



Charles Upham

**Flower's House
1923–1927**

**College No.
3565**



Charles Hazlitt Upham, Victoria Cross and Bar

Charles Hazlitt Upham is the most highly decorated Commonwealth soldier in history.

The only combat soldier to receive two VCs in World War II – the British Commonwealth's highest award for gallantry in combat – his first VC came for a series of remarkable exploits on Crete in May 1941 where he showed outstanding leadership, tactical skill and utter indifference to danger. His second was for his courage at Ruweisat Ridge, Egypt in July 1942 where he was commanding a company of New Zealand troops in the Western desert.

Although later badly wounded and taken prisoner of war, undaunted he carried out multiple escape attempts. In 1945 he married Molly McTamney in England, and the couple returned to Canterbury where despite his injuries he successfully farmed in North Canterbury. Born in Christchurch on 21 September 1908, he boarded at Waihi School.

After College he attended Canterbury Agricultural College, now Lincoln University.

Charles Upham served on the College Board of Governors for nearly 20 years.

He died on 22 November 1994 in Christchurch.



CHRIST'S COLLEGE
OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION