



Albert Borella
THE BORELLA RIDE

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Albert Borella VC and Mark Donaldson VC
Year 4 to Year 6

Albert Borella VC & Mark Donaldson VC

Lesson objective

Compare and contrast two Victoria Cross recipients

National Curriculum Links

- History [locate relevant information]
- English [compare and contrast two texts]

Key Fact

Of all the orders and decorations open to members of the Australian Defence Force, the Victoria Cross remains the most honoured, the most coveted. It marks its wearer as one possessing supreme courage, a disregard for danger and complete devotion to duty.

Extension Activities

Find out and research other VC recipients from World War I. Compare and contrast them with Albert Borella. What did they do? What regiment were they in? Where did they serve?

Task

Read through the information about Albert Borella VC and Mark Donaldson VC. As a class brainstorm all the important dates and information onto a poster for students to use as future reference.

Using the worksheet students are to compare and contrast Borella and Donaldson, include three [3] similarities and three [3] differences between both men.

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Albert Borella VC

Albert Borella was awarded the Victoria Cross by King George V at Sandringham Palace, in early September 1918. His age, 36, made him the oldest recipient within the First Australian Imperial Force. Borella's Victoria Cross was the only one awarded to a soldier from the Northern Territory during World War I. It is 1 of 11 Victoria Crosses that are currently held in private collection.

His Victoria Cross citation reads:

'For most conspicuous bravery in attack. Whilst leading his platoon with the first wave, Lieutenant Borella marked an enemy machine gun firing through our barrage. He ran out ahead of his men into the barrage, shot two German machine gunners with his revolver, and captured the gun. He then led his party, now reduced to ten men and two Lewis guns, against a very strongly held trench, using his revolver, and later a rifle, with great effect, causing many enemy casualties. His leading and splendid example resulted in the garrison being quickly shot and captured. Two large dug outs were also bombed, and thirty prisoners taken. Subsequently the enemy twice counter attacked in strong force, on the second occasion outnumbering Lieutenant Borella's platoon by ten to one, but his cool determination inspired his men to resist heroically, and the enemy were repulsed, with very heavy losses.' Commonwealth Gazette No. 23, 12 February 1919

[www.theborellaride.com.au]

Mark Donaldson VC

Mark Donaldson was born in Newcastle, New South Wales, 2 April 1979. After a number of jobs in Australia and overseas, he joined the Australian Regular Army in 2002. In 2004 he was posted to the Special Air Service [SAS]. At the time of his Victoria Cross action, 2 September 2008, he was on his second operational tour in Afghanistan.

Donaldson was returning to base in the Oruzgan province, in a joint US, Australian, and Afghan convoy when the group was ambushed. In heavy fighting, he moved from cover to cover to engage the enemy with anti-armour weapons as well as his own rifle, several times drawing the enemy's fire away from the wounded. He also rescued a wounded interpreter. His actions were described as being of the "highest accord and in keeping with the finest traditions of ... the Australian Defence Force." In 2010 he was appointed the National Australia Day Council's Young Australian of the Year.

Donaldson was awarded the Victoria Cross, the Australian Active Service Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, the Australian Defence Medal, and the NATO Medal.

[<http://www.awm.gov.au/people/P10015140/#biography>]



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Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

100
YEARS OF
ANZAC
THE SPIRIT
LIVES
2014 - 2018


Northern
Territory
Government

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Compare and contrast

	Albert Borella VC	Mark Donaldson VC
Born		
Date joined the Army		
Date awarded the Victoria Cross		
Why was the VC awarded?		
Other Medals		
Interesting Information		

List 3 similarities and 3 differences between Albert Borella VC and Mark Donaldson VC

Similarities

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Differences

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.



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