and Lt General  
Dutton to step forward**

**Blessing of the V.C. memorial stone to Captain  
Edward Bamford by local clergy**

## Hymn: All People That on Earth Do Dwell

*All people that on earth do dwell  
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice  
Him serve with fear, his praise forthtell  
Come ye before him, and rejoice.*

*The Lord, ye know, is God indeed  
Without our aid he did us make  
We are his folk, he doth us feed  
And for his sheep he doth us take.*

*To Father, son, and Holy Ghost  
The God whom Heaven and Earth adore  
From men and from the Angel-Host  
Be praise and glory evermore.  
Amen*

### **The Royal Marine prayer**

*O eternal Lord God, who through many  
generations has united and inspired the members  
of our Corps, grant your blessing, we beseech you,  
on Royal Marines serving around the Globe.*

*Bestow your crown of righteousness upon all our  
efforts and endeavours, and may our laurels be  
those of gallantry and honour, loyalty and courage.*

*We ask these things in the name of Him whose  
courage never failed, our Redeemer, Jesus Christ.  
Amen*

## **The Lords Prayer**

*Our Father who art in heaven  
Hallowed be thy name  
Thy kingdom come  
Thy will be done  
On earth as it is in heaven  
Give us this day our daily bread  
And forgive us our trespassers  
As we forgive those who trespass against us  
And lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil  
For thine is the kingdom  
The power and the glory  
For ever and ever  
Amen*

## **Hymn: Eternal Father, strong to save**

*Eternal Father, strong to save,  
whose arm doth bind the restless wave,  
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep  
its own appointed limits keep;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
for those in peril on the sea!*

*O Saviour, whose almighty word,  
the winds and waves submissive heard,  
Who walked'st on the foaming deep,  
and calm amidst its rage didst sleep;  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
For those in peril on the sea!*

*O sacred Spirit, who didst brood,  
upon the chaos dark and rude,  
Who bade its angry tumult cease,  
and gavest light and life and peace:  
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,  
for those in peril on the sea!*

*Creator Spirit, grant, we pray,  
to Royal Marines, both night and day,  
The courage, honour, strength and skill  
their land to serve, thy law fulfil;  
Be thou our shield forevermore  
from every peril to the Corps.*

*O Trinity of love and power,  
our brethren shield in danger's hour;  
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
And ever let there rise to Thee,  
glad hymns of praise from land and sea*

**Ceremony Sunset  
played by the Royal Marines Band**

**Blessing and closing words by local clergy**

**The National Anthem**

*God save our gracious Queen!  
Long live our noble Queen!  
God save the Queen!  
Send her victorious,  
Happy and glorious,  
Long to reign over us,  
God save the Queen.*

After the service everyone is invited for tea and coffee on Level 2, inside the medical centre.



