

Birmingham Medal Society Meeting – Thursday 7th April 2016

Recent Acquisitions

Following the formal business of the Annual General Meeting the following members spoke about the following items they had recently acquired.

Chris Burns – showed a WW2 group with a 'Palestine' clasp GSM unresearched. He also passed around a WWI Kidderminster Special Constabulary lapel badge he had acquired at a car boot sale. He considered it to be quite rare in view of the few SCs in the town. He also advised he was awaiting delivery of a Colonial Police LS Medal to an Arab that was a scarce commodity.

Paul Murray – showed a British South Africa Company Medal Rhodesia 1896 – no clasp. Gunner Frank Henry Thomas Price of the Bulawayo Field Force. Paul gave details of the campaign during which Frank had been injured. He later moved to France and served in WWI and entitled to the BW & VM. He died in 1931 following an argument at a garage!

Ken Weston – who collects mainly RN LS & coastguard medals showed a group of 14-15 Star, BW & VM & RN LS&GC to a Chief Stoker Thomas Andrew Matts. The medal had come direct from the family and Ken had established that Thomas' son was Matthew Matts one of only 18 people to survive a massacre by Japanese troops towards the end of the War. He was also offered by the family and acquired a Civil MBE awarded to Commandant Arthur Frederick Matts, and on further investigation Ken had discovered that Arthur was born in Coventry and served in the Coventry Special Constabulary during WWII. He had been awarded his MBE for salvaging police paperwork from the burning police station during the Coventry blitz, but was sadly killed in an explosion a few weeks later and buried in Coventry. (*Sec Note: Arthur Matts is listed on the roll of Honour inside Coventry Central Police Station*).

John Scott – showed an IGS Medal 37-39 39-45 Star, Defence & War Medal with MiD to an E V A Castellano a Halton Apprentice graduate 38 before being posted to India. MiD LG 1946 and the 39-445 Star for the NWF. With the medals were a sports medal, photographs and original documentation. Castellano served in the RAF until the 1950s and his trade was Engine Fitter.

Martin Harrison – showed a Past Mayor & Honorary Alderman's Jewel to Harry Dixon who had been Mayor of Scarborough 1999-2000. Martin explained that thanks to the Mayors Secretary he had been able to acquire a picture of Harry in Mayoral robes and build up a brief biography. He had been a hotelier in the town and worked at Elland Road, home of Leeds United, where his wife had been secretary to Don Revie.

Mark Platt – showed a WWI pair he had bought off the British Medal Forum to Lieutenant Alfred Wesley Hill of the Labour Corps. He explained they had been for sale for a while and he was glad he had bought them as once he began researching discovered a web site giving details on Hill and that he had been a Reverend Doctor and a Methodist Missionary in China before WWI and born in Belfast.

Philip Wilson – showed three groups. MC & Bar group and original paperwork. Another MC & WWI trio and MiD group to a Lt Ernest Malcolm Trevett whose regimental number had been 1000. He was a member of the 2nd Public School Battalion 19th Royal Fusiliers. A WWI trio, Defence & Special Constabulary Medal to a Corporal Sapper A T C Reid. Interesting his service numbers had been put on the wrong medals. The earlier number on the pair and the later number on the Star.

Once again an interesting evening with some unusual medals on display.