

## **Birmingham Medal Society Meeting Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2016.**

20 members present

Apologies from: Mick Atkinson, Christopher Hill, Malcolm Brown, Chris Newton, Roy Painter. President opened the meeting and advised there is a committee meeting on 12 Dec 16 to consider the future of a meeting venue should we not be able to continue here. Meeting 1830h Red Lion, Knowle.

The president introduced the topic for the evening - **Recent Acquisitions & Lecturettes.**

### **John Scott**

1. An MM WWI pair to William Barclay of the Camerons. Different No on WWI pair & MM. He originally belonged to the 4<sup>th</sup> Territorial Battalion but in August 14 this was dispersed and Barclay transferred into the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion, hence the different numbers. The details are confirmed in the book Tartan & Steel.
2. GSM / CSM pair to Richard Lynn from a family of three groups John has. He also had Lynn's father – George's medals, Defence, Police Exemplary Service & Cadet Forces Medals and the Grandfathers medals in his possession. Richard had joined the RAF in 1955 No 26 entry as an Admin Apprentice at RAF Hereford.
3. TFEM to Alexander MacPhee. John has had this medal in his collection for a number of years. John does not have his WWI medals but has found MacPhee's Territorial Papers on Ancestry giving basic service details.

### **Mark Platt**

Mark produced a BWM / MSM to WOI Frank Walton ASC. Some years ago Mark swapped his collecting interest to Meritorious Service Medals from each Theatre during WWI. He had acquired this latest MSM from E-Bay and was pleased to see it was awarded for Bermuda, a theatre he had not yet got and one of only six awarded. The BWM was his sole entitlement but he may also have been entitled to a LS medal.

### **Paul Murray**

Paul displayed a Willesden Boer war Tribute Jewel presented to William Robert Arkell. Paul had also found Arkell's papers and had now got details of his service. The jewel was engraved to W R Arkell CIV 5 West Middlesex Rifles. Robert had also been wounded in Florida, South Africa and later served in the Imperial Yeomanry, his QSA is missing he may also be entitled to WWI medals, Paul's research is ongoing.

### **Reg Cook**

Reg displayed two sets of medals to Father and son to John Sherrif and Thomas. He explained he had had these medals in his possession for 45 years and acquired them from a junk shop in Birmingham for £10.00. When he bought them the address on the award box of one of the groups was quite local and so he called on the house to find the medals had only been sold by the family earlier that day. He paid them another £5.00 for papers and photographs. John's medals were a WWI pair and Death Plaque and he had been KiA on 17 Oct 17 and buried near Ypres. His son Thomas had a 39-45 Star, France & Germany Stars, Defence & War Medals. Thomas had enlisted into the Ox & Bucks pre WWII and was also KiA on 24 Mar 45 whilst crossing the Rhine.

### **Paul Handford**

Paul displayed a number of newly acquired medal groups, but first gave an update of The Curious Case of Herbert Mowle Kendal, whom he had spoken about during the BMS Convention in June. He reminded everyone that in amongst Herbert's 'wallet litter' was a small photograph of an unknown lady. Thanks to fellow member Roger Bragger, Paul has subsequently made contact with Herbert's Grandson who has confirmed the picture is of Herbert's wife, he also confirmed that the picture Paul has of Kendal himself is the actual person. Naturally he will be keeping in contact with the Grandson and advise him of any further developments.

1. 1914 Star – BRCS & OStJ to Leslie Frank Millen. Paul has found the MiC which confirms Millen DoD (Died of Disease?). He explained that the power of the internet is incredible, as having seen the medal on E-Bay, in the time it had taken him to drive from his home to the Birmingham Motorcycle Museum, Sue had researched him on Ancestry, found his burnt papers giving full details as well as the usual medals rolls. Census details etc. This all took 20 minutes, whereas only a few years ago it would have taken months and numerous trips to London to find this level of detail. Millen had died of Bronchial Pneumonia.
2. 1914 Star – Sgt Harold Ernest Warren ASC & BRCS. Warren had had a duplicate issue of the 1914 Star which was marked on his MiC. By coincidence Paul already had Leslie Millen's 1914 Star and their service numbers ran consecutively 151721 & 151722, it is highly likely they were brothers.
3. Silver French Commemorative Medal – Bertie Ryman Hall, who took his own car to France during WWI as part of the BRCS & OStJ, Bertie was later a Captain in the Army Service Corps. Paul now has to find his WWI medals!
4. British War, Victory Defence Medals – Valentine Deveraux. Also came with his Inspector of Motor Transport Past President Badge.
5. WWI Trio & TD to Chauffeur Archibald Elder later Fife & Forfar Yeomanry.
6. WWI Trio, 1939-45 Star, Defence & War Medal 1939-45 to Chauffeur John Albert Calvert.
7. 1914 & clasp trio, Defence & War Medal 1939-45 to Frederick Horace Copeland.

### **Martin Harrison**

Martin explained it was appropriate he had followed Paul this evening, as they had been discussing the power of the internet at the OMRs Convention in September at which Martin had acquired this set to Major Charles William Fitcher Cook - 1939-45 Star, Africa Star, Defence & War Medals, Emergency Reserve Decoration & Efficiency Medal. He was able to use the free internet available in the hotel reception to confirm the date and award of the Emergency Reserve Decoration in 1965. The group were of interest due to the unusual combination of the ERD and Efficiency Medal, and the plan had been to strip the medals down, clean them, re-ribbon and court mount in the same way other groups in his collection. However on return home from the convention, a further quick search on the internet revealed a detailed obituary of Charles Cook, and a superb photograph showing him wearing the medals, exactly as they had been acquired, including the ERD brooch bar in the wrong position. After some thought it was decided to leave the medals as they had been worn, in testimony to Charles Cook – this met with applause from some members present!

### **Ken Weston**

Showed a number of newly acquired groups.

1. NZEF WWI Trio to William Nesbitt. Born in 1879 moved to New Zealand served in Egypt and France as a cook and in 1920 committed to a lunatic asylum. His WWI medals were claimed by the public trustee on his behalf and he died in 1949 whereupon his medals were sent to a neighbour in the town he had been born in.
2. WWI & RNR LS&GC to John Irvine. No 8476. Ken had located a photograph of Irvine from the Mercantile Marine records on line and had established Irvine was previously a Fisherman and from Shetland. Also saw service in WWII in MS Dragnet a Boom Defence Vessel at Scapa Flow.
3. WWI pair & Coastguard Medal to William Pretty.
4. WWI pair & Naval Good Shooting Medal – H Leyton. Also entitled to the LS&GC Medal.
5. Coast Guard Long Service Medal Joseph Vound. Called up on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1914 but released on 5<sup>th</sup> August as unfit. Ken has located Vound's grave and has a picture of it with his medal

### **Philip Wilson**

Showed a gold watch pendant with an interesting story behind it.

