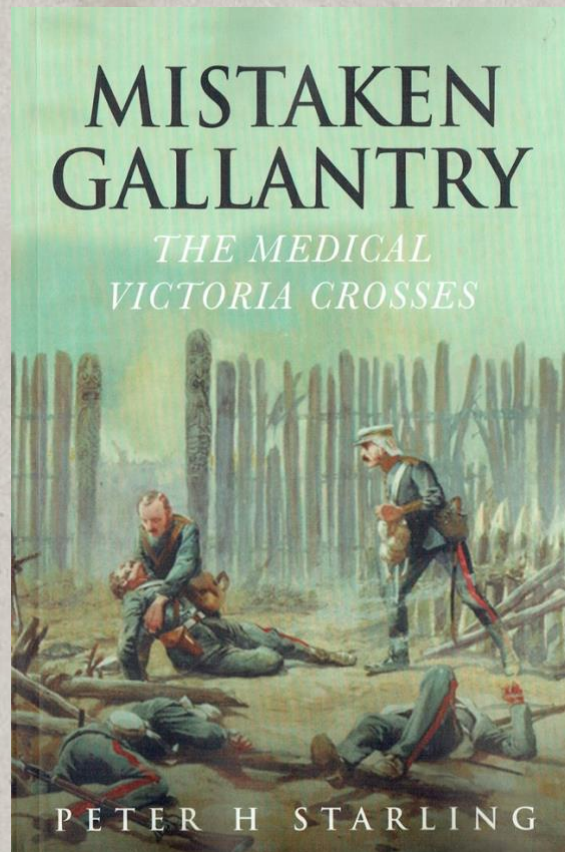




Mistaken Gallantry – The Medical Victoria Crosses

Peter H Starling

Bath: Brown Dog Books 2021



This beautifully illustrated paperback book on the Medical Victoria Crosses, newly published in April 2021 with a foreword by Major General Alan Hawley CBE, is a welcome and important addition to the field of military medical history, and even more so to the corpus of inspirational books honouring the bravest of the brave, who received the nation's highest award for gallantry.

Its author, Peter Starling, who has put his heart and soul into producing this excellently researched book, is well known as a military medical historian of national repute, previously curator of the Army Medical Services Museum (now the Museum of Military Medicine).

Mistaken Gallantry is on sale for the very reasonable price of £14.99 through the Museum of Military Medicine, helping raise funds for the Museum's move from Keogh Barracks to a splendid new location in Cardiff in 2023.

It is a very worthy successor to the smaller 1988 book 'The Medical Victoria Crosses' by Colonels Forsythe-Jauch and Tennuci. Mistaken Gallantry differs significantly from, and greatly improves upon, its predecessor in being arranged chronologically with chapters dedicated to individual campaigns, from the



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Crimean War through to the Second World War, a style which really helps set the scene and context in which particular Victoria Crosses were won.

The stories of the individual recipients shine through. It also includes the story of the Netley Victoria Cross, presented not to an individual but to the Army Medical Services as a whole when Queen Victoria placed it beneath the foundation stone of the new military hospital at Netley on Southampton Water.

The book, in the words of Alan Hawley, is definitely one to read and re-read. Know and value your heritage. And be inspired.

This is our first Book of the Month, and rightly so. I cannot recommend it highly enough to you.



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