

There was further discussion of two medals [shown in a previous ZOOM] which had been purchased together but were not obviously connected. The awards were a Special Constabulary Medal to Walter Sissons and a Victory Medal to Frederick Herbert [Tank Corps]. Further research revealed their relationship to be brothers-in-law and they are buried in a family plot at Nuneaton and Bedworth Cemetery.

Then followed a Silver war Badge to the recipient named John Crump who was severely wounded by gunshot and shrapnel in 1915 before succumbing to these wounds in 1919. Death from injuries in war but after discharge from the Army implies a private burial or cremation and not featuring on a Commonwealth War Grave Memorial.

A Military General Service Medal [MGSM] and Waterloo pair to the Royal Horse Guards was shown next. It was issued to 'Corporal-Major Andrew Hartley' [a unique rank for this regiment which did not have Sergeants or Sergeant-Major - equivalent to a Senior Non-commissioned Officer]. To be at the battle of Waterloo, Hartley makes himself known to and becomes Aide-de-Camp to Colonel Elly of the regiment. Elly was highly decorated, had been promoted through the ranks and was present on Wellington's staff on 18.6.1815. Elly produced memoirs with graphic detail of some of his actions on the Battlefield of Waterloo.



Above: Waterloo medal and MGSM 2 clasps 'Toulouse' and 'Vittoria' to Andrew Hartley.

When Colonel Elly's horse is killed under him on the battlefield, not only does he find a replacement horse, he orders Hartley to retrieve 'Wellington's war despatches' from no-man's land.

Hartley, now Captain Andrew Hartley, East Kent Yeomanry retired in 1831 but lost his left arm when demonstrating firing a cannon and [in front of a crowd of 6,000]. The cannon hadn't been sponged and the new charge exploded immediately. He was promoted by the King to 'Military Knight of Windsor'. He died in 1861 and is buried in St Michael's Church, Tenbury Wells.

The Napoleonic theme continued with the named Napoleonic Veterans Medal to Lt Louis Fournerat of the 13th and 20th Regiment Chasseurs à Cheval [literally 'chasers on horseback' = Light Cavalry]. French archive material confirms he participated in many battles including Wagram where he was wounded [July, 1809]. He was present at the battle of Fuentes de Oñoro when a British infantry square was broken on three occasions. At the battle of Salamanca, he is wounded again this time shot in the head. After recovery in France, he is commissioned into the 13th Regiment Chasseurs à Cheval. After his last battle at Bar-sur-Aube 27.2.1814, he is awarded the Légion d'Honneur.



Above: Named Napoleonic Veterans medal to Lt Fournerat.

There followed a BEM to D0723752 W/O W.D. Bernard RAF who was from Jamaica. He enlisted in late 1944 and rejoined in 1948. He was issued a British War Medal 1939-45 and Defence Medal in 1956. There followed a long Service award in 1962 [for 18 years' service - a possible computation error] with a '15 year service' clasp in 1977. [Medal group pictured below].



His BEM was awarded for transport responsibilities for receiving and unloading aircraft with UK MAMS [UK Mobile Air Movement Squadron]

Next up were the awards to 2110 Private John Scott 1st Lovat Scouts [sharpshooters and trench reconnaissance duties]. He was at Suvla bay in 1915 moving to the Western Front thereafter. He joined the Post Office in 1920 but shortly after this, joined [militarily] the 4th Battalion Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders [Territorial Battalion]. He was awarded to a Territorial Efficiency Medal 1925, Efficiency Medal with clasp 'Territorial' in 1936, a Coronation Medal 1937 and the Imperial Service medal in 1958 for service as a postman. [Medal group pictured below].



Briefly discussed was the only award to Able Seaman G. Harris HMS Raleigh. It was the 'East and West Africa Medal' with clasp 'Gambia 1894'.

Also shown was the India General Service with clasp 'Malabar 1921-22' to a Private Riley of the Dorsetshire regiment.

Finally, there featured an Austro-Hungarian Medal for bravery [unnamed] as issued in April 1917. There was no ribbon with the medal nor any paperwork of attribution. This medal was issued just after Kaiser Franz Joseph's death. The final Austrian Emperor was 'Charles' [married to Empress Zita] who was exiled in 1919. Empress Zita, the last Habsberg Empress, died in 1989 aged 96 years. Her life story is indeed a remarkable narrative.

Austro-Hungarian Medal for Bravery



- April 1917
- death of Franz Joseph, ascent of Karl I
- Designer name "Kautsch"

Once again, we had a very enjoyable ZOOM and Roger Bragger thanked all contributors closing the meeting at 20.44hrs.

My thanks to all contributors for reproduction of their Powerpoint images and my usual apologies for any typos or factual errors.

Typed 28-29th April, 2021.

Chris Davies BMS Secretary.