

BMS ZOOM meeting report from 3.12.20

'A Saturday Night Soldier' by Martin Harrison.

Attendees present: 11 BMS and 6 'non-BMS' including Zita from Washington DC, USA [Welcome!].

All attendees were welcomed on registration.

Martin started his talk indicating he now focusses on collecting treble long service groups as well as his passion for the more ordinary double long service groups! The medals in tonight's talk were a double long service group purchased in 2002.

They were issued to Leading Fireman Stanley Parkinson. Unfortunately, Martin's Powerpoint sound accompaniment did not work for this talk - another technical issue to be sorted for any future 'ZOOM' meetings!



Above: Stanley Parkinson group of medals. **Left to right:** 1939-45 Star, Defence Medal, 1939-45 War Medal, Fire Brigade Long Service and Good Conduct Medal and Efficiency Medal 'Territorial'. A Silver jubilee medal was also sold as part of the group [entitlement unconfirmed - see text].

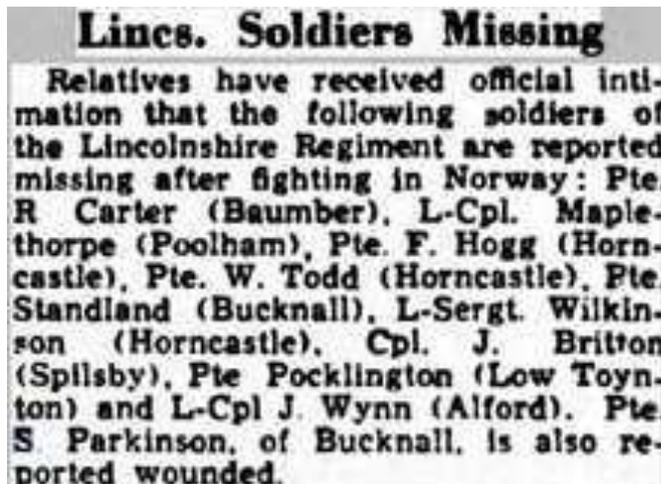
The recipient's details on the Fire Brigade Long Service Medal were 'LDG Fireman Stanley Parkinson' and on the Efficiency Medal '4803380 Sgt S. Parkinson Royal Pioneer Corps'. Initial research in the 'pre-digitised' information era [around 2002] comprised several visits to London to search Births, Marriages and Death certification and Wills which had yielded several persons of the same name. The medal rolls at National Archive but yielded a possible correct recipient but overall, there was a frustrating lack of certainty.

The combination of 1939-45 Star, Defence Medal and 1939-45 War Medal would suggest service in either Dunkirk or Norway.

No further research occurred for some 16 years.

A fellow Scottish researcher with a similar medal group was then instrumental in progressing matters! He had viewed Parkinson's details on the 'Martin Harrison Room 405' website and then had searched Parkinson's service number on the 'Find My Past' website. This revealed a document entitled 'List 186' with Parkinson's name and identifiers – that he was in the 4th Battalion, The Lincolnshire Regiment and that he had been wounded when serving in the 'North Western Expeditionary Force'.

The next discovery was a newspaper cutting confirming that Parkinson, who was from Bucknall, was reported injured.

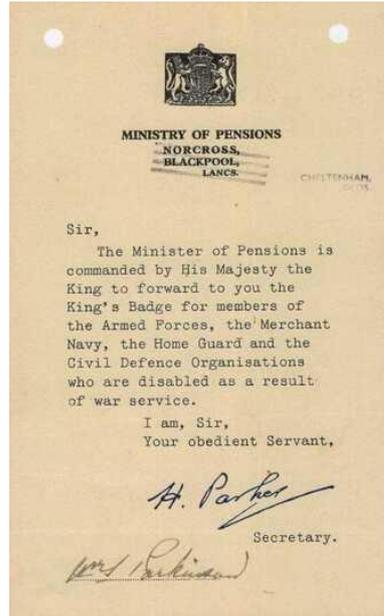


Above: Newspaper cutting with list of missing and wounded Lincs Soldiers.

The 4th Battalion [Territorial] Lincolnshire Regiment were known as the 'Saturday Night Soldiers'.

To enquire more, the service records were applied for and from the Parkinson's death certificate, he established the recipient's son's name was a 'Trevor Parkinson'. The son's contact details were in the public domain and on being contacted, he'd willingly sent a large amount of research material and photographs. The son was not aware of the Silver Jubilee Medal entitlement [the latter item had been part of the original medal sale].

Stanley ['Stan'] Parkinson's wartime injury meant he'd received the 'King's Badge' {MYB186A 'Loyal Service Badge'} and was in receipt of a disability pension through the war and till 1948 at the initial rate of 9s/6d per week. His disability wasn't permanent.



Above left: the 'King's Badge.

Above right: Parkinson's certificate of entitlement to the badge.

Stanley Parkinson was born in 1920 in Bucknall, one of seven children. He'd enlisted in May 1939 and his physical stature was described. Martin commented that although his own height was similar at five foot eight inches, Parkinson's girth at 33 inches was quite dissimilar!!

His Battalion was mobilised on 1.9.1939 following the invasion of Poland. Sadly, Parkinson's father had died on 4.9.1939 just after the declaration of war.

Below: Stanley Parkinson in service uniform [date unknown].



The regiment saw initial service assisting in air raid warning efforts in the Scunthorpe area before being posted to Norway in early 1940. They were involved in the earliest encounters against the Germans in WWII in the Norwegian 'Namsos' campaign. He sustained a gunshot injury to his left foot on 21.4.1940 in the fierce fighting with resultant fractured metatarsal bones.

Additional Notes by Unit M.O. and Field Ambulance.		STEINKJER NORWAY	
Morphia— Dose. Time and date given—	A.T. Serum— Dose and date given— 3000 units 2/4/40 left	5 FIELD MEDICAL CARD.	
Date of Wound or onset of illness }	Religion— CE	No. 4803380 Rank Pte	Army Form W3118. R.A.F. Form 8118.
NOTES. Probable fracture of many metatarsals.		Name PARKINSON Stanley	
		Unit 4th LINCOLNS	
		Battle Casualty. Accidentally Wounded. "Sick" (Strike out description which does not apply)	
		Diagnosis of Unit M.O.— G.S.W. left foot	
		Date seen by him— 21/4/40	
		No. of Field Ambulance—	
		Date of admission—	
		Field Ambulance diagnosis—	
		C.C.S. or M.C.S. diagnosis (if altered from above)— G.S.W. & fracture of left foot. 24.4.40	
		General or other Hospital diagnosis (alterations or additions)—	
		Forms W3118/11 (5178) Wt. 11983 132m (9) 5/37 Gp. 619 C&SLtd	

Above: Field Medical Card for Private Stanley Parkinson stating 'G.S.W. left foot' [gun shot wound].

His Parish, home town details and the nationality of his parents are redacted in his 'Soldier's Service and Pay Book' – This hides a certain amount of information for medal researchers but was necessary in the event overseas' postings and the possibility of being captured. [Apologies no photo].

The Regiment moved to Iceland on garrison duty till 1942 but it isn't known whether Stan was posted there. Parkinson transferred to the West Yorkshire Regiment in 1942 and the following year, he moved to the Pioneer Corps. He spent the rest of the war in the UK on home defence duties for which he was awarded the 1939-45 Star, the Defence and 1939-45 War Medal and the Territorial Efficiency medal.

In 1950, he became a fireman at Woodall Spa in Lincs rising to the rank of leading fireman.



Above: Presentation of Long Service Awards 1970. Parkinson is third from the right – no medals visible sadly.

In 1970, he was awarded the Fire Service Long Service medal for 20 years' service taking retirement in 1976 aged 56 years. After his 26 years service, he was presented with a mounted firemen's axe.

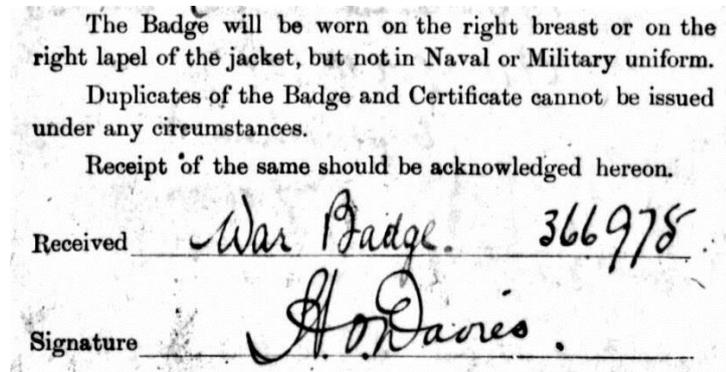
He died aged 63 years in 1983 from a coronary thrombosis. His wife passed away in 2004.

The fascinating research story behind this medal group was a combination of the efforts of another like-minded collector along with the power of the internet, availability of digitised information, the serviceman's record plus seeking out the next-of-kin and *their* willingness to share private material and by posting medal group information on a website.

There were no fire brigade tunics, no helmet and nor was the fireman's axe available but Martin was able to show a montage of the many photographs at the end of his presentation. On his Powerpoint, he'd attached the tune of the 'Lincolnshire Poacher', so for full authenticity, this should be quietly playing in the background as you read this meeting report.

Sadly, in the many photos, Parkinson is not seen actually wearing his medals.

There was some discussion re: the 'King's Badge'. They are unattributable items as they were issued without recipient identifiers. There were two sorts – a button hole lapel fitting for men and a brooch pin for women. These were equivalent to the 'Silver War Badge' from WWI [MYB 172A] which were issued with a number and, hence, are attributable. There was a protocol for wear of the WWI Services rendered badge.



Above: Protocol of wearing for the WWI Silver War Badge.

Martin referred attendees to his website '**Martin Harrison Room 405**' if they wished to read more detail.

There were some minor technical issues during the Martin's talk and, on behalf of President Roger Bragger, Secretary thanked all attendees for their contributions and thanks our speaker for his excellent and enlightening talk.

A 'Happy Christmas' was wished to all and the meeting was closed at 20.05hrs.

Don't forget we have a January 'ZOOM' meeting on 7.1.2021.

Typed 22-23.12.2020.

Chris Davies

BMS Secretary.

PS - My thanks to Martin Harrison for permission to reproduce material from his website and my usual apologies for any errors or omissions.