

## Bravery and Medals

Explore the story of Sapper Wyllie and discover why he was awarded the George Cross (a medal given for incredible courage in the face of extreme danger). Once you have learnt all about Sapper Wyllie, create your own medal to present to someone for their bravery, positivity or kindness.

### Sapper Wyllie's Story



Lance Corporal 'Sapper' George Wyllie was born in Scotland in 1908. He joined the British Army as a Sapper in the Royal Engineers during the Second World War.

Sapper Wyllie received the George Cross for his bravery and hard work during an incident that occurred outside of St Paul's Cathedral in 1940.

During the height of the Blitz a 2000 kilogram bomb landed outside the Cathedral but remained undetonated! The task to safely and quickly remove the bomb fell to Sapper Wyllie and his team.

After 3 days of delicate but fast work, they removed the explosive and transported it on a lorry to Hackney Marshes. There it was detonated safely and left a crater 30 metres (100 feet) wide!

Watch this [short film](#) showing footage of Sapper Wyllie and his team in action!

Sapper Wyllie was awarded the George Cross in honour of his contribution to the removal of the bomb, a contribution that saved much destruction and life, by risking his own.

The George Cross is the second highest honour in the British awards system and to this day just 410 people have received one. Sapper Wyllie's honour was cited as follows:

"The actual discovery and removal of the bomb fell to him. Sapper Wyllie's untiring energy, courage, and disregard for danger were an outstanding example to his comrades."

In 1984, for reasons unknown, Sapper Wyllie's medal was sold at auction and later donated to St Paul's Cathedral. We keep it safe and continue to share Sapper Wyllie's story of courage and team work.



## Make a Medal

Use inspiration from Sapper Wyllie's George Cross and try making your own! Write an inscription on your medal and present it to someone you know who has been brave, positive or kind and deserves a medal.

### ***What you will need:***

Scissors, felt pens/pencil, glue or tape, kitchen foil, cardboard (an old cereal box would be perfect!), old ribbons.

### ***Step 1:***

Choose a shape for your medal. Try a cross, a circle or even a star. Draw your chosen shape onto a piece of cardboard and cut out.

### ***Step 2:***

Cut a piece of kitchen foil to roughly the size of your shape. Cover your shape in kitchen foil so it is completely covered and make sure it is neat and smooth.

### ***Step 3:***

Use a felt pen to write your message on your medal or a pencil to engrave it into the foil carefully.

### ***Step 4:***

Cut out a second piece of cardboard to form the medal's ribbon (or use old ribbons) and decorate with felt pen into strips or a pattern of your choice. Glue or tape this piece onto the back of your medal.

### ***Step 5:***

Present your medal to the person of your choice and let them know how proud you are of them and what they have done to be brave, positive or kind.

Share your medal with us on twitter @stpaulsedu and remember Sapper Wyllie next time you visit St Paul's Cathedral.

## Reflect

Reflect on what it means to be brave, positive and kind. Think about how you have shown and shared these qualities and how you will again in the future. Take a few quiet moments to think about the incredible qualities you have and how proud you are of yourself.

Write at least 2 things below that you are proud of yourself for achieving, or personal qualities you are proud of having.

- 1.
- 2.