

# Corporal John Hurst 'Jack' Edmondson



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

P09003.001

<b>Service number</b>	<b>NX15705</b>
<b>Birth Date</b>	08 October 1914
<b>Birth Place</b>	Australia: New South Wales, Wagga Wagga
<b>Death Date</b>	14 April 1941
<b>Death Place</b>	Libya: Tobruk, Tobruk War Cemetery
<b>Final Rank</b>	Corporal
<b>Service</b>	Australian Army
<b>Units</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Australian Army</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Australian Army</a></li><li>• <a href="#">2/17th Australian Infantry Battalion</a></li></ul>
<b>Places</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Wagga Wagga</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Tobruk</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Tobruk War Cemetery</a></li></ul>
<b>Conflict/Operation</b>	Second World War, 1939-1945
<b>Gazettes</b>	Biographical information They dared mightily. in 1963 Published in London Gazette in 1941-07-04

## Description

**Cpl John Hurst EDMONDSON** (1914-1941), VC recipient was born in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, later moving to Liverpool where he worked on his parents' farm. After service in the militia, he enlisted in the AIF and was promoted to Corporal soon afterwards. He embarked for the Middle East with his 2/17 Battalion in October 1940 and trained in Palestine.

On the night of 13-14<sup>th</sup> April 1941, German infantry breached the defences at Tobruk, establishing machine-guns, mortars, and field-guns. A seven-man section, including Edmondson, charged the position. Although wounded in the neck and stomach, Edmondson continued to advance under heavy fire, killing one German with his bayonet. He later killed another two Germans, saving the life of his platoon commander, but he succumbed to his wounds soon after the German attack was defeated. His citation noted that Edmondson's actions during the operation "were outstanding for resolution, leadership and conspicuous bravery".

John Hurst EDMONDSON, was the first Victoria Cross recipient of WW2.

He is buried at TOBRUK WAR CEMETERY GRAVE 3. J. 8